



# Project Information Document (PID)

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**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Eastern Africa	Project ID P176950	Project Name Sudan Emergency Locust Response and Food Security Project	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region AFRICA EAST	Estimated Appraisal Date 12-Oct-2021	Estimated Board Date 16-Nov-2021	Practice Area (Lead) Agriculture and Food
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Sudan	Implementing Agency Ministry of Agriculture and Forests	

## Proposed Development Objective(s)

To respond to the threat posed by the locust outbreak, strengthen systems for preparedness, and protect and restore food security and livelihoods in project areas.

## Components

Desert Locust Surveillance, Control and Preparedness  
Supporting Food Security and Resilient Livelihoods  
Project Management, Coordination, M&E and Capacity Building

**PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)****SUMMARY**

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	65.00
<b>Total Financing</b>	65.00
<b>of which IBRD/IDA</b>	65.00
<b>Financing Gap</b>	0.00

**DETAILS****World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	65.00
IDA Grant	65.00



Environmental and Social Risk Classification

High

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

## B. Introduction and Context

### Country Context

- Sudan lies at the crossroads between Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and enjoys vast ethnic, cultural, geographical and ecological diversity.** With a land area of 1.89 million km<sup>2</sup>, Sudan is Africa's third largest country. The population, estimated at 43 million, comprises several hundred ethnic groups and subgroups speaking more than 100 languages. The north is predominantly desert, while the rest of the country enjoys largely fertile lands suitable for farming and livestock herding. The Nile River, which runs south to north, is the country's most distinct geographical feature. Administratively, Sudan has a federal system of governance consisting of the central government, 18 states and 78 localities (Mahalias).
- Although Sudan holds good potential for economic growth, much of it remains unrealized due to economic, social and political challenges, and the country is classified as a fragile, low income country.** Sudan has often been marred by political instability and conflict since independence in 1956. The inequalities, which worsened over time, led to widespread conflict and civil war, especially in what became South Sudan, that continued for decades. Even after South Sudan seceded in 2011, conflict continued, and is now spread across about half of the country. With the independence of South Sudan, Sudan lost most of its oil resources and earnings that once accounted for over 50 percent of the country's revenue and 95 percent of its exports. With per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US\$977 in 2019, Sudan is a "low income" country and performs below its peers across several human development outcomes. The average economic growth rate dropped drastically from 5.1 percent during 2001-10 to -1.3 percent during 2011-19 with negative growth rates in 2011, 2012, 2018, and 2019. Based on the international poverty line, the share of Sudanese living on less than US\$3.2 per capita per day (a standard for lower-middle-income countries) in 2014 was 46.1 percent, up from 40.5 percent in 2009 (World Bank, 2019<sup>1</sup>)<sup>2</sup>. Poverty is particularly high in rural areas, with 15.7 per cent of the rural population living in extreme poverty (compared to 9.5 percent in urban areas). Extreme poverty incidences vary significantly across states, with much higher rates observed in regions in the west, south and east (International Monetary Fund (IMF) 2021). Social indicators have also

<sup>1</sup> "Poverty and Inequality in Sudan", World Bank 2019. <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/34059>

<sup>2</sup> Up until recently the official poverty rate in 2014 was 36.1 percent. However, as part of the preparation of the recently adopted Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the government has updated the poverty measurement methodology to make it more comparable with 2009. The new estimated incidence of poverty for 2014 is 67.7 percent.



worsened, with Sudan ranking 139 out of 157 in the Human Capital Index (HCI) and 167 out of 189 based on the Human Development Index (HDI) in 2018. Malnourishment remains high across the country with 33 percent of Sudanese children characterized as malnourished, with 12 percent as severely malnourished.<sup>3</sup>

3. **The recent COVID-19 pandemic, floods and DL outbreak have exacerbated an already complex situation resulting in rapid economic deterioration and rising levels of food insecurity.** COVID-19-related measures significantly decreased commodity movements, market functioning and cross-border trade. It compromised local livelihoods, daily labor opportunities, household purchasing power and food accessibility of the vulnerable population. The unprecedented heavy rains and floods in mid-2020 that caused heavy damage to infrastructure and livelihoods have aggravated the situation and this, combined with the DL upsurge, are resulting in rapid economic deterioration. Sudan's projected GDP growth for 2020 was downgraded to -8.2 percent reduction from an initial expectation of +1 percent growth. Sudan is suffering from one of the highest inflation rates in the world: the annual inflation rate reached 304 percent in January 2021, reflecting a substantial increase from previous months (269 percent in December 2020 and 166 percent in August 2020). Between January 2020 and 2021, food prices increased by 266 percent.<sup>4</sup> Based on the latest analysis by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) an estimated 9.7 million people representing 21 percent of the total population is currently facing high levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and are in need of urgent action to save lives, protect livelihoods and reduce food consumption gaps (estimated for the June-September 2021 period).<sup>5</sup> Nearly 2.7 million people are expected to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), 7.1 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and over 16.5 million people are estimated to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).<sup>6</sup> Moreover, there are approximately 2.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in need of urgent assistance and over 1.1 million refugees and asylum-seekers.<sup>7</sup>

4. **The establishment of the Transitional Government in 2019 has given a new impetus to Sudan's development agenda.** The Government of Sudan (GoS) has taken notable steps towards resolving long-standing internal conflicts, addressing economic distortions, renewing the social contract and re-engaging with the international community. The removal of Sudan from the United States' List of State Sponsors of Terrorism in December 2020 ended 27 years of economic sanctions and is expected to open up avenues to integrate Sudan to the international economies and financial systems. On February 22, 2021, Sudan's Central Bank unified the currency exchange rate as part of the broader measures to revive its struggling economy and to curb inflation. The General Framework for the Program of Transitional Government, adopted in December 2019, sets out the government priorities, including, inter alia, putting an end to war and building fair, comprehensive, and sustainable peace; addressing the economic crises and establishing the bases of sustainable development; ensuring the promotion of the rights of women in all areas and their equitable representation in the structures of governance; supporting social welfare and development and preserving the environment; and enhancing the role of youth of both sexes and expanding their opportunities in all areas. On March 26, 2021, the Republic of Sudan cleared its arrears to the IDA, enabling its full re-engagement with the World Bank Group (WBG) after nearly three decades. This has paved the way for the country to access US\$2 billion in IDA grants for efforts towards poverty reduction and sustainable economic recovery. By clearing its arrears, Sudan has also completed a key step for receiving

<sup>3</sup> Sudan – Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2014 – Key Findings April 2015, UNICEF, WFP, Central Bureau of Statistics, WHO, DIFD and UNFPA.

<sup>4</sup> Sudan Poverty Reduction and Strategy Paper (draft), World Bank, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> <https://fscluster.org/sudan/document/sudan-ipc-2021-acute-food-insecurity>.

<sup>6</sup> Sudan Integrated Food Security Classification, Projection Update for June-September 2021 IPC.

<sup>7</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-humanitarian-response-plan-2021-January-2021-enar>



comprehensive external debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative.

## Sectoral and Institutional Context

5. **Agriculture plays a highly significant role in Sudan's economy.** Over two-thirds of the country's population derives its livelihood from agriculture and the sector has the highest potential to increase food security, reduce rural poverty, generate both on- and off-farm employment opportunities, and boost export earnings. Agriculture's share of GDP, which was estimated at 24 percent in 2011, increased to 31 percent in 2018. Similarly, labor's share in agriculture, which stood at 50 percent at the time of the secession of South Sudan in 2011, increased to 54 percent in 2012. The sector's share in the country's exports was estimated at 55 per cent in 2019 (UN International Trade Statistics (UNCOMTRADE) Database). The sector has taken on an even greater importance when the country lost 75 percent of its oil reserves following the secession of South Sudan.

6. **Sudan has the natural endowment to be an agricultural powerhouse in the region.** While a large part of the country is relatively arid, much of it (7.2 million ha) enjoys rainfall sufficient for rainfed agriculture. A significant area of the land is also covered by irrigation given that about 43 percent of the Nile basin is situated in Sudan, including the Gezira, one of the largest irrigation schemes in the world, which covers about half of the country's total land under irrigation. The total cultivable land is estimated at 74 million ha and the country has one of the highest ratios of land suitable for agriculture relative to land currently under cultivation, excluding forests and urban areas, as well as one of the lowest population densities. Sudan's agroecological characteristics are suitable for the cultivation of a wide variety of crops as well as animal husbandry. It has one of the largest livestock herds in Africa with about 110 million head of animals, including cattle, goats, sheep and camels. The agriculture sector includes three main subsectors: cropping, pastoral livestock and forestry/fisheries, with the livestock subsector contributing the highest to national agricultural GDP (about 60 percent), followed by agricultural crops (about 40 percent) and marginal contributions from the forestry and fishing subsectors. The main subsistence crops are sorghum and millet, with smaller amounts of wheat, corn, and barley; key export crops include cotton, gum arabic, sesame seeds, sugar, groundnuts, sorghum, hibiscus flower and watermelon seeds. The sector's growth prospects continue to be strong as there is a high demand for livestock from Sudan's main trading partners, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Gulf states.

7. **Despite its abundant resources, the sector has been unable to exploit its productive potential.** Agricultural productivity in Sudan is well below regional and global averages. Cereal yields, for example, are amongst the lowest in the world. Reduced yields, unstable crop production, total crop failure, and shrinking productive land and water resources, ongoing conflicts leading to millions of displaced people and population growth add pressure to an already strained natural resource base. Food shortages accumulating from consecutive years of drought have created recurring food emergencies and famine across the country. Drought and reduced rainfall have reduced available grazing lands. Crop failure and high livestock mortality increase rural to urban migration, which expands slums and exacerbates health and sanitation concerns. Drought has been a stress factor on pastoralist communities – particularly in Darfur and Kordofan – and has contributed to regional conflicts.<sup>8</sup> Productivity challenges in the sector include, *inter alia*, limited skills in modern farming practices and the use of outdated farm technologies and farm management practices, over dependence on rainfed production systems in areas suitable for irrigation, a poorly maintained irrigation

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.climatelinks.org/sites/default/files/asset/document/2016%20CRM%20Fact%20Sheet-%20Sudan.pdf>



and drainage system, inadequate rural infrastructure, barriers on migratory routes for livestock, a rudimentary rural advisory system, weak markets linkages, limited access to credit and investment capital, and an increasingly depleted natural resource base. Public expenditures in the sector remain abysmally low: agriculture expenditure as a percentage of total public expenditure from 2013 to 2018 was 1.7 percent, the lowest share of seven East African countries (World Bank Open Data, 2021) and far below the 10 percent target established by the African Union's Malabo Declaration. These challenges have prevented the development of robust, inclusive value chains and hindered commercialization and competitiveness.

8. **Sudan is among the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change which poses serious threats to its agriculture sector.** Increased frequency of droughts and high rainfall variability over the past few decades have already put stress on the region's rainfed agriculture and pastoralist systems, the dominant livelihoods in rural areas. Unprecedented heavy rains in July-September 2020 resulted in flooding in 17 states with 1.4 million hectares of cropped land submerged.<sup>9</sup> According to FAO estimates<sup>10</sup>, the flooding caused extensive damage and losses, including the loss of 108,044 animals, the expected crop production loss of over 1.5 million tons and the destruction of agricultural infrastructure and irrigation systems. The implications of the floods are significant in terms of food production and availability, as well as the purchasing power of consumers due to lost livelihoods. The World Bank Post Disaster Needs and Recovery Assessment estimates that production losses in agriculture from the floods and foregone income losses from private small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are over US\$1 billion.<sup>11</sup> Approximately 597,700 farming and pastoral households were affected, with the highest proportions of income losses observed in the Darfur States, Kordofan States, Gedarif and Blue Nile. Climate related events are putting small-scale farmers and livestock herders in the traditional rainfed sector as well as households without assets, such as IDPs, returnees, refugees and host communities, most at risk of poverty and acute food insecurity. Women tend to be more vulnerable than men in such crises due to not just prevailing social barriers, but also very limited access to productive assets (land, water, livestock), production inputs (seeds, fertilizers, and so on), and other services (labor, information, technologies).

9. **Gender disparities and inequalities in Sudan are high.** While gender attitudes are changing and Sudan's Gender Inequality Index ranking has improved from 166 in 2013 to 139 in 2018, Sudan still has a substantial gender inequality index of 0.545 (2019). It has been found that gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls is commonplace<sup>12</sup>, and communities perceive domestic and sexual violence to be the most common GBV issues<sup>13</sup>. Traditional patriarchal structures largely keep women out of community leadership and decision-making roles. Furthermore, discriminatory laws, social norms, and poor access to justice limit women's economic empowerment, inhibiting their financial inclusion and independence. Overall, women have limited employment/income-generating opportunities and face barriers to participate in economic and political spheres. Their work is disproportionately concentrated in the household or within the informal economy, and thus they face higher working poverty rates, and do not have access to social protection. Female participation in the labor market in Sudan is at 24.5 percent compared to 70.3 percent

<sup>9</sup> IPC Sudan Acute Food Insecurity Projection Update, Oct-Dec 2020 Report.

<sup>10</sup> The Sudan – FAO in the 2021 Humanitarian Appeals.

<sup>11</sup> This estimate uses the previous fixed exchange rate of US\$1= 55 SDG.

<sup>12</sup> Key factors that influence GBV include underlying norms and dynamics that underpin gender inequality and acceptability of use of violence against women and girls, the legacy of conflict and violence, a breakdown of the rule of law and key security institutions to protect against violence and increases in opportunistic crime often linked to high levels of poverty.

<sup>13</sup> [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNFPA\\_16th.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNFPA_16th.pdf)



for men<sup>14</sup>. About 60 percent of all employed women in Sudan work in the agriculture sector (African Development Bank, 2020) and, through their work, make substantial household contributions in terms of wellbeing and food security. In the agriculture sector, inequality in opportunity is also attributed to women having limited access to productive resources such as land, and other factors of production, such as inputs and equipment, quality agricultural advisory assistance, financing, technology, training, and markets. Underpinning these social norms are lack of access to education/high rates of illiteracy among women and early marriages (International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), 2017).

**10. These challenges have resulted in a growing crisis of food and nutrition insecurity in the country.**

Based on the IPC analysis, an estimated 7.1 million people representing 16 percent of the total population faced crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) or above during the period October-December 2020. Of those, nearly 1.3 million people were projected to be in an Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 5.8 million in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). An additional 17 million people were estimated to be in stressed stage (IPC Phase 2).<sup>15</sup> These trends are projected to worsen during the ongoing lean season from June to September 2021, where recently revised estimates show 9.7 million people in crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse, representing a marked increase to 21 percent of the population – or 1 in 5 people.<sup>16</sup> These figures exceed the CRW ERF trigger minimum thresholds of 5 million people living in districts categorized as crisis or worse (IPC3+) and a 5 percent increase in the number of people living in districts categorized as IPC3+. Persistent levels of food insecurity have led to acute malnutrition and stunting which constitute a significant public health problem. According to the recently conducted World Bank Post Disaster Needs and Recovery Assessment, the floods in 2020 have exacerbated and intensified the food insecurity and malnutrition situation of the already vulnerable populations and put them at further risk of falling into more severe phases of food insecurity – IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and Phase 5 (Famine), especially if no robust support is provided on a priority basis.

**11. Food security in Sudan is further being threatened by the DL upsurge in the region.**

Sudan is home to both summer and winter DL breeding grounds, and, when climatic conditions stimulate excess population growth and swarming, locust swarms devastate crops and pasture. This persistent threat of DL compounds an already vulnerable food security situation in the country, and demands policies and actions to prevent, and, when necessary, respond to DL emergencies. Sudan’s vulnerability to DL has gotten worse, and the ongoing DL upsurge that started in May 2018 on the Arabian Peninsula illustrates the role that climate change is already playing in shocks to agriculture and livestock systems, as well as to food security. The DL situation in Sudan has worsened significantly since the end of 2019, largely due to breeding along Sudan’s Red Sea coast as well as swarms invading from neighboring countries. Despite control efforts of invading locust swarms from neighboring countries during January 2021, escaped locusts laid eggs in Tokar Delta and on the coastal plains in Sudan’s Red Sea State. As a result, hatching and hopper bands formation started at the end of January, and immature adult groups and swarms started to form in early March, threatening crops and pasture areas in the Red Sea and River Nile, Northern, Kassala and North Kordofan States. By late March 2021, a new round of breeding in Ethiopia and Somalia signified the potential of a further increase in locust numbers in the Horn of Africa, including Sudan. The Sudan Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster co-led by FAO and World Food Program (WFP) reported that hopper bands and swarms of locusts in 16,781 hectares of Sudan were observed, mainly in the northeast. Therefore, the DL situation in Sudan is currently at “caution risk level” especially with the beginning of the rainy season and the start of

<sup>14</sup> National Food Security and Nutrition Policy in Sudan: An Update March 2020. National Food Security Technical Secretariat.

<sup>15</sup> FAO-WFP Hunger Hotspots Report, March 2021 (based on IPC Projection Update for Sudan, October-December 2020).

<sup>16</sup> Sudan Integrated Food Security Classification, Projection Update for June-September 2021 IPC, May 2021.





the main cropping season, May through November. The current weather conditions are ripe for the growth and spread of DL as predicted by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center (ICPAC), [Rainfall and Temperature forecast for 27 July – 03 August](#) (26 July 2021) where heavy to very heavy rainfall (100 to 200+ mm) is expected in northern Ethiopia, western Eritrea, as well as parts of western Darfur, Sennar, and Gedaraf in Sudan, which would exacerbate the already fragile food security situation in these areas as upsurge of DL swarms is highly correlated with unusually heavy rains.

12. **The Government of Sudan has taken commendable measures to address the DL upsurge; however, more remains to be done to mitigate the impacts of potential DL invasions from the East and Southeast, as well as maintain the gains achieved so far.** The Plant Protection Department (PPD) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) has worked closely with the FAO to combat the threat of DL invasions through a program of field surveys and control operations. Over 1,632,000 hectares were surveyed in 2020 and approximately 112 mature/immature swarms were destroyed through aerial and ground control operations. The control of these 112 DL swarms, covering an area of 414 square km, would have consumed food equivalent to the requirement of 14.5 million people. While such efforts have helped avoid the scale of devastation observed in neighboring countries, the significant threat of a new DL upsurge calls for an emergency response in terms of critical actions related to monitoring, controlling and building preparedness, as well as assisting the vulnerable populations impacted by the DL swarms. There is a need for maintaining the investments already made by PPD, as well as providing additional training and technical support to relevant stakeholders to shore up the country's capacity to address ongoing and future DL threats. Most importantly, a number of eastern states, currently vulnerable to invading swarms due to high rainfall and cross-border migration from neighboring countries, need immediate support and the GoS has made this a high priority. Critical areas of support include, inter alia, technical assistance and investments for surveillance and control operations, and actions to mitigate health risks due to the use of pesticides for control interventions. In this context, there is an urgent need to build a new pesticide storage facility, as the existing storage structure was closed by authorities due to the expansion of residential areas around the storage structure, which made the site unsuitable for storage of spray equipment or chemical pesticides. The PPD already owns a plot of land in the Garry Free Zone area in the north of Khartoum North, which is certified for the construction of a warehouse. Additionally, large amounts of obsolete pesticides have accumulated over the years which are a source of pollution of the local environment and water sources and pose threats to human health. There is therefore a critical need for mobile incinerators for the safe disposal of these obsolete pesticides.

13. **Combating the threat of DL upsurge and addressing the high level of food insecurity requires anticipatory investments for the vulnerable populations in the path of possible DL invasions.** Lessons from earlier phases of the MPA and from the locust outbreak in West Africa in 2003-2005 have demonstrated the exponential nature of growth of locust swarms and the corresponding escalation in the cost of responding to these outbreaks. With the Eastern and Southern states already dealing with high levels of food insecurity, it is important to shore up food security and resilience in these areas as a preemptive measure to stave off the impacts of potential DL invasions from localities where swarms are not under control. This entails support to improve and increase the resilience of: (i) the supply side of food security, that is, food production for both consumption and commercialization in a climate-stressed environment; and (ii) the demand side of food security, i.e., increase in the purchasing power of vulnerable populations, including landless groups such as IDPs, refugees, returnees and host communities. The Project will assist the GoS in these efforts through a combination of technical assistance and investments, with financing from the national and





regional IDA windows and the *Crisis Response Window Emergency Response Financing* (CRW ERF) in an amount of US\$5 million, US\$10 million and US\$50 million, respectively. Funding from the national and regional IDA will primarily focus on improving DL surveillance and control operations in areas of high risk from DL invasions as well as strengthening national preparedness and regional coordination. The trigger-based activation of CRW ERF support to Sudan will primarily provide funds to address the growing crisis of food insecurity among vulnerable populations exposed to the threat of potential DL upsurges as well as improve their incomes and livelihoods. The CRW ERF food security trigger for Sudan was breached in March 2021. Both rules of the ERF threshold were met based on the forecast of food security conditions: rule 1 was met as the number of people living in districts categorized as crisis or worse (IPC3+) food security conditions is expected to reach 9.7 million people, exceeding the trigger value of 5 million people and rule 2 was met as the number of people living in districts categorized as crisis or worse (IPC3+) food security conditions is expected to increase by 15.2 percent, over the trigger of 5 percent.

14. **The proposed project, Emergency Locust Response and Food Security Project (ELRP4), as the fourth phase of the ELRP MPA, will complement relevant World Bank-financed and other donor-supported operations in Sudan, that are either ongoing or in the pipeline, for larger impacts as well as efficiency gains.** Ongoing World Bank-supported projects include the Sudan Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project (SSNRMP) (P161304) and the Sudan Family Support Project (SFSP) (P173521); pipeline operations include the Irrigated Agriculture Revitalization Project (IARP) (P177091); Integrated Water Management Project (SIWMP) (P177089); and the Sudan Sustainable Livelihoods Project (SSLP) (P177057). The SFSP, for example, addresses the demand side of food security by providing cash transfers to poor and vulnerable urban and rural households (targeting 80 percent of the Sudanese population) with transfers equivalent to US\$5 per month to increase their purchasing power. The proposed Project will complement the efforts of SFSP through its cash-for-work program which will help to build livelihood resilience among vulnerable populations, primarily in the rural areas of selected states with high levels of food insecurity. Similarly, the Project will expand and scale up the efforts of the SSLP which, akin to the proposed project, is being designed to address the demand and supply side of food security challenges through support for a menu of activities, including inter alia, the provision of agricultural inputs, agricultural infrastructure development and training in climate smart agricultural practices. Additionally, the Project will leverage the ongoing efforts of several UN agencies active in the sector, such as the FAO, which is working closely with MoAF to address the DL upsurge, UN IFAD that is supporting livelihood activities in several states of Sudan and the UN WFP that is currently implementing a cash-for-work program. The Project will build on these ongoing activities, benefit from their existing in-country technical capacity, and capitalize on the well-tested and proven systems and administrative structures already put in place by these agencies. Such partnerships and synergistic efforts will help to expand the Project's reach and result in larger impacts on the ground.

### C. Proposed Development Objective

#### Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

To respond to the threat posed by the locust outbreak, strengthen systems for preparedness, and protect and restore food security and livelihoods in project areas.

#### Key Results

Key PDO indicators for the proposed Project include:



- Land area surveyed for locust presence (ha)
- Land coverage capacity for control operations (ha)
- Farmers in project area reporting increased agricultural activity (number)
- Rural households reached with agricultural assets or services (Number) (disaggregated by gender and youth)
- Vulnerable persons benefiting from labor-intensive public works (Number) (disaggregated by gender and youth)

#### D. Project Description

15. The proposed Project will have two technical components and one project management component. Component 1 aligns with components 1 and 3 of the MPA, bringing the immediate surveillance and control activities and the investment in future national preparedness under one component with shared technical assistance. Component 2 will invest in the people and systems affected or threatened by the DL upsurge in terms of food security, farm and livestock production, and restoring the natural resource base, including pasture resources. Component 3 will, in addition to routine functions of project management and coordination, provide resources to build the capacity of MoAF to prepare and manage future investment operations.

#### Component 1: Desert Locust Surveillance, Control and Preparedness (US\$12.5 million IDA equivalent)

16. This component is designed to limit the growth and spread (driven by climate change and climate patterns) of likely DL invasions while mitigating the risks associated with the control measures and their impacts on human health and the environment. It will scale up the ongoing activities of the PPD of the MoAF which is in charge of locust response and will focus primarily on the urgent, prioritized needs to support locust survey and control operations and promote national preparedness. The component will strengthen the technical capacity of the PPD and the sustainability of the survey and control operations through the use of biopesticides with low carbon footprint. The PPD is currently being supported with technical assistance from the FAO which is expected to be contracted for implementation of this component. The following activities are envisaged under this component:

17. **Sub-component 1.1: Improve Desert Locust Surveillance and Control (US\$7.5 million).** Through the provision of equipment, technology, training and operational expenses, this sub-component will enhance the capacity of PPD and other relevant staff at the national, state, and local levels, as well as relevant communities, on locust identification, swarm management techniques, and damage assessment.<sup>17</sup> Towards this, the Project will finance goods and equipment such as ground transportation for field operations and surveillance drones for hard-to-reach areas. The MoAF has already been trained and licensed to operate the drones. Due to concerns about future invasions, reinforced by the latest weather patterns which indicate that such an invasion is increasingly likely, the Project will support control operations through the provision of spraying equipment, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and renting

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<sup>17</sup> Communities will be trained in surveillance and control techniques that do not involve chemical pesticides—for example, trenching to stop hopper bands.



of control planes. The control measures would emphasize neutralizing hopper bands using bio-pesticides before they develop into adult swarms, the control of which requires extensive use of conventional pesticides. The use of bio-pesticides with lower carbon footprint compared to conventional pesticides will help reduce GHG emissions of the operation. The Project component will strengthen the quality of field operations through procurement/rehabilitation of mobile mechanical workshops and service vehicles, including fuel and water tankers, and upgrading of selected field camps. The Project will provide technical support and training to both ground survey and control teams as well as the rural population. To facilitate the inclusion of female headed farm households, the Project will consult with women in the community regarding the timing and location of training that will better suit their needs given their multiple familial duties. The training of locust teams would comprise the development of a cadre of master trainers, relevant training curricula, organization of workshops on a variety of related topics, and self-teaching modules for refresher training. The training program would integrate information about emerging climate change risks into agricultural planning and would link to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded training center to be constructed on the Red Sea coast. The Project will support the scaled up adoption of surveillance tools, such as Locust3 tablets that will be supplemented by the use of eLocust3m mobile app (developed by Penn State University) to ensure that every survey and control team is equipped with at least one of these devices to allow real-time transmission of ecology, locust, control, and safety data to the national locust center in Khartoum to be used for analysis, decision-making, planning, forecasting and shared with FAO to contribute to the global DL early warning system.

18. To improve implementation of Environmental and Health Standards (EHS) for DL control operations, this sub-component will also focus on the secure handling and storage of pesticides. It will support the construction of a pesticide storage facility, purchase mobile pesticide incinerators, and provide training on EHS. The construction of the new facility will meet international requirements and be located outside of residential areas (the Garry Free Zone in Khartoum North has been identified as a qualified area). It will be critical to preserve equipment and pesticides and prevent unauthorized usage of the stored materials.

19. ***Sub-component 1.2: Strengthening National Preparedness and Regional Coordination (US\$5 million)***. The Project will help to establish linkages with regional and international organizations for overall preparedness. DL is the most destructive transboundary pest in the world, but they are not the only ones. It is vital that Sudan strengthen its links regarding transboundary pests with neighboring countries, international and regional technical organizations, and academia and research organizations. The Project will strengthen resilience by supporting Sudan's activities related to the early warning system management by FAO, the climate prediction system managed by ICPAC, research in biocontrol mechanisms by agencies such as the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) and Center for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), guidance from the FAO Commission for Controlling the Desert Locust in the Central Region (CRC) and other relevant coordinating bodies that can facilitate the flow of information and resources among member nations and between technical experts and political conveners, such as IGAD. Early warning systems will be enhanced to support prevention and rapid response to new and existing climate change-induced locust infestation, thereby limiting in-country and cross-border spread and intensification. Emphasis will be placed on building capacity to enable rapid and targeted short-term responses and long-term adaptation planning.

20. As a country participating in the MPA, Sudan will be able to engage with the IGAD information platform on DL. This platform, which receives financial support from Phase 3 of the MPA, will mobilize and



organize collective action, consistent with the needs for an area-wide approach and integrated pest management. It will provide a coordination to facilitate cross-learning, monitor and help program activities, avoid overlapping, identify gaps and share information, while simultaneously enhancing cooperation with non-Member States. It will also help ensure that campaigns for the control of DL and other trans-boundary pests are tackled in accordance with area-wide principles of integrated pest management, using environmentally friendly chemicals, synchronized work plans, harmonized methodologies, and the involvement of coordinated operations by all stakeholders at the national, regional, and international levels. The platform will also create a strong political momentum which will help to generate greater commitment in affected countries, attract more responses from development partners and facilitate increased investments to support further DL and other transboundary pest management efforts.

21. The MoAF will enter into an output agreement with FAO for the implementation of this component. In addition to the equipment, goods and services to be financed for implementation of activities under this component, the Project will also support operational expenses incurred for DL survey operations, including, daily subsistence allowance for field teams, fuel charges for vehicle transport and routine maintenance for survey and camp equipment.

#### **Component 2: Supporting Food Security and Resilient Livelihoods (US\$42.5 million from CRW ERF)**

22. This component will provide support to increase the availability of and access to food through restoring household food production capacity and protecting livestock assets among vulnerable farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and fishing households that are, or likely to be, in the path of DL invasions. It will also provide emergency livelihood support to vulnerable rural populations by financing labor-intensive agricultural public works that would contribute to improving incomes, agricultural productivity and commercialization in the targeted project areas. The sub-component will prioritize the adoption of climate-smart crop and livestock practices for reduced greenhouse gas emissions, enhanced resilience, and the implementation of livelihood support/diversification initiatives. Support will be provided for agroecosystem management approaches that enhance resilience of farm and landscape to changes in climate and pests. Climate-resilient grazing will be supported, including planted legumes and grasses adapted to the local environment will be promoted to increase biodiversity and landscape resilience. Leguminous species are also beneficial for climate mitigation, fixing atmospheric nitrogen and improving soil fertility.

23. ***Sub-component 2.1: Support for Increased Agricultural Production (US\$20 million).*** This sub-component will target both vulnerable households involved in homestead gardening as well as relatively larger smallholders involved in commercial farming. Activities related to homestead gardens will focus on women participation in particular, given that women largely engage in activities that further nutritional outcomes at the household level (through food production, purchase, preparation, child feeding and child-care). The activities under this sub-component will be implemented by MoAF in all project states, using institutional structures and mechanisms set up with support from the ongoing IFAD-funded SNRLP, with the exception of the Red Sea state. As the Government does not have an IFAD-funded presence in the Red Sea state, the MoAF will enter into an output agreement with FAO for the implementation of this sub-component in the Red Sea state. The FAO is currently active in the Red Sea state where it is already implementing livelihood support activities and has established the relevant systems and structures necessary. This sub-component will be financed as follows:



24. **2.1(a): Activities to be implemented by MoAF (US\$10 million).** The activities (i) through (v) detailed below will be implemented by MoAF in all project states using institutional structures (for example State Implementation Units)<sup>18</sup> and mechanisms set up under the ongoing IFAD-funded SNRLP, with the exception of the Red Sea state. The following activities are envisaged under this sub-component:

(i) **Provision of inputs for kitchen gardens and field crops** that will support growing important annual and perennial crops (for example drought-tolerant cereals such as millets, sorghum, as well as high value crops groundnuts, sesame, vegetables and fruits). The Project will provide inputs such as seeds, saplings and/or seedlings, and fertilizers as well as small farm tools. Livestock farmers will also be supported with animal fodder production. A variety of grass and fodder seeds will be purchased and provided to accelerate and facilitate planting of fodder by farmers for their own livestock. The provision of the inputs will be accompanied by tailored training, in particular to enhance adaptive capacity in climate-stressed areas and rational use of natural resources to reduce emissions. The Project will also support ancillary investments, such as energy efficient, solar-powered micro-irrigation and tools necessary for improving agricultural production.

(ii) **Provision of improved breeds of (small) Livestock** including poultry and small ruminants which have short gestation periods and bring in immediate benefits in form of protein-rich foods such as eggs, milk, and meat for consumption by the household and additional income. The Project will also provide the necessary vaccination services and training of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW).

(iii) **Fishing kits for immediate food access** to help food insecure families to access an immediate source of fish protein and micronutrients.

(iv) **Revolving Agricultural Commodity Program** whereby for smallholder farmer households that are or have the potential to be commercially viable, the provision of the inputs will be done through a Revolving Agricultural Commodity Mechanism (RACM) being piloted by the Policy and Human Resources Development-financed Sudan: Improving Livelihoods and Nutrition for Smallholder Agro-pastoralists Project (P162462) expected to be approved in Q2 of FY22. The RACM will be managed by the existing or newly formed Village Development Committees (VDCs). The modus operandi of RACM will be based on a revolving mechanism for providing Community Development Groups (CDG) comprising up to 10 members, with good quality, climate-resilient seeds, fertilizers and/or livestock. The CDG will have to repay to the VDC after the harvest, either 1.2 kg<sup>19</sup> of cleaned seeds or 2 kg of uncleaned seeds for every 1 kg of received seeds. Each member of a CDG will receive good quality seed sufficient for sowing one hectare of staple crops or fodder. Should the CDG member prefer to receive other seeds (for example potato seeds) instead of wheat or sorghum, prorated values will be applied. Regarding livestock, the CDG will repay one offspring for each received animal back to the VDC. The collected repayments (seeds and small animals) will be re-distributed among new CDGs, thus expanding the circle of beneficiaries. The VDC, with the assistance of the Project staff, will select the beneficiary CDGs and provide support in an amount not to exceed US\$3,000 equivalent per CDG. The CDG's contribution to the production activity will be not less than 10 percent of the cost, and can be cash, labor, as well as assets. The RACM instrument will be detailed in the Project Operations Manual

<sup>18</sup> State level project implementation units set up for IFAD-funded operations.

<sup>19</sup> After accounting for cleaning, handling, storing and other expenses, the 2 kg of uncleaned seeds this will equal approximately the 1.2 times of the seed value.



(POM).

(v) **Provision of extension services and training.** The support provided to the target beneficiaries under this component will also include tailored training to improve knowledge and capacity in the efficient use of the inputs provided to increase production as well as enhance adaptive capacity to climate risks, while reducing emissions from agricultural practices. The Project will facilitate women's skills training, to contribute to gender equality in the Project area to reach vulnerable women. Specifically, this sub-component will increase the knowledge and skills of farmers, extension staff, and agriculture officials in well-tested and proven agricultural practices including Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), technologies and tools to enhance farm productivity as well as strengthen farmers' resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change and variability. The Project will focus on advising farmers to grow high value crops such as sesame, groundnuts, legumes, horticulture crops for cash income and staple crops for self-consumption and increased food security. Working consultatively with farmers, the Project will identify knowledge gaps and areas for training. This analysis will inform the training curricula and topic-specific training modules on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Climate risk-sensitive and resilience enhancing CSA planning tools and technologies, will place due regard to the role of women, recognizing that the types of work performed by rural women vary by region and are subject to cultural, traditional, sociological, and socioeconomic differences (FAO, 2019). These tools and technologies will be included as an integral part of the training program to strengthen farmers' capacity to address climate-related events such as floods and droughts. Training would focus on innovative, proven technologies that are appropriate for the locality. These would include, among others, improved and stress-tolerant crop varieties (high yielding varieties, nutrient dense crops, heat, drought and pest and disease resistant varieties); flood water management, conservation agriculture and integrated soil fertility management (minimum tillage, crop rotations, crop residue management, soil fertility management practices); irrigation (surface irrigation, drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, water harvesting); and agroforestry schemes (establishment of tree nurseries, fruit tree cultivation, windbreaks, hedgerows, fodder stress, farmer-managed natural regeneration). Integrated soil fertility management, minimum tillage, crop residue management, and agroforestry interventions will also generate climate mitigation co-benefits through carbon sequestration and reduced emissions.

25. In consideration of the increasing number of households facing acute food insecurity (IPC 3 and above), awareness raising about locally available nutritious foods, facilitating women's access to nutrition education, and training on climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive agriculture will be mainstreamed into the training program to increase the knowledge and skills for production and consumption of nutrient-dense foods and promote dietary diversity among rural households. Women in the Project communities will be central to these interventions given the role that they play as key mediators of the pathway from agriculture to nutritional outcomes. The Project will support both short- and medium-term strategies to address targeted household's immediate food needs, fill the knowledge gap and strengthen skills base for production of a diversity of foods to contribute to household nutrition self-sufficiency. This would include: (a) training on the *Five Color Agricultural Approach* - a color-based vegetable and fruits cultivation and consumption approach - developed to prevent malnutrition and increase agricultural productivity as well as substitution of a more nutritious variety of a crop already grown for consumption (for example substituting yellow vitamin A maize for white maize or orange-flesh sweet potato for regular cassava); (b) practical demonstrations on improved food practices and utilization (handling, food loss and waste prevention, food quality, safety and hygiene); (c) introduction/promotion of appropriate technologies/implements for food storage, preparation, processing and preservation (energy saving cook stoves, solar dryers for vegetables); and (d) Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) for vulnerable households to better manage their food resources for self-sufficiency and minimal food loss and waste. These activities – particularly those on





awareness raising - will take on approaches to target prevailing social customs and behavior. Recognizing the limited accessibility to training opportunities for women, as well as their capacity to absorb and/or utilize these inputs given household/domestic burdens, mobility restrictions, and other social barriers, special considerations will be made to ensure women farmers' access to such services. This could include determining the location, timing, design and mode of training in a way that incentivizes maximum women participation, including but not limited to securing women trainers.

26. Given the lack of strong extension staff at the local levels, the Project will adopt a two-pronged approach to delivering effective advisory services to farmers: (a) support a community-based extension system to deliver relevant knowledge and skills to farmers for improved agricultural production and climate resilience; and (b) build capacity of local extension staff in climate-smart agriculture and natural resources management. Through a Training of Trainers' (ToT) program, the Project will develop a cadre of qualified trainers and provide intensive training to identified lead farmers, extension agents, relevant NGO staff and community resource persons with the goal of enabling them deliver effective and quality extension services to farmers.

27. The training would be imparted through a variety of mechanisms, including Farmer Field Schools, workshops, and field demonstrations. Field-based learning will be emphasized to provide hands-on training and encourage uptake of the demonstrated climate-smart technologies through the "seeing is believing" approach. In this context, the Project will complement/scale up the "Innovation and On-farm Demonstrations" activity under the IFAD-financed Integrated Agricultural Marketing Development Project (IAMDP).

28. The institutional capacity building of local extension offices will include the provision of small pieces of equipment considered essential to the functioning of an effective advisory service, including but not limited to laptops, printers, copying machines, cameras, and cell phones; and financial support to the travel and subsistence budgets of the extension agents to enable them undertake field visits as necessary in the implementation of their terms of reference.

29. ***Sub-component 2.1(b): Activities to be implemented by FAO (US\$10 million):*** Under this sub-component, the FAO will implement the above activities (i) through (v) in the Red Sea state. As mentioned above, as the MOAF does not have an IFAD-funded presence in the Red Sea state to leverage the ongoing activities and institutional systems, the MoAF will enter into an output-based agreement with FAO, entrusting it with the responsibility for the implementation of the activities detailed under sub-component 2.1(a) in the Red Sea state. The FAO is already working in the Red Sea state in partnership with several state-level ministries on activities similar to those envisaged under this sub-component and would therefore be well positioned to hit the ground running.

30. ***Sub-component 2.2. Support to Agricultural Infrastructure, Natural Resource Management and Income (US\$22.5 million):*** This sub-component will build climate resilience by providing income support, in the form of cash-for-work (CfW) to poor, vulnerable households to meet their urgent food needs and smooth consumption gaps, build/protect their assets or receive training that focuses on creating opportunities and strengthening community resilience, create jobs and improve livelihoods/enhance incomes. Interventions under the sub-component will also contribute to climate mitigation through





reduction in food loss and waste in agriculture and food value chains.<sup>20</sup> IDPs, returnees, refugees and host communities, including youth-at-risk, who are primarily landless, as well as women-run households, will particularly benefit under this activity. The sub-component will scale up and build upon the existing, successful CfW program currently being implemented by WFP in Sudan. The MOAF will enter into an output based agreement with WFP for the implementation of this sub-component which will rely on the structures and mechanisms already put in place by the UN agency.

31. Works will be of a public goods nature to build resilience in the agriculture sector and will be identified through a Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPP) tool as well as processes established under the WFP-supported SLP which brings communities at the center of their own planning. The planning tool will identify the most appropriate short- and long-term interventions in response to the communities' priority needs and aligned with Government and state strategies. Community subprojects (types of assets to repair/rehabilitate/construct) will be selected based on the needs identified by each targeted community. Priorities will be given to subprojects that contribute directly or indirectly to improving food security. Activities eligible for support would include:<sup>21</sup>

- Climate change adaptation activities – for example, rangeland restoration through planting of native trees and grasses;
- Improved agricultural production and provision of productive and shock-responsive safety nets – for example, rehabilitating agricultural land such as land leveling, terracing, clearing of irrigation/drainage canals, rehabilitation/construction of rainwater harvesting infrastructure, such as hafir, hand dug wells, small earth dams, as well as livestock infrastructure, such as construction of watering points, for example, water troughs;
- Reducing/preventing post-harvest losses and the associated methane emissions from food loss and waste - e.g., construction of storage infrastructure such as grain silos, hangars, warehouses; and
- Improved access to markets – for example, through the maintenance/rehabilitation of rural feeder roads, bridges, water crossings.

32. The selection of the areas of the CfW interventions will be based on climate vulnerability and related protocols established by WFP to cover areas affected by shocks and fragility over the recent years, in coordination with other partners implementing public works activities. Within the targeted districts, the Project will ensure that there is no overlap of the selected communities benefiting from other similar programs. WFP will use its existing web-based beneficiary information and transfer management application known as SCOPE for the cash payments. The SCOPE platform collects biometric beneficiary data, including iris scans or fingerprints to help ensure assistance reaches to those most in need. Beneficiaries will receive a SCOPE card that is used to collect cash from a nearby bank or through their phones. WFP's SCOPE platform can be used to issue, retrieve, manage and track payment of entitlements. It enables to minimize risk of fraud and enhances efficiency. For all labor-based activities, WFP will adhere to International Labor

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<sup>20</sup> Food loss and waste (FLW) account for 36 percent of production in Africa. Cereals and pulses contribute 64 percent of the GHG emissions from FLW, roots, tubers and oil-bearing foods account for 20 percent of the emissions, meat and animal products 10 percent, and fruits and vegetables the remaining 6 percent (<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/34521/Addressing-Food-Loss-and-Waste-A-Global-Problem-with-Local-Solutions.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>)

<sup>21</sup> The Project will not finance activities involving new and/or existing schemes and investments that use or risk polluting water of an international waterway.



Organization's (ILO) Decent Work Agenda (DWA) which aims to prevent child labor and protect workers from accident, injury or illness associated with exposure to hazards encountered in the Project sites. All CfW activities will incorporate essential 'do no harm' considerations, such as defining lighter work norms/activities for pregnant and lactating women engaged in CfW or avoiding activities that compete with the care practices for young infants and children. WFP will use its Environmental and Social Screening tool and engineering capability to help identify and avoid, reduce, or mitigate potential environmental and social concerns during the selection, preparation, design and implementation phases of the sub-projects. WFP has put in place a grievance response mechanism through its Feedback and Complaints Mechanism (FCM) to receive and manage feedback and complaints and raise issues of concern in a safe and confidential way in real-time.

**Component 3: Project Management, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Capacity Building (IDA US\$10 million)**

33. The MoAF will be the overall implementing agency for the Project. The Project will finance costs associated with project management and implementation support, including financial management, procurement, M&E, coordination with participating UN agencies, monitoring of project environmental and social risks and impacts as well as social assessments to address provisions under environmental and social standard seven (ESS7) and commitments in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). This component will also finance the establishment and maintenance of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and conducting Gender-Based Violence/Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (GBV/SEAH) risk assessment and consequent development and implementation of a GBV/SEAH Action Plan. The Project will ensure that there is necessary staff with proper qualifications, that is environmental specialist, social specialist and GBV specialist to undertake: (a) effective implementation of the Project activities in compliance to the requirement of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF); and (b) Environmental and Social (E&S risk) management and regular E&S implementation progress reports. Finally, the component will finance technical, safeguards and fiduciary capacity-building activities to enable the MoAF prepare and manage future World Bank operations. This will be done in collaboration with the efforts of the other WB-financed projects<sup>22</sup> where the MoAF is a key implementing agency.

34. Under this component, the Project will also support the GoS in the preparation of a Food Security Preparedness Plan for Sudan which needs to be completed within six months of project effectiveness under the terms of the CRW-ERF. In addition, project will also support assessments and studies in areas relevant to project objectives, including those related to design and preparation of future projects/operations. Such efforts may include public expenditure reviews, value chain analyses and agribusiness development, among others.

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<sup>22</sup> For example, the ongoing SNRMP and SFSP as well as the SIWMP, IARP and SSLP under preparation, for which MOAF is also the implementation agency.



Legal Operational Policies

	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

**E. Implementation**

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

35. The MoAF will be the line ministry with overall responsibility for project implementation. A Project Coordination Unit (PCU) will be established within MoAF for the overall coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation of the proposed project. The Project will engage with the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (MoARF) with regard to activities related to livestock and fisheries.

36. The PCU will be led by a Project Director and staffed with key specialists, including procurement, financial management, environment, social, GBV and M&E/communication specialists. It will also house technical agricultural specialists and other experts on a need basis. It will directly implement sub-component 2.1(a) and component 3 and oversee the implementation by the UN agencies of component 1 and sub-components 2.1(b) and 2.2 (see below).

37. The PCU will directly implement sub-component 2.1(a) on supporting livelihood and resilience through increased production in close collaboration with the IFAD-supported projects<sup>23</sup>. These projects have strengthened the capacity of state and local authorities as well as communities for community-based, livelihood and resilience programs. The Project will leverage such local capacity for a quick and smooth implementation of the proposed activities under sub-component 2.1(a). The IFAD-financed interventions are being implemented by State Implementation Units (SIUs) which provide services that are complementary to the proposed interventions and reach targeted beneficiaries with similar profiles. The PCU will implement activities under sub-component 2.1(a) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the MoAF and State authorities whereby the SIUs will be entrusted with the day-to-day implementation of the proposed activities. The Project will finance any increased capacity needs in the SIUs for the implementation of these activities, including operating costs.

38. The PCU will enter into output agreements with FAO for component 1 (locust response) and sub-component 2.1(b) (agricultural productivity activities in Red Sea State) and WFP for sub-component 2.2 (labor-intensive public works). These technical partners will carry out the implementation of these activities, including the fiduciary, and environmental and social safeguard aspects. They will report to the PCU. Due to the emergency nature of the Project, partnering with these UN agencies and relying on their

<sup>23</sup> These include the Sustainable Natural Resource and Livelihoods Program and the Agriculture and the Integrated Agriculture and Marketing Development Project.



existing implementation arrangements will allow for effective and fast project implementation, as well as the ability to reach conflict-affected areas where vulnerability and needs are high. It will also allow the Project to leverage UN agencies' existing in-country capacity, technical expertise, and existing relationships with various stakeholders. Such partnerships also allow the Project to establish synergies with ongoing UN-supported programs for larger impacts.

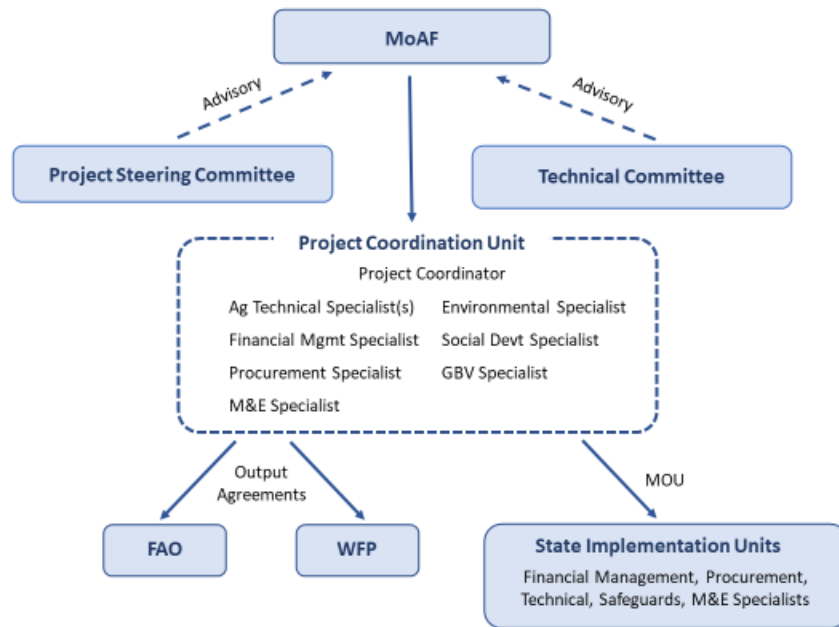
39. FAO will be contracted by the MoAF for the implementation of component 1 on Desert Locust Surveillance, Control and Preparedness, including the fiduciary and environmental and social aspects of the activity. The Project will build on the current partnership between MoAF and FAO whereby MoAF will enter into an output agreement with the FAO for the implementation of the agreed activities. FAO is the lead international agency globally on agriculture and food security in general, and specifically on the recent upsurge of DL. In Sudan, it has played a significant role supporting MOAF in DL surveillance and control operations. FAO has developed the standard operating procedures (SOP) for DL management, including the equipment and agrichemicals, workforce and community safety protocols, disposal protocols, etc. FAO also operates the Pesticide Referee Group, an independent body of experts that advises on the efficacy and environmental impact of different pesticides for locust control. Further, through its ongoing Program, FAO has established a regional office in the Red Sea State to respond to food insecurity situations with the tools and training for rapid food production from fishing to small scale livestock, to crops. To this end, FAO supports line ministries in collecting and analyzing weather, production, food security and nutrition, and market information for informed policy and decision-making. It is envisaged that FAO will provide technical support, training, and fiduciary services for the acquisition of the DL surveillance equipment and other inputs.

40. The WFP will be contracted under an output agreement for the implementation of the proposed activities under sub-component 2.2 to work with communities on improving agriculture related infrastructure, resilience and providing cash-for-work to a vulnerable population of smallholders and landless, including IDPs, returnees, refugees as well as host communities. WFP has considerable experience in cash-for-work programs in Sudan and has set up mechanisms for biometric registration of beneficiaries (particularly important if people do not have identity cards); a tested targeting process; a consultative mechanism with participating communities to identify investment priorities; payment platforms, including through partnership with phone companies; and a network of national and international NGOs to implement the activities in the field. The UN agency has amassed solid fiduciary, environmental and social safeguard experience on the ground and its fiduciary and safeguard guidelines are consistent with the those of the World Bank.

41. To ensure coordination among the PCU, the lead technical partners and relevant ministries/agencies, the Project will establish a Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Committee (TC). The PSC, chaired by MoAF, will provide oversight and guidance in the implementation of project activities. It will also approve the annual workplan and budgets. It will comprise representatives from, inter alia, MoAF, MoARF, MoF, Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Irrigation, and other relevant stakeholders and will meet at least biannually. In addition, a TC, comprising MoAF, MoARF, FAO, IFAD, WFP and Director Generals of the Project states will be set up to provide guidance to the PSC and PCU on strategic issues, facilitate coordination between the stakeholders, serve as a channel of communication and troubleshooting with state level partners and other relevant matters as needed. The TC will meet every two months or more frequently if requested by the PSC and PCU.



### Organizational Chart



42. **The Project will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the POM** which will be developed by GoS and will include: (a) institutional coordination and day-to-day execution of the Project; (b) fiduciary arrangements including procurement, disbursement, and FM; (c) environmental and social safeguard guidelines and procedures; (d) monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and communications; (e) implementation modalities for each project component and activity; (f) eligibility criteria, detailed rules and procedures for identification, and registration and selection of beneficiaries; (g) requirements to be fulfilled by beneficiaries as conditions for the provision of the support from the Project, including mechanisms for verification compliance; (h) such other administrative, financial, technical, and organizational arrangements as required for project implementation; and (j) details of what will be constituted in the MoU between the MoAF and other implementing agencies and states. Several relevant aspects of the POM for the Project will be drawn from the existing procedures being used under ongoing projects involving FAO, IFAD and WFP.

43. **Funding from CRW ERF requires that the Government of Sudan prepare a Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan (FSCPP) within six months of the grant becoming effective.** This government-owned and government-led plan details specific actions the country will take to mitigate the impacts of future food security crises. Essential elements of the Plan include defining how the government will monitor and identify emerging food security crisis risks, what actions it will take to mitigate those risks, and what resources and additional assistance it can draw on to bolster its response (including from partners where possible). The Plan is expected to be based on existing policies and activities related to food security, confirmed and/or modified through an inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder consultation process, which MoAF is well placed to lead, most likely through the Food Security Working Group, which comprises the leading ministries for food security and food production, other national authorities, civil society, donors, and private sector.



**CONTACT POINT**

**World Bank**

Pierre Olivier Colleye  
Senior Agriculture Specialist

Jeren Kabayeva  
Agriculture Specialist

**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Republic of Sudan  
Siddig Eobied  
Director of the Financial Institutions, Ministry of Finance  
siddig.obaid@gmail.com

**Implementing Agencies**

Ministry of Agriculture and Forests  
Mr. Abdelrahman A. Hutor  
Undersecretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
moafuso@yahoo.com

**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>

**APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s):	Pierre Olivier Colleye Jeren Kabayeva
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**Approved By**

Practice Manager/Manager:		
Country Director:	Vijay Pillai	13-Oct-2021

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