



# Afghanistan: Water Resources Sector Development Project

Project Name	Water Resources Sector Development Project		
Project Number	51079-002		
Country	Afghanistan		
Project Status	Proposed		
Project Type / Modality of Assistance	Grant		
Source of Funding / Amount	Grant: Water Resources Sector Development Project		
	concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund		US\$ 100.00 million
Strategic Agendas	Environmentally sustainable growth Inclusive economic growth		
Drivers of Change			
Sector / Subsector	Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Irrigation - Water-based natural resources management		
Gender Equity and Mainstreaming	Effective gender mainstreaming		
Description	The project will support Afghanistan to strengthen water resources management in rural areas. The proposed project is expected to comprise 3 outputs: (i) modernization of community based irrigation schemes, (ii) construction of small-scale rainwater harvesting structures for sustainable land management, and (iii) application of water and energy efficiency in local water management. Support will include policy support and technical assistance to strengthen O&M and rural asset management and to promote innovation.		
Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy	<p>Agriculture and other rural-based activities remain the predominant engine of economic growth for Afghanistan. The agricultural sector contributed about 20% to the national GDP in 2017, and provides employment and livelihood for at least 40% of the population. While women account for nearly 43% of the sector's labor force and play a critical role in agriculture and food security, they still remain on the periphery with limited access to productive resources. Afghan women are still under-represented in local Community Development Councils (CDC) and water user associations (WUA), and, compared to Afghan men, have little access to decision-making.</p> <p>The coverage of irrigated agriculture stalled or even declined from 3.1 million ha in 1957 to less than 2.8 million ha in 2016. Considering that the population in Afghanistan is expected to grow from the current 31.6 million in 2018 to about 40 and 50 million in 2030 and 2040, respectively, the Government is concerned about food security in Afghanistan. Wheat production, a key indicator used for food security in Afghanistan, has been directly linked with the reliability of irrigation systems, particularly during the critical months of June and July. In 2018, growth in agriculture shrank from 3.8% to 2.0% as drought affected more than half of the country, causing wheat production to fall by 71% in rainfed fields and by 6% in the much smaller irrigated area.</p> <p>Water resources are under stress because of poor management and water shortages, particularly for irrigated agriculture. The subsequent low water productivity is a result of (i) outdated and inadequate rural irrigation infrastructure, (ii) limited capacity to adapt to changing climatic conditions, and (iii) insufficient usage of technological innovations widely applied in other rural areas in the world. Many local farmer communities lack the knowledge or resources to make a change and initiate more sustainable water resources management practices, and ensure adequate operation and maintenance arrangements for their local irrigation systems.</p> <p>Notable improvements have been made to improve the sustainability of rural infrastructure, but a much larger effort is needed. Firstly, the number of small communities that need support largely outnumbers the coverage of existing programs. MRRD estimated that about 18,400 communities are waiting for support, while 12,000 already benefitted over the last 3 years from the CCNPP. Secondly, the impacts of climate change, i.e. higher temperatures and the increasing occurrence of extreme flood or drought events, are increasingly being felt by local communities. For example, local irrigation systems are more often damaged by local floods, while increasing numbers of the traditional karizes systems are drying up due to the lack of upstream infiltration. Lastly, technological innovations are not reaching sufficient farmers. Significant improvements in water productivity could be made through the precision (laser) land leveling, the sustainable usage of solar energy, and water balance studies using remote sensing data freely available online.</p>		
Impact			
Outcome			
Outputs			
Geographical Location	Nation-wide		
Safeguard Categories			
Environment			B
Involuntary Resettlement			B
Indigenous Peoples			C
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects			
Environmental Aspects	All structures to be developed under the Project are relatively small and possible minor environmental impacts can be mitigated.		
Involuntary Resettlement	The Government assured that no physical resettlement of people will be necessary for the project. Possible compensation may be needed for minor physical impact of land or crops, in line with a to be developed resettlement framework.		
Indigenous Peoples	The Government explained that Afghanistan is inhabited by ethnic groups across its 34 provinces, but that none of these groups are considered indigenous peoples as defined in the SPS for operational purposes.		
Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation			

During Project Design

During Project Implementation

Responsible ADB Officer	Frank Radstake
Responsible ADB Department	Central and West Asia Department
Responsible ADB Division	Environment, Natural Resources & Agriculture Division, CWRD

#### Timetable

Concept Clearance	01 Jul 2021
Fact Finding	12 Aug 2019 to 12 Aug 2019
MRM	24 Sep 2019
Approval	-
Last Review Mission	-
Last PDS Update	23 Aug 2019

Project Page	<a href="https://www.adb.org/projects/51079-002/main">https://www.adb.org/projects/51079-002/main</a>
Request for Information	<a href="http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=51079-002">http://www.adb.org/forms/request-information-form?subject=51079-002</a>
Date Generated	28 August 2019

ADB provides the information contained in this project data sheet (PDS) solely as a resource for its users without any form of assurance. Whilst ADB tries to provide high quality content, the information are provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either express or implied, including without limitation warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, and non-infringement. ADB specifically does not make any warranties or representations as to the accuracy or completeness of any such information.