



Additional Financing Appraisal Environmental and  
Social Review Summary  
Appraisal Stage  
**(AF ESRS Appraisal Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 01/12/2024 | Report No: ESRSAFA662



**I. BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)
Afghanistan	SOUTH ASIA		
Project ID	Project Name		
P181480	Additional Financing For Afghanistan Emergency Food Security Project		
Parent Project ID (if any)	Parent Project Name		
P178280	Emergency Food Security Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Agriculture and Food	Investment Project Financing	1/12/2024	2/9/2024
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
12/12/2023	0		

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**Proposed Development Objective**

To improve resilience of agriculture production system for target beneficiaries

**B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?**

Yes

**C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities**

Food insecurity remains persistently high in Afghanistan, where nearly half of the population face crisis or worse conditions (IPC/CH Phase 3 or above). The most affected are the poor and over 70 percent of the population living in rural areas who depend on crop and livestock production for their livelihoods. The percentage of food insecure people doubled from 2015 to 2020/21, and the percentage of people facing acute food insecurity has remained between 40 to 50 percent of the total population. The food security situation is further endangered by recent emerging key risks, recent earthquake in Herat Province, Moroccan locust outbreak affecting crop production, the recent outbreak of animal diseases, and the uncertain future of the Black Sea Grain Deal. In this context, it is important to continue emergency response support to secure food production in highly food insecure areas and



prevent further crisis. At the same time, to address the drivers of food insecurity related to climate change and to build resilience, the uptake of climate adaptation measures, and strategies to expand sustainable rural livelihood opportunities is essential.

This additional financing will provide an additional US\$100 Million to the Emergency Food Security Project to support resilience of production systems by (i) enhancing the availability of improved and climate-resilient production inputs and training, (ii) promoting access to improved irrigation facilities and water management practices which will improve water security for agriculture and (iii) providing resilience building support in watersheds through promoting agroforestry, erosion control facilities, which will ensure availability of water and resilience of landscapes e.g. through reduced degradation, erosion, or improved soil health, in the context of climate change. These measures will increase and stabilize production of wheat and support the diversification to horticulture production of targeted beneficiaries, which will enhance access to nutritious food and diversification of income sources. Production systems will become robust to economic, social, and environmental shocks, including climate shocks with an increased capacity to adapt to shocks. Resilient production system will contribute to beneficiaries' food security in the medium- to long-term, by increasing the availability of food and access to food in local markets, during crisis. Further, the additional financing contributes to food security in the short-term by providing cash-for-work opportunities and increases household's income and thus access to food.

#### **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

##### **D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings**

The scope of the additional finance as with the parent project will be countrywide in scope. The interventions will mainly be in rural areas working with local farming communities in the wheat and horticulture sectors. The project activities will be limited to existing farms and will not include the conversion of any new lands for agriculture purposes. Due to the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, several acres of arable land has been left uncultivated and the projects intervention for the distribution of wheat seed and other horticulture products will support local farmers to continue production which would otherwise stall. The activities under component 2 for watershed management will involve agroforestry activities by planting 400,000 saplings of various agroforestry tree varieties suitable for the agroecological zones. Species to be considered are only local species and will include Pine, Olive, Almond and Pistachios. It is not expected that this activity will involve the introduction of any invasive species, but rather the activity will further support erosion control, carbon sequestration and livelihood opportunities for local communities'. On-farm climate resilient irrigation activities' will also be limited to the rehabilitation of existing secondary and tertiary canals is not also expected to lead to the conversion of any additional greenfield into agriculture land, but expected to enhance production capacity of existing irrigation lands.

##### **D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

The additional Finance will maintain FAO as the main implementation agency as the parent project. The activities will not change significantly and will be scaled up as per the scope of the Parent project.

FAO has performed Moderately satisfactorily in the parent project and some short comings are due to the lack of capacity to address environmental risk management issues after the departure of the previous environmental specialist. Other relevant E&S staff ( Social Specialist, Pest management specialist, Safety and Security management specilaist ) are in place in the PIU who will continue to support the additional fiannce implemenetation . There will be a need for FAO to complete the hiring of an Environmental Specialist as soon as possible in order to bridge the gaps in



the implementation of the requirements of the ESF. In addition, FAO did not prepare the security management plan for the parent project as required in the ESCP . Based on multiple discussions FAO has submitted a draft Security management plan which will be reviewed and finalized before the negotiations of this additional finance.

FAO has its own Environment and Social Management Guidelines (ESMG) and a policy that contains 9 environmental and social safeguards standards. While these policies are mostly well aligned with the World Bank’s ESF in substance, there are a few gaps including the following: the guidelines do not mention specific provisions such as Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP), Labor Management Procedure (LMPs) and worker’s Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM). The additional finance will continue to follow the ESF the requirements for compliance as relates to the additional financed activities. Granularity of these gaps will be described and further specific measures will be included in the revised ESMF and ESCP to ensure compliance with the ESF.

FAO has well-demonstrated operational capacity to deliver time-critical development actions across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan. Currently, FAO has 225 national staff in Afghanistan and 15-18 international staff at any one time in-country. FAO has four offices in Kabul, 5 regional offices, and 2 district-level offices. Approximately 71 staff are based in the regional and district offices.

NGOs and contractors will be engaged by FAO to implement project activities and work closely with local communities who will contribute to the project’s implementation through the existing Community Development Councils (CDC). FAO will ensure cascading responsibility of E&S requirements through relevant contractual provisions with contractors and other implementing partners.

The World Bank Monitoring Agent (MA) will continue to monitor and report on implementation and compliance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF ), ESCP and other environmental and social (E&S) risk management measures.

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## **II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS**

**A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)** Substantial

**A.1 Environmental Risk Rating** Substantial

The environmental risks associated with the parent project remain relevant under the additional finance. The new activities under the AF include component 1 (i) scale-up distribution of wheat, (ii) expand on TA to private seed enterprises and (iii) strengthen capacity of value addition, under component 2 two new activities (i) Watershed management and (ii) on-farm climate resilient irrigation activities have been included . The specific risks have been identified as (i) risk of fatal incidents and/or serious injuries as a result of rehabilitation and land preparation works as well as cash for work programs proposed under component 2 to local community members, with limited experience in applying occupational health and safety (OHS) measures, (ii) Community health and safety (CHS) risks as a result of poor handling of agriculture inputs such as agrochemicals, farm implements (storage processing , post-harvest



handling) (iii) the intervention of on-farm water management activities pose the risk of water pollution as a result of run off, sedimentation of nearby water bodies, soil compaction as a result of use of farm machinery in land preparation, amongst other risks, (iv) although pesticide procurement is not envisaged under the project, from the experience of the locust outbreak in 2023 of which one of the options to prevent crop failure might include limited application of agrochemicals on emergency basis, health and safety issues associated with the safe use and handling of agrochemicals is also envisaged, (v) human security risks in the project implementation areas remains a high contextual risk, the engagement of various entities not covered by the UN security protocols further heightens this risk hence security risk management at the project level remains a priority.

**A.2 Social Risk Rating**

Substantial

The Social Risk classification is maintained as Substantial (S). Key social risks and impacts are similar to the original project and include: (i) social inequalities, exclusion, and discrimination of certain categories of people, such as vulnerable and marginalized groups; (ii) forced and child labor; (iii) occupational health and safety (OHS) risks and risk of exposure to infectious diseases for project workers; and (iv) minor labor influx affecting community safety including sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) risks. Possible incidents of terrorist attacks on project workers, rehabilitated community-level facilities and beneficiary communities are also an important contextual risk that continue to affect the safety of the project workers and the community at large. Construction that would require land acquisition or voluntary land donation will continue to be excluded from financing.

**B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered**

**B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards**

**ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

Relevant

Project activities under component 1 will distribute wheat and vegetable seeds along with the provision of complementary inputs (e.g., fertilizer, foundation, seeds, etc.), equipment, and services (e.g., extension). Under component 2, the project will finance the rehabilitation of secondary and tertiary canals, which will entail small-scale civil works in existing schemes. All project activities are planned to take place within existing footprints of irrigation schemes, farms, and fields. On-farm climate resilient and agroforestry activities under component two are expected to have positive environmental impacts. Key environmental and social risks include exposing project workers and communities to health and safety risks associated with the rehabilitation and maintenance of on-farm water harvesting facilities (underground reservoirs and open pits); watershed management/rainwater harvesting structures in mountainous areas; spate irrigation works in lower mountains and foothills (small spate diversion canals, shallow wells, and springs), and irrigation canals; potential impacts on riverbeds and flood plains associated with the extraction of sand, gravel, and stone; generation of noise, dust, and solid wastes as well as an increase in traffic and road safety risk; elite capture of benefits; labor issues in terms of discrimination, child labor, and labor influx. Security risks at the project level also remain substantial contextually.

The ESCP and SEP of the parent project have been updated and will be disclosed prior to appraisal of the project. An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) have been prepared and disclosed by appraisal. The ESCP outlines the commitment of FAO, which will be cascaded down to implementing NGOs and contractors, to screen, assess, and manage E&S risks and impacts while the SEP embodies the consultation and engagement processes to be undertaken by the project throughout at all stages.

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FAO will update the ESMF of the parent project . The ESMF will include E&S screening checklist, exclusion list, generic ESMP for the Project, Infection Prevention and Control Plan (IPCP), measures related to occupational health and safety (OHS), community health and safety (CHS), and solid and hazardous waste management, a simplified LMP, an SEA/SH action plan. A separate security risk management plan will be prepared to address the project level security risks. For pest management, FAO’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures are materially consistent with the Bank’s requirements (ESS3 and EHS Guidelines on Annual Crop Production and Perennial Crop Production). The ESMF will include a brief description of FAO’s Pest and Pesticide Management Policy/Guidelines and any measures necessary to ensure consistency between the Policy/Guidelines and the ESS3 requirements.

As the Project is being prepared under Paragraph 12 of the IPF Policy for Projects in the situation of urgent need of assistance, the updating of the ESMF will be deferred to the implementation stage but prior to signing of agreement/contract between implementing NGOs/contractors and FAO.

The implementation of E&S instruments will be regularly monitored and reported on by the FAO adhering to the ESCP.

**ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions**

Relevant

ESS2 is relevant. The project implementation will involve direct workers (consultants and staff recruited by FAO to implement the project) and contracted workers (workers of contracted implementing NGOs/contractors, laborers) and community workers (participating in the cash-for-work program under component 2).

The project will provide temporary cash for work opportunities to a large number of locally contracted community workers within the local communities or community workers who are unskilled with little or no knowledge or experience in applying OHS measures. Discrimination in recruitment, child labor, unsafe working conditions, SEA/SH and potential physical safety risks as a result of the FCV context pose significant labor-related risks in the context of agriculture operations in Afghanistan. Labor Management Procedures (LMP) developed for and satisfactorily implemented in the parent project will be revised and strengthened with lessons learnt within 45 days after project AF grant effectiveness.

Furthermore, there is a risk of Covid-19 transmission among these workers if worksites are not managed appropriately.

The recruitment and assignments of the workers will be done in an inclusive manner, following World Bank and FAO policies, and keeping in mind the risks of discrimination towards women and marginalized and disadvantaged groups, and prohibiting child and forced labor. All conditions of contracts will be explicitly spelled out and agreed and abided by both the employers and the employees.

Labor Management Procedures (LMP) developed for and satisfactorily implemented in the parent project will be revised, streamlined and strengthened with lessons learnt within 45 days after project effectiveness. A succinct summary version will be included in the ESMF. This simplified LMP will cover basic nondiscriminatory policies, OHS training, PPE and management measures and code of conduct to prevent SEA/SH. FAO and implementing NGOs/contractors will implement adequate OHS measures (including emergency preparedness and response



measures) in line with the ESMF and the ESCP. The OHS measures as spelled out in the ESMF will cover all relevant aspects of the World Bank Group's General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs) and ESS2.

The grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that is currently in place and through which beneficiaries can access the GRM system using multiple grievance uptake channels, including Awaaz Afghanistan, will continue to be strengthened to enable project workers and affected beneficiary communities to provide feedback and have possible grievances addressed.

**ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

Relevant

ESS3 is relevant. The project is expected to have multiple benefits related to improving water resource efficiency through rehabilitation of water conveyance and distribution systems (to be regulated by Irrigation Associations and farming communities) and more sustainable use of agricultural land in watershed areas. However, there could be negative impacts on soil and groundwater due to increased water use and contamination from leaching as a result of excessive application of fertilizers and small-scale, localized civil works to rehabilitate irrigation schemes.

Although the project will not finance the purchase of pesticides, the expected increase in farming activity (fields and kitchen garden) enabled by the project may result in an increased use of such products by the farmers. The project will therefore promote good international practices in the handling, application, and storage of fertilizers and pesticide including an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to reduce the need for pesticides. The Bank Team has reviewed FAO's Pest and Pesticides Management against Bank requirements (ESS3 and EHS Guidelines on Annual Crop Production and Perennial Crop Production) and found them materially consistent with Bank requirements. The ESMF will include a brief description of FAO's Pest and Pesticide Management Policy/Guidelines and any additional measures necessary to ensure compliance with ESS3 requirements, The approach will include measures for (i) adequate transportation, storage, handling, and management of pesticides; (ii) management of stocks in an effective, efficient, and transparent way; (iii) managing the wheat seed treatment with fungicides for protecting human health from ingestion; (iv) suggested capacity building program that will be conducted for farmers on adequate storage, transportation, and management of pesticides, including OHS considerations; and (v) disposal of unwanted or surplus pesticides and waste resulting from applying pesticides. Furthermore, measures will be put in place to monitor and ensure that the usage of pesticides that fall under the World Health Organization's (WHO) Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard Classes 1a (extremely hazardous) and 1b (highly hazardous), or Annexes A and B of the Stockholm Convention are avoided.

The rehabilitation works will entail extraction of raw materials such as sand, gravel, and stone, which may impact riverbeds and flood plains. A generic ESMP included within the ESMF will provide guidelines for reducing such impacts. Similarly, the construction contracts will include provisions for the management of dust, temporary on-site storage of chemicals as necessary, use of appropriate fuel quality, fuel-saving driving patterns and vehicle maintenance to reduce pollution of local air quality especially near schools, hospitals and other potentially sensible receptors.

The ESMF, generic ESMP and the pest management guidelines will further specify the activities to be implemented at the level of each watershed area and irrigation scheme. FAO will monitor the implementation of generic ESMPs and provide the required oversight and support for capacity building on sustainable farming practices (extension services).

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**ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

Relevant

ESS4 is relevant. The project activities under the additional finance component 1 will scale up distribution of wheat , expand technical assistance to seed enterprises and strengthen the capacity of value addition. These activities will involve the continued use of pesticides for seed treatment and other production support agrochemicals such as fertilizers. In addition the locust outbreak in the last cropping which had devastating effect on wheat production remains relevant . The FAO will continue to use its Pest and Pesticide management guidelines for the AF.

The current ESMF for the parent project includes basic Life and Fire Safety (L&FS) and emergency preparedness and response (EPR) checklist which remains relevant to the additional finance activities . Component 2 of the project which has activities' for watershed management and on-farm climate resilient irrigation activities will also entail the use of farm equipment for land leveling and hence safety training and safety gears will be provided for workers by the relevant implementing partners . Challenges of lack of health and safety gear that were identified with some implementing partners of the parent project will be addressed by ensuring that adequate provisions are made for health and safety equipment during contracting with implementing partners .

Lessons from the parent project reinforces the relevance of the management of project level security risks as relates to implementing partners . FAO did not prepare the security management plan for the parent project, but has recently prepared a security management plan which will cover bot the additional finance and the parent project activities. The security risk management plan will be reviewed and finalized prior to negotiations and implemented throughout the project .

**ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

Not Currently Relevant

The ESS5 is not relevant. The project is not expected to involve resettlement, land acquisition and/or asset loss all construction and/or rehabilitation work will be on existing footprint or on public and community land. The 750 zero-energy storage facilities and 180 raising-making houses planned for construction under component 1.3 are not site-specific, will only lead to very limited local environmental footprints and will only be on existing public or community lands. Construction of contour trenches and gully control measures, and the expansion of green cover under component 2.1 may occur on private lands if ownership has been established and on a voluntary basis only. The project may temporarily use private lands under component 2 for accessing and storing construction materials for a short period of time provided that this is on a voluntary basis only. The ESMF will be updated with an appropriate guidelines and procedures.

The project will not support any activity that would cause land acquisition, or voluntary land donation adverse impacts on livelihoods or access restrictions. An exclusion list including prohibition of such land impacts is incorporated in the environmental and social screening checklist of the ESMF.

**ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

Not Currently Relevant

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ESS6 is not relevant as the project interventions are in existing agriculture lands involves the support of primary production and harvesting of living natural resources. The additional finance will project intends to promote sustainable farming practices through the use of water-efficient agriculture and use of best practices in the handling, application, and storage of fertilizers including an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to reduce the need for pesticides. All proposed project interventions are planned to take place within existing footprints of irrigation schemes, farms, and fields, which entails significantly modified habitat and is unlikely to contain any critical habitat triggers. Although the original vegetation cover is likely to have been significantly altered or removed altogether, these areas may provide habitat for common fauna (e.g. birds, reptiles, small mammals). The existing ESMF will already includes checklists and guidelines for undertaking site and watershed-specific environmental risk screening. This will be applied to the additional Finance activities as well. to be used during project implementation to avoid potential adverse impacts on habitats within and around the irrigation schemes and in the watershed areas. Sites located in protected areas or that could be considered as Natural or Critical Habitat will be excluded from the additional finance project interventions .and the ESMF will include screening criteria during the site selection process. The generic ESMP will include measures to minimize and mitigate impacts on local fauna and flora.

**ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities** Not Currently Relevant

This standard is not relevant as there are no Indigenous People that meet the criteria of ESS7 in the country that could potentially benefit or be adversely affected by the Project’s activities.

**ESS8 Cultural Heritage** Not Currently Relevant

ESS8 is not relevant. Currently, there is no indication of potential impacts on cultural heritage, either “man-made” cultural or archaeological resources as well as any natural features (such as water bodies), which may hold intangible cultural or religious value to local communities. The ESMF will include chance find procedures as a component of the generic ESMP.

**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries** Not Currently Relevant

This standard is not relevant as the Project does not include financial intermediaries.

**ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure** Relevant

The SEP that was prepared and implemented for the parent project in accordance with ESS10 and in line with the principles outlined in FAO’s own guidelines (Environmental and Social Management Guidelines, 2015 and the Guidance Note on Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) in Emergencies) has been updated to include the AF activities. The SEP describes the strategy and specific methods of engagement that would facilitate effective participation of the different affected groups. The SEP delineates the roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the SEP, as well as monitoring and reporting Mechanism(s). It describes the principles, processes, and structure of the project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism(s).

The key stakeholders for AF are the same as for the original project and include project beneficiaries, key social institutions such as village councils and women’s groups, formal Water Users Associations (IAs), Irrigation Association, Community Development Councils (CDCs), labor, Farmers’ Associations (FAs), contractors and subcontractors in the

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project areas. Vulnerable populations would include the elderly, internally displaced peoples (IDPs), war victims, low-income families, persons with disabilities, nomadic communities, farmers and women, especially women-headed households or single mothers with young children.

Due to the emergency situation, the SEP has been prepared with limited consultations. FAO will continue to identify and engage, through meaningful consultations, with all stakeholders, paying special attention to the inclusion of women, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. The SEP acknowledges the challenges with engaging marginalized and vulnerable social groups such as IDPs, returnees, pastoral nomads, and those living in remote or inaccessible areas and proposes strategies to engage with them.

The Project will also ensure that information disclosure takes place in an on-going and satisfactory manner with clear and accessible messaging on principles of fair, equitable and inclusive access to project benefits. While the channel of communication may be restricted to electronic/ virtual methods so that face-to-face interaction is minimized or avoided, the Project will ensure that stakeholder engagement and information disclosure takes place on an on-going basis, at different levels, with different partners, and in a culturally appropriate manner. Some of the methods used to engage with different categories of affected persons would include consulting through CDCs, radio, social media, SMS messaging, emails and phone calls. Official channels of communication and social media would be used to consult with other interested parties. Specifically, for vulnerable people, tailored methods of engagement would be adopted, such as through community elders, engagement activities for women and through social mobilizers. For information dissemination and disclosure as well, culturally appropriate and inclusive methodologies would be adopted. All such methods would take into account Covid-19 distancing protocols.

The grievance redress mechanism (GRM) that is currently in place and through which beneficiaries can access the GRM system using multiple grievance uptake channels, including Awaaz Afghanistan, will continue to be strengthened to enable project workers and affected beneficiary communities to provide feedback and have possible grievances addressed.

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**B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

**OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways** Yes

**OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas** No

**B.3 Other Salient Features**

**Use of Borrower Framework** No

The borrower framework is not being used for this project



**Use of Common Approach**

No

A common approach is not being considered for this project

**C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities**

**C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required during implementation?**

FAO already has an existing ESMF which will be updated as needed to include the activities of the Additional finance . The ESMF will be updated and re-disclosed within 45 days after project effectiveness. The SEP of the parent project will also be updated. FAO did not prepare a security risk management plan for the parent project, however a standalone draft security risk management plan has been submitted to the Bank for review. The Security Risk Management Plan will be finalized prior to negotiation of the project and thereafter implemented for both the parent project and additional Finance activities..

**III. CONTACT POINTS**

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**V. APPROVAL**

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Practice Manager (ENV/SOC) Christophe Crepin Cleared on 10-Jan-2024 at 07:29:39 EST

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