



Pakistan

**SINDH ENHANCING RESPONSE TO REDUCE
STUNTING PROJECT**

Cover Note

**Environmental and Social Management
Framework (ESMF)**

**Directorate of Urban Policy & Strategic Planning, Planning &
Development Department, Government of Sindh**

**Addendum to ESMF
January 2017**

Cover Note

Rationale

For decades, Pakistan has had persistently high rates of stunting (and other forms of malnutrition) and currently has the third highest percentage of stunted children (44%) in the world. In Sindh Province, 48% of all children under five suffer from stunting. To reverse the situation, the Government has developed an **Accelerated Action Plan for Reduction of Stunting and Malnutrition (AAP)** with the ambitious goal of reducing stunting from 48% to 30% by 2021 and has requested Bank support in achieving this goal.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to contribute the reduction of the stunting rate in Sindh from 48% to 43% by the end of the project. Achievement of the PDO relies on a theory of change which links improved child nutrition, growth, and cognition to improved dietary intake and reduced burden of disease, which in turn rely on improved maternal and child care, improved hygiene and sanitation, and improved household food security. The project would support implementation of the AAP with a more modest objective of reducing stunting in Sindh by at least 1% per year from 48% to 43% over the life of the project. Given the inadequate results of previous input-based projects, this project would use a results-based approach to link disbursements to the achievement of agreed-upon, pre-defined indicators. Disbursement-linked indicators (DLI) have been used in other projects in Sindh and contributed significantly to: (i) sector dialogue (by focusing on political ownership of the Government's program); (ii) technical results (by linking disbursements to planned progress and performance targets); and (iii) donor coordination (by facilitating planning, budgeting, and supervision within a common framework).

The physical interventions which are triggering the environmental and social adverse impacts are as under;

- Sanitation and Hygiene: Building on the proposed Multi-Sectoral Actions for Nutrition Project (MSAN) in 13 districts to make villages open defecation free (ODF) named as Saaf Suthro Sindh (SSS), the AAP plans to expand coverage across Sindh. In addition to supporting the ODF initiative, project will incentivize an enhanced program on hand washing.
- Agriculture (including Livestock and Fisheries): Building on a flexible and demand driven approach to be piloted in 20 union councils of 4 districts under the proposed MSAN Project named as Agriculture for Nutrition (A4N), the department plans to scale up to 10 districts with a high incidence of stunting with nutrition sensitive interventions that would contribute to enhancing household food diversity and access to high nutritive value foods, especially of the poorest and most food insecure households; and to consumption of high nutrition content food, especially by pregnant-nursing women, children under five and adolescents.

Scope of Addendum to MSAN ESMF

The Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared by the Urban Unit of Planning and Development department GoS for the 13 districts of Sindh province targeted under the MSAN project. This existing ESMF is reviewed and revised to reflect the scale up of activities under the AAP. For the first year the AAP has targeted two districts i.e. *Jamshoro and Mirpurkhas* for implementation. Therefore, this addendum to the existing ESMF of MSAN provides an update for Environmental and social baseline, assessments and consultations with stakeholders for the two (02) aforementioned districts. An update, including environmental and social baseline, assessments, and consultations with stakeholders, will be attached to the ESMF for further districts within a month of their identification.

Justification of using existing ESMF for AAP Districts

The AAP project Component 1 would support the GoS by (i) expanding the number of interventions that will have a direct and immediate impact on reducing stunting in the medium to long-term; and (ii) creating an enabling environment and incentives to encourage the required behaviors that need to accompany the expansion of the multi-sectoral interventions in the following sectors; 1) Sanitation and Hygiene and 2) Agriculture (including Livestock and Fisheries). The existing MSAN project has two components under Inter Sectoral Nutrition Strategy of Sindh (INSS), i) the sanitation component of the project which aims to increase the number of ODF villages through certification while ii) the agriculture for nutrition (A4N) component by adopting nutrition sensitive agriculture (NSA) and these two components are directly linked to the reduction of the stunting rate in Sindh. The Sindh enhancing response to reduce stunting project is supporting the Government of Sindh AAP for reducing stunting program and the MSAN project is part of this Initiative and would be implemented by Sindh Local Government and Sindh Agriculture Department. Therefore, the existing ESMF has been reviewed and this addendum has been prepared for the additional two districts, Jamshoro and Mirpurkhas, based on the existing ESMF of MSAN for which the activities are same but the locations are different.