



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(**ESRS Concept Stage**)

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P178340	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	NIEEIP	2024
Operation Name	National Irrigation and Energy Efficiency Improvement Project		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Water
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Ministry of Economy and Finance	Ministry of Water Resources - Center for Implementation of Foreign Investment Projects in Water Sect	19-Jan-2024	28-Mar-2024
Estimated Concept Review Date	Total Project Cost		
25-May-2023	200,000,000.00		

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Proposed Development Objective

To improve the quality of irrigation service delivery to the agricultural users within the project area

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

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

The project will be designed to ensure consistent policy, investment, and institutional approaches to deliver climate resilient water services. The project includes national-level activities, basin-level activities, and rural level activities. The project is aligned with the approved National Water Sector Development for 2020-2030 which has the goal of “creating conditions for meeting ever-growing needs of people, economy and environment for water, ensure safe and reliable operation of hydraulic infrastructure efficient water management and use, improve land reclamation of irrigated lands and achieve water security” and with the country’s climate change adaptation and mitigation agendas. The project will be structured in three components. Component 1: Infrastructure Investments and Irrigation Service Improvements. It



finances civil works, goods, equipment, and related services to reduce climate risks in the provision of irrigation and drainage services, and resource utilization efficiency. These investments will be designed with the intent of minimizing GHG emissions through reductions in energy consumption by (i) prioritising gravity-based solutions for irrigation and drainage, (ii) increasing pumping efficiency for service delivery, and (iii) promoting water conservation through water metering and on-farm interventions. Hence, this component is climate co-benefit intensive. At the level of infrastructure assets, the project finances rehabilitation and modernization of existing irrigation and drainage canals and appurtenant structures. The rehabilitation and modernization are based on the World Bank’s Resilient Water Infrastructure Design principles. These activities support adaptation to drought risks through improved conveyance efficiency and control of water use with modern structures, and to flood and mud-flow risks through improved bypasses and protection structures. Modernized and well-functioning I&D schemes also help avoid maladaptation and land-use change related emissions that arise from (a) utilization of diesel pumps to withdraw groundwater to substitute for unreliable canal water supplies and (b) expansion of cropland – with related emissions associated in land-use change - to recoup losses caused by drought and lack of irrigation water supplies. At the farm level, the project will promote climate-smart irrigation practices and resource utilization through (i) improved on-farm water management practices, (ii) deep ripping, (i) laser land levelling and (iv) solar pumping. This will address the rising impact of drought, high temperature and extreme heat risks related to climate change on crop yields and agricultural production. This will also help reduce soil erosion while enhancing soil carbon sequestration and fertility. This component also finances technical assistance for preparation of the engineering studies and designs, as well as construction supervision for the above activities.

Component 2: Institutional Strengthening for Climate Resilient Service Delivery, Water Resources Management and Dam Management. This component finances the acquisition and installation of equipment and services to facilitate the uptake of innovations and best-practices for water management based on climate resilience and low-carbon principles. The focus is on improving the institutional knowledge and preparedness with regards to aspects of IWRM and climate resilience, including (a) regulatory and oversight capacity at the national level, (b) operational capacity for service delivery at local level, (c) water and soil quality, and (d) dam and sediment management .

Component 3: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Professional Development This component will finance the required staff, consultant services, professional development and operating costs that will allow the Project Implementation Units to carry out their responsibilities for implementation. These responsibilities include project management and coordination, procurement, and financial management, monitoring and evaluation, social and environmental standards management and oversight, communications, and outreach. This component will also finance the preparation of a feasibility study for future investments aimed at improving water services. Finally, this component includes professional development and other interventions to promote gender diversity in water sector entities. For example, the project will support, among others, review of human resources policies on recruitment, promotion and retention in water sector entities, development of guidelines for a safe and comfortable work environment.

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D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

Uzbekistan’s arid environment, irrigation and drainage infrastructure make it essential to conserve scarce water availability to sustain agriculture and rural employment (almost half the population lives in rural areas). Water scarcity and climate uncertainty with generally poor irrigation water services due to the outdated design and age of the hydraulic infrastructure have combined effects which undermines long-term sustainability of the agricultural sector, rural livelihoods, and food security due to decrease in crop and livestock production. Further, about 2.4 million hectares of agricultural land (56 percent of the total irrigated area) are reliant on electrical pumps for irrigation. Around 1,687 pumping stations, with 5,000 pumps, are operating with an annual electricity consumption of 8 billion KWh (roughly 16



percent of total electricity consumption). This has further undermined sustainability in this sector due to high operation and maintenance costs, as well as high emissions such facilities produce.

Over 90 percent of the water resources goes to agriculture and 85 percent of surface water resources depend on water allocation from two transboundary rivers, namely Amu Darya and Syr Darya. Climate projects indicate that water flows in these two rivers will decrease by 5 percent and 15 percent respectively by 2050, with an increase of low water flow and drought and runoff losses up to 25 – 40 percent. At the same time, irrigation water demand will increase on average by 5 percent by 2030 and 7 – 10 percent by 2050, with higher demand of up to 25 percent by 2040s during summer months. Addressing these challenges require a complex set of mitigation measures.

The project will finance climate-resilient irrigation and drainage infrastructure in five selected irrigation and drainage schemes through modernization of the irrigation water distribution system, construction of improved measurement and canal control systems and introduction of modern climate resilient irrigation technologies as well as capacity building targeting Basin Management Organizations, Irrigation Service Providers, and Water User Associations. The project is focused on enhancing water security for improved economic and environmental sustainability and better resilience to climate threats in the provinces of Uzbekistan, namely Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, Bukhara, Karakalpakstan, and Namangan with five selected irrigation and drainage schemes that receive water from transboundary rivers, the first four provinces from the Amu Darya and the latter province from the Syr Darya. The Amu Darya River is formed by the Pyanj and Vakhsh rivers, of which the sources are located on the northern flank of the Pamir mountain range of Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. The Amu Darya river then flows through Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, discharging into the Aral Sea in Uzbekistan. The Syr Darya river is formed in the Tien Shan Mountains of the Kyrgyz Republic, at the confluence of the Naryn and Kara Darya rivers. The Syr Darya river then flows through Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, discharging into the Aral Sea in Kazakhstan.

Overall, the project will help contribute to improving the quality and sustainability of irrigation service delivery by increasing water conveyance efficiency and introduction of high-efficient irrigation technologies. The project contributes to achieving the core strategic priorities of Country Partnership Framework (CPF) FY22-FY26 for Uzbekistan. This includes Improving livelihoods and resilience through greener growth, particularly the need for more efficient use of natural resources (CPF High-Level Outcome 3).

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

The proposed project is designed to build upon the existing engagement of the WBG: there are currently two ongoing projects including, the South Karakalpakstan Water Resources Management Improvement Project, and the Ferghana Valley Water Resources Management Project. These two projects, started in 2017 with IDA financing of US\$ 363 million, are both focused on increasing the access to improved and sustainable irrigation services. The project will be implemented by the Center for Foreign Investment Projects in the Water Sector of the Ministry of Water Resources (Center) which plays the role of PIU for aforementioned two World Bank financed projects. The Center is mandated to implement projects supported by international financing institutions. The Center is currently implementing two Bank-financed projects, one of which is closing in August 2023. Project implementation and management of these two projects are satisfactory.

The Center has over 50 qualified and experienced staff in accounting and financial management, procurement and contract management, irrigation and pumping stations engineering, environmental and social safeguards, gender, M&E,



training, and communication. Therefore, the Center will lead the preparation of this project, including development of the required E&S documents through consulting firm engaged for the development of Feasibility study. The Center has prepared the terms of reference for the preparation of a feasibility study, including the requirement for preparation of E&S documents. The Center previously worked with reputable firms in preparation of feasibility studies, engineering, construction supervision/quality control of civil works, and for monitoring and evaluation and has capacity to provide technical guidance and oversight to produce quality outputs.

The Center has a previous expertise in implementing the Bank’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Operational Policies with the support of reputable Monitoring and Evaluation Consultants under two above mentioned projects. However, Center's current E&S staff have limited experience with the Bank's new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Therefore, the Terms of the Reference for developing of Feasibility Study of the project will include screening and environmental and social assessments as well as development of sub-project environmental instruments. The Bank’s ESF specialists will guide the both Center's E&S staff and consultant's E&S specialists in assessing and developing mitigation measures for potential environmental and social risks and impacts, as well as proposed ESF capacity building activities.

The ESF capacity building training program for contractors and other interested parties (will be defined at appraisal stage) will be also implemented by the Center during the implementation stage. The training program will reinforce existing capacity regional staff as well by providing specialized training to enhance environmental and social assessment, management and monitoring skills and practices. The project will organize a community outreach and public awareness campaign on environmental and social risk management issues with special attention given to preventing gender based violence, community health and safety, and occupational health and safety (OHS) measures in conducting civil works. For this purpose, the project will include evaluation and monitoring consulting services to conduct supervision of the project implementation including, supervision of environmental and social safeguards compliance and capacity building and outreach activities.

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II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

Irrigation and drainage infrastructure are essential to sustain agriculture and rural employment in Uzbekistan. The proposed project will have positive impacts by helping to cope with the predicated reduced water availability and increased water demands through: (i) modernization of the irrigation water distribution system, (ii) construction of improved measurement and canal control systems, as well as introduction of modern climate resilient irrigation technologies, and (iii) a comprehensive package of capacity-building activities targeting Basin Management Organizations, Irrigation Service Providers, and Water Users Associations. The project will also increase efficiency of energy use. While Components 2 and 3 of the proposed project may have moderate to low environmental risks, Component 1 involves: (i) abstraction of water for irrigation and potential down-stream environmental impacts including biodiversity; (ii) salinization; (iii) increased pollution due to construction waste; (iv) generation of dust, noise, and vibration due to the movement of construction vehicles and machinery; (v) improper disposal of construction waste and asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) that could be encountered in the pipes of the old water supply systems, (vi) Increase use of pesticides because of enhanced irrigation; (vii) operational or accidental spills of



fuel and lubricants from the construction machinery; (viii) improper reinstatement of construction sites upon completion of works; (ix) traffic and OHS issues, and (x) disturbance and pollution of the natural ecosystem and biodiversity during construction and sourcing of construction materials. All these adverse potential risks can be effectively prevented, mitigated, or minimized on-site in a predictable manner through good engineering design, and effective implementation of ESMP. Considering that the impacts, while extensive, are reversible, localized and temporary, as well as the experience of the implementing agency in implementing Bank financed projects, the environmental risk of the project is considered substantial. The environmental risk rating will be reviewed during project preparation and will be confirmed and revised, if needed, by Project appraisal

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The social risk is rated as substantial at this stage. The social risk rating will be revisited during the project preparation as the nature and scale of investments are not finalized yet. Hence it is difficult to predict fully the risks and impacts thereof. Overall, the project will have positive environmental impacts by improving water and energy use efficiency, but the modernization of existing irrigation and drainage schemes may have temporary and localized adverse impacts on the environment and people. Water becoming a limited resource in the country for the past years, and the reconstruction of irrigation infrastructure may intensify competition and disputes over water allocations among different user groups, such as farmers, agricultural clusters, and local consumers such as orchards and local users. Conflicts can arise over the allocation, distribution, and pricing of water, leading to social tensions among these stakeholders. The main social risks will revolve around the activities of component 1: Infrastructure Investments and Irrigation Service Improvements, while modernization of water infrastructure will include re-sectioning and raising canal beds (for gravity-led water flows). The social risk associated with the project is rated Substantial, considering: (i) possible temporary land acquisition from the rural households carrying out agricultural activities along the existing irrigation infrastructure; (ii) possible temporary adverse impacts of construction activities on people's properties, structures, and economic activities located along the irrigation infrastructure; (iii) risks associated with influx of contracted laborers into construction areas (iv) affordability and equity concerns around water permits, and irrigation service fees especially for women headed households, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, (v) potential OHS hazards due to a large workforce use of unfamiliar machinery and equipment and (vi) significant risk of forced labor in the global supply chain for solar panels and solar components. These social risks are detailed under the ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 3, ESS 4, ESS 5, ESS 6, and ESS 10. Temporary negative impacts associated with agricultural land acquisition from the farmers and rural households and demolition of structures along the construction zone along the irrigation infrastructure will be mitigated through development of Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). The Center's E&S staff are credible in mitigating of land acquisition and resettlement impacts (ESS5) while ESF requires from the Borrower to monitor other environmental and social activities related to labor management, stakeholder engagement, labor influx, sexual abuse and harassments, gender inequalities or exclusion of vulnerable groups from access to water and decision-making processes. Labor influx, or community health and safety risks are expected not significant under the Project, as most project workers will be recruited locally and construction works will be carried out within the agricultural lands. A Social Analysis (SA) will be carried out as part of the ESMF targeting the communities along the rehabilitated irrigation infrastructures under component 1. Women will be consulted during the social analysis to to examine gender-related issues, promote gender equality, and enhance the project's effectiveness. A simple gender action and monitoring plan will be developed and included in the ESMF based on the gender analyses to ensure the inclusion of gender-related activities in the project. While solar power technology may be considered as an option, the project will only finance procurement of solar panels as a potential technology option and does not finance large scale of procurement of solar panels and hence, risks associated with the global supply chains of solar panel production, such as child labor, is assessed as not significant.



B. Relevance of Standards and Policies at Concept Stage

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

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

Relevant

The ESS is relevant. The environmental risk is rated substantial because project interventions under Component 1 are located on transboundary river basins and its potential impacts on water abstraction, salinization, increased use of pesticides, Occupational Health and Safety and pollution. The social risk is rated as substantial at this stage due to possible social impacts associated with temporary land acquisition and involuntary resettlement, impacts of construction activities on people’s properties, structures, and economic activities, possible influx of contracted laborers into construction areas, affordability and equity concerns around water permits, and irrigation service fees especially for women headed households, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. The project is taking a framework approach because the sub-projects are not known at this stage. To effectively mitigate any foreseeable environmental and social risks associated mainly with construction and rehabilitation activities envisaged under Component 1 for the selected five existing irrigation and drainage schemes located within the Amudarya and Syrdarya river basins and considering their transboundary character, the Center will need to prepare, to the satisfaction of the Bank; consult on; and disclose the following instruments during project preparation: (i) Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP); (ii) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which will provide guidance for the preparation of ESF instruments; (iii) Labor Management Procedures (LMP); (iv) Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF); and (v) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The following World Bank’s Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) are relevant for the proposed project: ESS1, ESS2, ESS3, ESS4, ESS6, ESS8, and ESS 10. These ESF instruments shall be prepared, consulted upon, and disclosed prior to the project Appraisal. The project will consider hiring an independent international consultant to prepare feasibility study which includes the preparation of the ESF instruments to conduct quality assessments and deliver ESF documents acceptable to the Bank. The Center will agree with the Bank ToR for the development of feasibility study on the process and timing for preparing relevant E&S instruments during project preparation, specifying the requirements for consultation and disclosure of these instruments, and setting forth the institutional arrangements. The SEA/SH risk is assessed as moderate mostly due to the status of national Gender-Based Violence (GBV) legislation, gender norms, and the rural location of most project activities. Site-specific environmental and social assessments will be prepared for subproject activities where the projects sites have been identified. Environmental and social risk screening procedures and mitigation actions will be part of the ESMF and RPF, which will provide the next steps on preparing and implementing site specific environmental and social assessment and management plans depending upon the environmental and social risk of the project. For sub-projects with substantial risk classification and/or those that require environmental licenses as per-the national law, a standalone ESIA and ESMP may be required. For lower risk sub-projects, an ESMP checklist and/or codes of practices may be applied. The ESMF will be based on the relevant ESSs, the World Bank Group’s Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines, and applicable national legislation. It will include (i) screening criteria that exclude any activities which potentially would have high environmental and/or social risks; (ii) criteria for determining if and when site-specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessments/ Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESIA/ESMP) are required (rehabilitation of larger irrigation schemes, work that could affect critical habitats, rehabilitation work on any irrigation weir, etc.); (iii) a sample ESIA/ESMP outline for major irrigation systems; (iv) an ESMP checklist for the small- and medium scale infrastructure retrofitting activities; (v) a section on pest and pesticide management; (vi) a Pest Management Plan (PMP) for the project as an annex; (vii) environmental and social monitoring and reporting

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requirements; and (viii) a section capacity building activities to help the Center, other implementing agencies, and beneficiaries comply with ESF requirements during project implementation and irrigation scheme operation. When required, site specific ESIA/ESMPs and PMPs will be prepared, reviewed by the Bank, consulted on, and disclosed by the Center. Full scale ESIA/ESMPs will be reviewed by the Bank prior to preparation of bidding documents for those works. ESMP checklists and PMPs will be reviewed by the Bank during regular implementation support missions.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

The ESS is relevant. Environmental and Social Standard 10 requires the preparation and implementation of SEP proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts. SEP is required to be developed considering the diverse stakeholder profile and needs, as well as different expectations and capacity to engage with the project. Stakeholder Engagement includes the following: (i) stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) planning for stakeholder engagement; (iii) consultations and disclosures; (iv) grievance mechanism; (v) consultations on the (i) Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP); (ii) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), including Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); (iii) Labor Management Procedures (LMP); (iv) Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF); and (v) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) during project preparation and continuous interface with and reporting to the stakeholders. The project activities will take place in five provinces of the Republic of Uzbekistan within two river basins, including Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, Bukhara, Karakalpakstan, and Namangan. Public consultations within the project framework include close collaboration with Hokimiyats, Provincial Committee on Nature Protection, local farming unions, local mahallas, Water Consumers' Associations, and Consultants. The project activities summary and intention of the public consultation will be prepared and forwarded to the Hokimiyats. Various community groups will be informed about the public consultation by displaying printed notices in public places of project districts. Further consultations will be required during the construction phase to alert farmers to the construction schedule and when changes in the water supply may occur. This will be identified within the consultation meetings of ESMF and SEP. As an option, ESMF may include measures adjusting civil work schedules and water disruptions to avoid impact to livelihood of farmers and communities by minimizing potential disruptions during planting and harvesting seasons. The SEP may include a provision that an agreement with the host community and/or water users will be secured prior to initiating any civil works which may lead to disruptions in water services and community health and safety risks. The project will use participatory approaches to needs assessments, investment prioritization, and feedback, and will leverage technology where appropriate. Project implementation will be guided by results from consultations, beneficiary satisfaction surveys and grievance-redress mechanism to ensure that citizens are engaged throughout the project cycle. Communities in the project areas will be engaged to ensure that the needs of vulnerable households are considered. Women's councils and female-headed Water Consumers' Associations (WCAs) will be consulted during implementation to ensure project activities are gender-inclusive. Beneficiary surveys will be conducted at the start, mid-term and end of the project using an online platform. Surveys will be complemented by local snapshots and focus groups. WCAs, Ministry of Water Resources, and Center for Foreign Investment Projects in the Water Sector of the Ministry of Water Resources (Center) all have existing complaints handling systems that will be reinforced through corporate development under Component 3. The project will use existing PIU level grievance mechanism to record and address complaints related to project implementation to improve accountability of implementing agencies and service providers established under the two ongoing WB financed projects. Additionally, there will be local level grievance mechanism for project-affected people (resettlement and construction related complaints) will segregate the project specific grievances, and will be accessible to all, particularly women. It will ensure simple and open communication with affected communities including awareness raising and dissemination of project information, feedback collection, and appropriate tools for

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registering concerns in a structured way. The grievance mechanism system will sex-disaggregate the farmers satisfaction and other feedback data to monitor the extent to which farmers are engaged and satisfied with the irrigation services. The grievance mechanism boxes will be installed in each regional Irrigation Departments. The grievance mechanism will include a special window/uptake channel to address SEA/SH complaints so as to ensure privacy and dignity of the affected persons. Information disclosure will include project description and components, locations, and expected period of implementation, in the planned joint social, resettlement, and environmental public consultation events. The findings of the ESIA/ESMP, ESMF, SEP, LMP, and Resettlement Plans, will be disclosed to stakeholders through the World Bank website, and report in Uzbek will be made available in the field and mahallas. The SEP will be updated along the project implementation, as appropriate and will remain publicly available on the websites of the implementing agencies. Prior to Appraisal, the Center will prepare, to a level acceptable to the World Bank, consult on, and disclose the SEP to outline the activities, budget, and responsibilities (local and project-level) for continuous information-sharing and engagement and processing of feedback from project-affected and other interested parties, including rural population in the target areas.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

The ESS is relevant. The project could encompass the following categories of workers: direct and contracted workers. Direct workers will be those deployed as ‘technical consultants’ and ‘project specialists’ by the PIU. They will be governed by mutually agreed contracts. Contracted workers will be employed as deemed appropriate by contractors, sub-contractors, and other intermediaries, details of which will be known as and when activities' implementation begins. Workers within rural communities may be involved in the project activities, but such workers would be employed by contractors and hence, will be categorized as contracted workers. No community workers will be envisaged for the purpose of the project. Labor risks in this project will be mitigated by the establishment and close adherence to 1) a labor-management procedure (LMP), 2) labor-management plan(s) as part of the Contractor’s ESMP at the sub-project level, and 3) a code of conduct for workers. Risks related to child and forced labor are considered to be low since contracts and an age verification mechanism will be established by the project and will be required of each selected contractor. The Center will prepare a standalone LMP for the project, prior to Appraisal, describing the types of workers, key elements of the national labor policy and regulations, and gaps with ESS2. The LMP will include provisions on working conditions and labor terms, fair treatment, and equal opportunities. Whether labor camps will be required or not is subject to further understanding of the scope of workforce required under the project. At the concept stage, the project anticipates hiring of local workers where such facilities, even if required, will not be large-scale. Provisions will be made to train and hire as many as possible from local community members where the project activities are taking place. The ESIA will include sections on Environment Health and Safety (EHS) based on the World Bank Group EHS Guidelines (EHS checklists for expected types of works, codes of conduct; safety training, procedures for dealing with hazardous materials like asbestos and lead-based paint, etc.). The key OHS risk for project workers are associated with the construction activities for the existing irrigation and drainage irrigation schemes and COVID-19. The project will regularly integrate the latest COVID-19 guidance and best practices as it evolves. All project workers will be expected to adhere to standard Codes of Conduct that address measures to prevent SEA/SH. The project will also include a grievance mechanism for project workers, SEA/SH prevention measures, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. While solar power technology may be considered as an option, the project will only finance procurement of solar panels as a potential technology option and does not finance large scale of procurement of solar panels and hence, risks associated with the global supply chains of solar panel production, such as child labor, is assessed as not significant. This will be revisited at appraisal. In the eventual event that the project will involve a

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substantial procurement of solar power technology, The Borrower is required to include relevant specified provisions and declarations in procurement documents for Solar Panels/Solar Panel Components as well as the requirement for mandatory Bank's prior review/No-objection is posted on the Bank's external procurement web page, to apply to both international and national competitive procurement and any direct selection/direct contracting within the scope of application. The Borrower must include in applicable procurement (i) applicable provisions in the invitation for bids, instruction to bidders and qualification requirement; (ii) Forced Labor Performance Declaration; (iii) Forced Labor Declaration; and (iv) strengthened contract clause on Forced Labor. Templates of the declarations provided in the IPF Solar Procurement Bidder Declaration - Forced Labor Note.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

The ESS is relevant. Construction activities for rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage schemes, boreholes, wells, storage and irrigation canals, may have impacts on energy efficiency, pollution management, as well as material use such as cement, geotextiles, stone, gravels and sand. These impacts are not likely to be significant or irreversible. Impacts related to resource use efficiency and pollution will be further assessed in ESIA's, and appropriate ESMPs will be prepared. The ESIA will provide an estimate of the amount of materials to be used and mitigation measures for sustainable sourcing. The disposable materials will be sampled and tested and further classified either as a hazardous waste, non-hazardous waste, or useful construction materials. Project implementation will adhere to sector specific laws and GIIP on material sourcing and waste disposal. Based on WBG EHS guidelines, national legislation and best practices, the Borrower will develop and implement relevant waste management plans and energy optimization plans. Pesticide may pollute water, soil and other ecosystems. The Integrated Pest Management Plan (see under ESS4) will be used to mitigate pollution of soil and water by pesticides

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

The ESS is relevant. The ESMF will an outline potential work-related health and safety risks; traffic and road safety; HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases; GBV/SEA; site safety awareness and access restrictions; and labor influx and labor camp management. The ESMF will also include universal accessibility planning (as appropriate) to address and minimize risks and impacts that such investments under Component 1 may have on community health and safety. All construction sites will be restricted from unauthorized access by fencing the territory. The Borrower will assess risks posed by the security personnel and security arrangements to those within and outside of the project site and incorporate them in the ESIA/ESMP proportionate mitigation measures. For all labor camps, the contractor will be required to employ measures to control labor influx risks based on the WB Guidelines on Managing the risks of adverse impacts on communities from temporary project-induced labor influx and Good practice notes on addressing GBV. A GRM for the public will be prepared and consulted with local communities during project preparation. The ESMF will also highlight the need for training and will include specific guidelines and requirements, and provisions in this regard for PIU staff, local authorities, and project beneficiaries (farmers, Water Consumers Associations (WCAs), and River Basin Organizations (RBOs)). The site-specific ESMPs will include emergency preparedness and response plans for the project's construction and operational stages to manage natural or man-made hazards/incidents (floods, fires, etc.) in the project intervention areas. They will also include measures to address GBV, SEA/SH risks, including, where necessary, action plans, Codes of Conduct, outreach, etc. The rehabilitation of the irrigation schemes could potentially lead to expansion in agriculture activities which means the potential for pesticide and fertilizer use is not negligible. The ESMF will include a dedicated section with guidance on pesticides and fertilizers purchase, transportation, storage, handling, use, and disposal along with providing guidance on farmers' training on integrated

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pest management. Assessment of risks and impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to relevant requirements of ESS 4, including water and energy use; soil and air pollution; and hazardous materials management; and procedures for handling and disposing of material and hazardous waste to ensure community safety will be included within the scope of site-specific ESIA/ESMPs, as relevant. The five irrigation and drainage schemes rely mainly on pumping water from Amu Darya and Syr Darya. These schemes partially depend on water from a number of reservoirs (dam height ranging from 11 to 60 meters). During preparation of the feasibility study (FS) these dams will be reviewed. The FS will cover inspection and evaluation of dams, its appurtenances, and its performance history; review and evaluate operation and maintenance procedures; and provide written report for findings and recommendations for any remedial work or safety-related measures that might be required to upgrade the dams to an acceptable standard of safety. A panel of experts on dam safety will be established to review the FS and if required this panel will continue its work during project implementation.

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

Relevant

ESS5 is considered currently relevant to the project. Rehabilitation and modernization of irrigation infrastructure and associated civil works are likely to involve involuntary land acquisition, including temporary land use restrictions during construction, impact to structures and economic displacement. Physical resettlement will be avoided to the extent possible. Component 1 may require (i) possible temporary land acquisition from the rural households carrying out agricultural activities along the existing irrigation infrastructure; (ii) possible temporary adverse impacts of construction activities on people’s properties, structures, and economic activities, and on the livelihoods or sources of income of the community due to changes in existing alignment to increase water conveying efficiency. Since the project sites and not known at this stage, the Borrower will prepare a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) to further guide activities in this regard. An RPF will be prepared, consulted upon, and disclosed prior to Appraisal. The RPF will establish how site-specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) will be prepared, disclosed, and implemented. It is noted that all subprojects requiring land acquisition and involuntary resettlement will ensure that the RAP(s) are prepared and fully implemented prior to the commencement of works. In case project sites and preliminary designs (exact project footprints) will be known per feasibility study during the project preparation, then draft RAP(s) will also be prepared, consulted upon, and disclosed prior the project appraisal. The proposed project does not allow to use voluntary land donations (VLD) belonging to agricultural farms and private households and VLD will be included to the exclusion list under the ESMF.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Relevant

The ESS is relevant. It is expected that the project will not adversely affect any natural habitats and biodiversity in the project areas. If the environmental screening outcomes identify subprojects that may potentially pose adverse risks and impacts on natural and critical habitats, they will not be financed by the project. Potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with project impacts on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems will be thoroughly assessed during the project preparation and incorporated into the ESMF , and measures will be proposed to mitigate potential negative impacts. The ESMF will include a template for biodiversity assessment and management plan in the selected five provinces covering two river basins with a particular focus on potential project overlaps with critical habitats or protected areas. The ESMF will address relevant issues based on ESS 6 in the sections on sub-project screening, and the preparation of site-specific ESIA/ESMPs or/and Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs). As the



Project design progresses, the team will review potential identified activities against ESS 6 and confirm that site-specific ESIA/ESMPs include additional mitigation measures in line with requirements of this standard, if needed.

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

The standard is not relevant because no indigenous people are known to reside in Uzbekistan.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage Relevant

The ESS is relevant. There are numerous historical and architectural monuments in and around the Bukhara region and adjacent districts, as well as historical and cultural values, which could be found in other parts of the selected projects sites. The project interventions may potentially affect cultural heritages during civil works Therefore, the ESMF will include a section on the protection of Cultural Heritage incorporating "chance finds" procedures to be followed for proposed activities.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries Not Currently Relevant

This standard is not relevant because no financial intermediaries are party to the project implementation modality.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways Yes

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

The borrower framework will not be used in part or as a whole for this Project. However, the proposed operation will comply with relevant national legal and regulatory requirements.

Use of Common Approach No

There will be no financing partners as the project is to be financed 100% from the IDA.

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 by Appraisal?

III. CONTACT POINT

Public Disclosure



World Bank

Task Team Leader: Abdulhamid Azad Title: Lead Water Resources Management Specialist

Email: aazad@worldbank.org

IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

V. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Abdulhamid Azad
Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Varalakshmi Vemuru Recommended on 29-Jun-2023 at 11:34:53 EDT
ADM Environmental Specialist: Asferachew Abate Abebe
ADM Social Specialist: Tolmasbek Boltayev

Public Disclosure