



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

Date Prepared/Updated: 11/17/2022 | Report No: ESRSAFA495



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)
Tajikistan	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Republic of Tajikistan	Ministry of Agriculture
Project ID	Project Name		
P179851	Tajikistan Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project Additional Financing		
Parent Project ID (if any)	Parent Project Name		
P175952	Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Agriculture and Food	Investment Project Financing	11/17/2022	12/20/2022

Proposed Development Objective

To strengthen the foundations for a more resilient agricultural sector and support emergency interventions to address food and nutrition security in Tajikistan

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Current Financing	58.00
Proposed Additional Financing	50.00
<b>Total Proposed Financing</b>	<b>108.00</b>

**B. Is the project 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 [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]**

The US\$50 million equivalent grant funds made available through the IDA20 Crisis Response Window Early Response Financing (CRW ERF) will support the government’s effort in responding to the food and nutrition security emergency. The proposed AF will primarily focus on addressing the short-term emergency needs but will also finance some



medium-term investments to enhance food and nutrition security and build resilience. The grant funds will co-finance project activities planned under the various sub-components of the parent project as well as finance new project activities planned under a new sub-component. As such, the parent project design, component and sub-component structure and objectives will remain largely unchanged with the exception of Component 3 where an additional sub-component is proposed on the planned nutrition activities. The PDO of the parent project will be revised to reflect the nature of activities that are being financed especially as they relate to food insecurity and nutrition needs. The proposed (revised) PDO is to strengthen the foundations for a more resilient agricultural sector and support emergency interventions to address food and nutrition security in Tajikistan. Additional PDO level and IRIs indicators will be added to capture the new dimensions of the PDO and emergency interventions. Targets for parent project PDO indicators will be scaled up, while Intermediate Results Indicators (IRIs) will also be revised to reflect higher values for indicators linked to activities that will receive additional resources and to include new IRIs measuring new activities. The AF will follow the same geographic focus and selection criteria as the parent project. Beneficiaries will be expanded due to the increased resources and outreach, and also to include beneficiaries of the emergency seed and fertilizer distribution and nutrition-enhancing activities.

The AF will cover the following additional activities:

Component 1: Strengthening seed, seedling, and planting material systems. The objectives and sub-component structure of the component will remain the same. The SRASP AF will finance the following activities aiming to improve the enabling environment, and ensure the availability of improved, locally adapted, market oriented, farmer-preferred, and climate resilient seeds, seedlings, and planting materials for priority crops, in sufficient quantity and quality:

Sub-component 1.1: Enabling environment, the the AF will increase the amount of funding allocated to this sub-component (co-financing), and the objective of the sub-component, which is improving the enabling environment of the seed, seedling, and planting materials system will be broadened to include food and nutrition security. The additional resources allocated to the sub-component will help the government to: (i) develop a FSCPP, (ii) review the existing Food Security Law #1591 (April 2019); and (iii) review the institutional arrangements for food and nutrition security

The FSCPP will help in addressing the impacts of acute shocks, and the AF support will include preparing semi-annual reports for food security coordination bodies on risks, resilience, and immediate food security measures that need to be taken; and developing an M&E framework to provide timely and reliable information to facilitate informed decision-making on food security program management, as a part of an M&E system for implementation of the Agriculture Sector Development Program (ASDP) 2022-2030.

The Food Security Law does not provide a clear structure for ensuring food security. Its revision is required especially with regard to the roles of the FSC and MOA to ensure coordination and harmonization of the efforts between stakeholders, including the private sector. Moreover, the current version of the Law is centered on self-sufficiency rather than food security. This definition of food security is not in line with the international understanding and the definition employed in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The current law does not enable an efficient response for early warning and swift action to address emerging food security risks and prioritize increased resilience.

Sub-component 1.2: No change



Sub-component 1.3: Multiplication of seeds, seedlings, and planting materials, the SRASP AF will scale up the sub-component scope to include emergency procurement and distribution of improved seeds and fertilizers to farmers and vulnerable groups. The SRASP AF will support (co-finance) the procurement and distribution of seeds and fertilizers to farmers and vulnerable rural households for homestead gardening, as a short-term food crisis response. The SARSP AF will also support the procurement and distribution to women farmers of small agricultural machinery to simplify women's manual labor; and provision of training for seed multiplication, seedlings and planting material and the use of small innovative equipment to vulnerable farmers. The SRASP AF design will also look into supporting potential additional measures that may address the acute bottlenecks in food distribution and production systems, including targeting vulnerable households, returning migrants, and women..

Sub-component 1.4: No change

Component 2: Support investments in agri-logistical centers (ALCs) for horticulture value chains. The objectives and sub-component structure of the component will remain the same. The SRASP AF will allow the component to scale up activities of the parent project by supporting the establishment and operationalization of additional ALCs with the objective of building resilient food systems, promoting agricultural diversification, ensuring better market linkages, and improving competitiveness of horticulture value chains and access to markets.

Sub-component 2.1: Support the establishment and operation of ALCs, the SRASP AF will support (co-finance) the establishment and operationalization of two additional ALCs in geographical locations to be identified following the same procedure and operation and management modality as in the parent project. The design feature (small in size and services (cooling, storage, packing. Logistic facilities etc.) of the ALCs will also be the same as the parent project..

Sub-component 2.2: No change

Component 3: Strengthen public capacity for crises prevention and management. The objectives of the component and sub-components will remain the same, but there will be a new sub-component that will be included. The proposed SRASP AF-will allow the component to include additional activities that will further strengthen the capacity of the public sector to prevent and manage crises, and the new sub-component will help improve nutritional outcomes.

Sub-component 3.1: Real-time monitoring of agricultural production, land use, and agrometeorology, AF will expand (co-finance) the scope of the sub-component which aims to enhance the early warning systems infrastructure, including: (i) developing an early warning system for livestock, including to prepare for hydro-meteorological and temperature extreme events and animal diseases; and strengthen national participation in regional and global early warning systems for hydro-meteorological events; (ii) improving market and agriculture inputs price information systems, including the scaling up of digital technologies and information platforms;

Sub-component 3.2: No change

Sub-component 3.3: No change



Sub-component 3.4: Nutrition improvement (new sub-component) The SRASP AF will provide financial resources to set-up a new sub-component that will aim to improve national nutritional outcomes and focuses on the immediate nutrition needs, specifically through: (i) Procurement and distribution of micronutrients and vitamin supplements for pregnant and lactating women and children (6-23 or 6-59 months) and/ or procurement and distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic food for children at risk of severe acute malnutrition ; (ii) Creation of a centralized supply for food fortification premixes by establishing a “premix revolving fund facility” for the premix (specifically, micronutrients and potassium iodate/iodine) and provision of “seed funds for premix” in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies (MINT), MOHSP, the National Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Coordination Council and other interested parties; (iii) Implementation of priority nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions specified under the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MSNAP) (2021-2025) for which the MOA is responsible; (iv) complementing ongoing efforts led by FAO, UNICEF and WFP to introduce the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification methodology in the country as an innovative multi-stakeholder initiative to improve analysis and decision-making on food security and nutrition ; and (v) supporting the government in implementation of the FSCPP through possible follow-up capacity support based on the identified needs under the FSCPP.

Under Component 4: Project management and coordination. The objectives and structure of the component will remain the same. The AF will increase the amount of financial resources allocated to project coordination and management, including incremental staffing e.g., hiring a health/ nutrition specialist, and operating costs to enhance project implementation, coordination, and result monitoring; ensure fiduciary and safeguards compliance, and improve grievance redress and citizen engagement.

The proposed SRASP AF is aligned with the parent SRASP objectives as well as the WBG’s overall engagement with the Government of Tajikistan, as laid out in the Country Partnership Framework for the period FY19–FY23 (CPF). Specifically, Objective 2. Enhancing Health Services under Focus Area Investing in human capital and building social resilience; and Objective 6: Improving the Business Environment and Facilitating Exports Sustainably and Objective 7. Strategic Public Infrastructure Reform with Potential to Crowd in Private Activities under Focus Area Enabling private-sector growth and creating markets. Proposed SRASP AF project activities are also in line with the WBG’s twin goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity in a sustainable manner, as elaborated in the Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD).

## D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

The Tajikistan Strengthening Resilience of the Agriculture Sector Project (SRASP, P175952) – the parent project of this additional financing (AF) is fully financed by an IDA grant (US\$58 million equivalent). SRASP was approved by the World Bank in June 2021 and declared effective in November 2021. The parent project was designed as part of the World Bank Group’s (WBG) response to the Government of Tajikistan’s request to help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the economy and people of Tajikistan. The AF Project (US\$ 50 million equivalent) prepared through the IDA20 Crisis Response Window Early Response Financing will support the government’s effort in responding to the food and nutrition security emergency. The project component and sub-component structure will remain largely unchanged with the exception of Component 3 where an additional sub-component is proposed on the planned nutrition activities. The present ESRS covers the project to date and planned AF activities.



With 22 percent of GDP, 19 percent of export and 61 percent of employment, the agriculture sector has a major influence on overall economic performance of the country. Agriculture is rainfed or irrigated from surface water in the Amu Darya/Panj and Syr Darya Basins. These rivers are part of international basins and the water resources management is accordingly regulated by the Interstate Coordination Water Management Commission of the Central Asian countries (ICWC). The sector continues to grow steadily in response to land reform, liberalization of the domestic market for cotton, the reduction of local government interference in farmer decisions, and a nascent increase in the commercialization of agriculture. Arable land is in short supply, occupying 20 percent of agricultural land (980,000 ha). Land degradation is among the major risks for agriculture, affecting 97 percent of the country's farmland. Extreme weather events, exacerbated by a changing climate and limited adaptation capacities, pose a further threat. Crop production, especially staple crops and fodder production, fluctuates by year, depending on weather conditions. Women are more vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters than men due to their limited access to resources, including productive inputs and land.

Despite a large agricultural sector, food, and nutrition security at the national level in Tajikistan remains highly dependent on imports to cover the country's food and nutrition needs and avail agricultural inputs. Disruptions in agricultural input markets are a major source of vulnerability, i.e., price changes of agricultural inputs in global markets affect domestic producers and consumers due to an increase in the costs of agricultural inputs, particularly seeds and fertilizers thereby affecting food and nutrition security.

Apart from agriculture, another critical source of income for the Tajik population is remittances, received largely from migrant workers in Russia, with more than 80 percent of remittances used for food consumption. According to the Listening to Tajikistan surveys, one third of all households, and 40 percent of the poor, receive remittance income. Higher food, fertilizer, and energy prices and the decline in remittance incomes in the aftermath of the war in Ukraine are presently the main economic drivers of acute food insecurity in Tajikistan, which is especially severe for vulnerable rural households, whose livelihoods heavily depend on agriculture and remittance incomes. Moreover, communities in conflict-affected areas such as at the Kyrgyz-Tajik border in the Ferghana Valley are at risk of conflict-driven food and nutrition insecurity.

Malnutrition among children and women persists as a major challenge and a critical public health concern in Tajikistan, particularly in remote and rural areas long before the above-mentioned crises. Even though 2017 Demographic and Health Survey for Tajikistan showed an improvement in rates of stunting, the country still has the highest rate in ECA with 18 percent of children under the age of 5 years being stunted and suffering from chronic nutritional deprivation and infectious diseases.

The proposed AF will support the government's effort in responding to the food and nutrition security emergency. It will primarily focus on addressing the short-term emergency needs but will also finance some medium-term investments to enhance food and nutrition security and build resilience. The funds will co-finance project activities planned under the various sub-components of the parent project as well as a new sub-component that will aim to improve national nutritional outcomes and focuses on the immediate nutrition needs.

Like the parent Project, the AF activities will be implemented country wide. Specific sites will be determined during AF project implementation.



D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The 2012 Law on the State Ecological Expertise requires that all civil works to be assessed for their environmental impacts and the proposed mitigation measures reviewed and monitored by the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP). The CEP has a national and regional offices with experience in reviewing environmental instruments. While environmental resettlement laws in Tajikistan are considered good, enforcement, beyond review of initial documents, is uneven, particularly for investments with lower risks and profiles.

The implementing agency for the proposed AF project will remain the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). MOA has established the PMU in the capital (Dushanbe) and recruited Regional Project Offices (RPOs) in three target regions (Sughd, Bokhtar and GBAO). MOA is also supported by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) and a Project Technical Committee (PTC). The Ministry of Industry and New Technologies (MINT), Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP), and Food Security Committee (FSC) representatives will join the PSC and PTC to provide support with the implementation of new Sub-component 3.4. FAO will continue to provide TA support for the implementation of the AF Project, as it possesses internationally acclaimed expertise in food security and nutrition improvement. The MOA will be supported by international and/or national consultancy services and TA for the implementation of project activities to be financed under the AF.

To date the MOA/PMU employed an Environmental Specialist and a Social Development Specialist based in Dushanbe who have the necessary experience and knowledge of the World Bank’s environmental and social safeguards requirements and national environmental and social assessment frameworks. Both are new to the ESF requirements. There were some delays with ESF quarterly reporting, but PMU is making immense efforts to improve reporting. The October’22 Implementation Support Mission assessed the Project’s ESF performance as Satisfactory. The Bank team will provide hand holding and on-job ESF capacity building for the Project’s ESF staff. The updated ESCP will include the relevant ESF capacity building activities for the implementing agency and its partners to be engaged under the parent Project and its AF implementation.

Public Disclosure

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

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

**Environmental Risk Rating** Substantial

The Environment Risk Rating remains Substantial. The AF project activities, along with the Parent project, might generate adverse environmental risks and impacts associated with: (i) pest management for expanded and renewed agricultural systems; (ii) risks related to indirect disturbance of existing ecosystem in natural habitats; and (iii) impacts involved with infrastructure development and rehabilitation/construction including dust, noise, air, soil and water pollution. Both Components 1 and 2 of parent and AF projects involve the potential for pesticide use in different sub-projects that are defined and mitigated in the pest management plan (PMP). There are activities targeting crop protection and locust control, which are also defined and mitigated in the PMP. The PMP also examines the larger pest management needs associated with the planned agricultural expansion and locust control. Also, Component 2 contains construction works under AF project Components with the largest being the development of two additional Agri-Logistical Centers (ALC). These activities might cause direct environmental and health risks such as increased



environmental pollution with waste, noise, dust, emissions and discharges, as well as health hazards and labor safety issues due to civil works. Most of these risks and impacts are expected to be typical for construction and rehabilitation works, temporary by nature and localized, and can be readily mitigated.

**Social Risk Rating**

Substantial

The social risk rating remains Substantial, the AF Project is encountering social inclusion challenges related to scaling up the existing components: (i) developing a vibrant system for seed system; (ii) establishing high-value horticulture value chains; and (iii) strengthening the public institutions on crisis prevention and management. Social exclusion may happen due to differentials in: (i) geography – given the vast expanse of the farming community and that some of the terrain is mountainous and remote, particularly near the Afghanistan border, it is likely that some areas may not be covered by the project; (ii) scale of farming – large and richer elite farmers may receive preferential treatment; (iii) absorption capacity - technologies developed may be more friendly to large farmers; and (iv) administrative expediency and economy in engaging the ‘elites’ vis-à-vis the huge social intermediation efforts required to reach out to small and marginal farmers across the country. The risk of exclusion shall be addressed to a large extent through an updated Social Inclusion Plan (SIP) and an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) supplemented with an effective information, education and communication (IEC) campaign. Increased exposure of farmers and their families to dangerous agrochemicals could be a significant risk. Farmers’ exposure mainly occurs during the preparation and application of the pesticide spray solutions. Other manual labor working in nearby areas treated with pesticides, may also face exposures. The Pest Management Plan, prepared for the parent Project addresses these issues. The second and third components involve civil construction, some new and others repairs and rehabilitation. Under the AF, the construction of two new additional agro-logistical centers will invariably require land acquisition. While the Project is expecting that the Government will make available land, due diligence is required to ensure that there are no resultant physical, and/ or economic displacements. Risks related to this will need to be avoided or reduced or, if involuntary acquisition is inevitable, then, it will have to be addressed as per the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) prepared for the Parent Project and relevant to the AF activities. Child labor risks are moderate, as the government has ensured persistent and effective efforts during the last decade to eliminate hazardous forms of child labor and put in place child labor monitoring units with the Employment Agency and local governments. The Child Labor Monitoring Plan, prepared during the parent Project’s implementation, includes specific commitments and responsibilities for monitoring and addressing this aspect, as well as describing approaches and methodologies for child labor monitoring relevant to the AF project activities.

Public Disclosure

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

**B.1. General Assessment**

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

**Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:**

The proposed AF will primarily focus on addressing the short-term emergency needs but will also finance some medium-term investments to enhance food and nutrition security and build resilience. The AF continues to include a spectrum of actions with the potential to increase the space for private sector activity, such as (i) improving the policy and regulatory environment; (ii) supporting essential public goods and services such as strengthening human capital, agricultural services, and public infrastructure (ALCs) contributing to enhance market access; (iii) directly building the capacity of private sector seed producers and nurseries in the multiplication of seed, seedlings and planting material;





and (iv) improving early warning systems and thus empowering public and private sector actors alike to take timely and informed production and other market decisions. Moreover, the establishment of a “revolving fund” under Sub-component 3.4 will catalyze the process of engaging private companies to fortified food products.

The positive social impacts are as follows: a) increased access to better seeds and seedlings will improve productivity, and as such will increase income-generation; b) additional agri-logistics centers will increase exports of horticulture products, which will create employment opportunities in rural areas; and c) nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions will create a centralized supply for food fortification premixes to children (6-59 months), pregnant and lactating women. The environmental impacts of the project are expected to be largely positive as it will support improved agricultural production and capacity to identify effective agricultural, land, and water management practices.

The following standards are relevant for the AF: ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 3, ESS 4, ESS 5, ESS 6, and ESS 10.

Potential environmental risks could be attributed to following activities:

1) The use and potential mishandling of pesticides for individual activities like seed production or vector control in agri-logistic centers, crop protection and locust control, and, more largely, those associated with the national expansion of agricultural and horticultural production. These risks, which could result in long-term impacts, are addressed through the Project PMP and the ESMF.

2) The site specific construction activities that may result in dust and noise pollution, and electronic or hazardous waste disposals. These risks are expected to be reversible, short-term, and easily mitigable.

The project’s key social risks and impacts include : a) exclusion: a diverse range of small and medium farms and individual farmers, as well as other vulnerable sections of society may end up being excluded by the project activities/results/ benefits due to remote locations, lack of proper knowledge and skills to access and use improved technologies, non-affordable seed products and services; b) small scale involuntary resettlement impacts related to construction of a few buildings; and c) increased exposure to dangerous agrochemicals. No significant risks related to labor influx and community safety are expected under the project, as most project workers (for the civil works) will be recruited locally.

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.

The measures to address social and environmental risks in the Parent Project remain relevant to AF activities, and are described in details in the following instruments prepared for the Parent Project: (i) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which includes a project Pest Management Plan (PMP); (ii) Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF); (iii) Labor Management Procedures (LMP); (iv) Child Labor Monitoring Plan (CLMP); (v) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP); and (vi) Social Inclusion Plan (SIP). The last two plans will be updated prior to the AF Appraisal to incorporate new project stakeholders and the ways to engage and include them in the project implementation.



The PMU has started screening of environmental and social risks and impacts of the subprojects to be implemented under Component 1. Based on the screening results the site specific E&S instruments will be prepared and incorporated into the bidding packages. No civil works have started yet. The ESMF implementation has been considered Satisfactory at this stage.

### **ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

To date, the project specific GRM is functional and operates at three levels: local, regional and national. No complaints have been filed yet. Stakeholder activities are being implemented as per the approved SEP. The multi-stakeholder Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Project Technical Committee (PTC) have been established and conduct regular meeting to discuss how to implement the project. A round of meetings were held with seed farmers to identify investment areas under Subcomponent 1.3 and the results of those consultations were incorporated in FY23 Work Plan. The SEP implementation has been considered Satisfactory.

Individuals and groups likely to directly benefit have been identified during parent Project preparation. In addition, the following new project beneficiaries are identified under the AF activities: producers of fortified foods, households with children (6-59 months), pregnant and lactating women. Other additional interested parties include MOHSP, MINT, and FSC. The mapping of additional actors will be presented in the updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), which outlines the activities and timeframe for engaging with different stakeholder groups throughout the project life, defines roles and responsibilities, human resources and budget needed for implementing SEP activities. The SEP will be updated to incorporate elements of the Additional Financing prior to Appraisal.

The updated SEP will include measures to ensure that disadvantaged and vulnerable groups have equal opportunity to obtain information and benefit from project activities, as well as having channels for grievance and redress if negatively affected. Such activities will include tailored awareness and information campaigns which will target women, and mahalla-level meetings which community members of all backgrounds and remote areas can join. The project will distribute information materials through multiple channels such as media, social media, and mahalla leaders, emphasizing the rules and principles of equity and non-discrimination, for example in relation to employment opportunities in all training and consultation activities.

The citizen engagement activities established in the parent Project will be continued for the AF. This includes coordinating with the Listening to Tajikistan (L2T) survey – which will help to quantify the severity of the food insecurity.

### **B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts**

**A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.**

#### **ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions**



The Project, including AF, will continue to be implemented in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS 2, including through, inter alia, implementing adequate occupational health and safety measures, setting out grievance arrangements for project workers, and incorporating labor requirements into the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms.

Under the ongoing project, the MOA/PMU has been implementing the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), which outlines the type of project workers, labor conditions and associated labor risks, as well as mitigation measures. The Project encompasses the following categories of workers: direct and contracted workers. Direct workers will be those deployed as 'technical consultants' and 'project specialists' by the PMU. 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 the project activities' implementation begins. No primary suppliers or community workers are anticipated. Provisions have also been made to train and hire as many as possible workers from local communities where the Project activities are taking place. The PMU has prepared a Code of Conduct to be signed by all project workers to be engaged in implementation of the parent Project and AF activities. The AF project proposes construction of additional agri-logistics centers. The expectation is that the majority of labor will be locally hired with the exception of a few skilled workers.

The ESMF includes Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) aspects, including specific instruments that will need to be prepared either by the client or the contractors prior to commencement of works (OHS checklists, codes of conduct; safety training etc.). Civil works contracts will incorporate social and environmental mitigation measures based on the WBG EHS Guidelines and the ESMF, as well as the SEP, RPF etc. and specific language referencing the prioritization of hiring unskilled local labor.

All contractors will be required to comply with the LMP. All civil works contracts will include standard Codes of Conduct that include measures to prevent SEA/SH. A locally based Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) specifically for direct and contracted workers will also be provided.

The child labor risks in agricultural activities could be exacerbated by the project. Child labor is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood and relates to the work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and/or interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school. Based on the national labor legislation children above 14 can have 24-hour per week employment with easy works outside the school hours. The Law on Parents Responsibility for Children's Upbringing and Education makes parents responsible for ensuring their children are not involved in heavy and hazardous work. Over the past decade, ILO's third-party monitoring has demonstrated Tajikistan's major progress in eradicating child labor and forced labor in the country. The Child Labor Monitoring System in Tajikistan has been developed in phases and piloted during 2008-2018, and it has become one of the main factors in decreasing the number of working children and eliminating the worst forms of child labor. The project will develop synergy with the district level children rights departments in raising awareness of local dehqan farms on legal restrictions on the use of child labor; and capacity building of PMU regional project offices in monitoring of child and forced labor at the project sites. All these measures are elaborated in the Child Labor Monitoring Plan (CLMP) prepared for the parent Project and relevant to the AF activities.



### ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The increased use of pesticides and agrochemical products as well as waste generated from agricultural and food processing activities to achieve the project's aims might lead to potential environmental risks due to incautious transportation or carrying out loading/unloading operations, inappropriate use, and improper storage and disposal, all of which may result in the pollution of soil and water bodies.

During the construction phase, air emissions will include exhaust from heavy vehicles and machinery, and fugitive dust generated by construction activities. Along with that, the usage of construction machinery and vehicle movements will most likely cause noise exposure.

The relatively short-term and medium-scale nature of the works suggest that impacts levels will not be excessive or cause long-term nuisances. However, the construction works will likely present a short-term nuisance to the people, living within the proximity of the construction sites

Risks analysis and, also the implementation of mitigation measures related to relevant requirements of ESS 3, that include integrated pest management, efficient water resource use, and discharges, soil and air pollution, noise effect, and procedures for handling, storage and disposal of materials and hazardous waste will be applied within scope of the project's PMP, ESIA/ESMPs and fertilizer management plan, as relevant.

### ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The ESMF includes an assessment of work related health risks; works and road safety; excessive noise and dust levels, site safety awareness and access restrictions; and SEA/SH. All these issues will be screened and addressed in site specific ESMPs to be prepared once the investments are identified under the parent Project and AF. All facilities will be constructed with adequate structural safety and universal access. The ESMF requires that fencing should be installed around all construction sites and areas where there is a risk to community health and safety. Furthermore, the ESMF requires that site specific ESMPs specify the necessary measures for ensuring efficient waste management, compliance with good labor management practices, disclosing information and maintaining effective communication with local communities throughout the duration of works. The ESMF also highlights the need for training and also include specific guidelines and requirements and provisions in this regard for PMU staff, local authorities, and project beneficiaries (farmers, enterprises, or cooperatives), which have been include into the annual work plan of the PMU. The Project also includes measures to address SEA/SH risks.

Increased exposure of farmers and their families to dangerous agrochemicals could also be considered as a significant community health and safety risk. Farmers' exposure mainly occurs during the preparation and application of the pesticide spray solutions and during the cleaning-up of spraying equipment. Farmers or their family members who perform manual labor in areas treated with pesticides can also face major exposure from direct spray, drift from neighboring fields, or by contact with pesticide residues on the crop or soil. This kind of exposure is often



underestimated. The Pest Management Plan prepared for the parent Project will address these issues under the AF activities as well. The Project will also raise local community awareness on community health and safety risks related to pesticide exposure and relevant prevention/mitigation measures as part of the IEC campaign. The site-specific ESIA/ESMPs and ESMP Checklists will also highlight this risk to local communities and include mitigation measures accordingly.

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

ESS5 is relevant. The new construction of two additional ALCs will invariably require land acquisition, but it will be limited to a few facilities. While the AF project is expecting that the Government will make available lands, due diligence is required to ensure that there are no resultant physical and/ or economic displacements. The Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) prepared for the parent Project will guide AF activities in this regard. Where resettlement-related impacts are identified, site-specific RAPs will be prepared by the MoA/PMU in accordance with the RPF approved for the parent Project.

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

In the AF, more pesticides will be used and this may affect habitats including birds, apiary practices, and aquatic ecosystems. The parent Project ESMF includes a screening checklist that will be used to screen all potential project activities against ESS 6 to ensure that any risks related to either pesticide use or seed introduction are identified and adequate mitigation measures included in site specific ESIA/ESMP.

**ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities**

This Standard is not relevant, as there are no Indigenous Peoples in Tajikistan, as per ESS7 definition.

**ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

ESS 8 is assessed as Not Relevant to the project. As a precautionary measure, chance find procedures are included in the ESMF and will be part of mitigation measures to be provided in site-specific ESMPs.

**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

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

**B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks**

None noted at this stage.

Public Disclosure



**C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

**OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways** Yes

**OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas** No

**B.3. Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts**

**Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework?** No

**Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:**

Given the newness of the ESF for the MoA PMU, which is implementing the project, the Borrower's framework will not be used for the Project as a whole or for any of its parts.

**IV. CONTACT POINTS**

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**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Borrower: Republic of Tajikistan

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture

**V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

Public Disclosure



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**VI. APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s):	Teklu Tesfaye Toli, Aira Maria Htenas
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Varalakshmi Vemuru Cleared on 16-Nov-2022 at 22:33:22 GMT-05:00
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Abdoulaye Gadiere (SAESSA) Concurred on 17-Nov-2022 at 13:41:5 GMT-05:00