



# Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Appraisal Stage

### **(ESRS Appraisal Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 06/04/2023 | Report No: ESRSA02849



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Afghanistan	SOUTH ASIA	P179311	
Project Name	Water Emergency Relief Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Water	Investment Project Financing	6/5/2023	6/28/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Aga Khan Foundation-USA, The United Nations Office for Project Services	Aga Khan Foundation, The United Nations Office for Project Services		

Proposed Development Objective

Improve access to safe drinking water and irrigation water services in selected rural areas

**Financing (in USD Million)**

**Amount**

**Total Project Cost**

**100.00**

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

Yes

**C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]**

The project aims to restore access to vital water supply and surface water irrigation services in selected areas in Afghanistan with priority to extreme and severe drought affected rural areas. The project will be financed by an ARTF grant of US\$100 million using an IPF instrument with five components of (i) Component 1: Provision of Emergency Water Supply in Identified Rural Areas (US\$52 million). This component is for construction and rehabilitation of small-scale climate-resilient water supply systems, the project will preserve and improve access to basic water services that make households and communities more resilient to drought, and other risks; (ii) Component 2: Improved Surface Water Irrigation Using Solar Technologies in Selected Rural Areas (US\$35 million); This component will finance the provision of off-grid solar systems and, where applicable energy efficient equipment to support installation and



improved efficiency of surface water irrigation in the selected areas; (iii) Component 3: Technical Training and Public Awareness Campaigns (US\$3 million). This component will finance consultancy service to develop and deliver technical training modules for water-related entities with focus on bodies women can still access such as private sector employment and community-level platforms, the women’s sub-committees of the CDCs; (iv) Component 4: Implementation Support (US\$10 million): This component will support the costs of AKF and UNOPS, to manage and oversee the program, including technical support, training, monitoring, and reporting.

#### 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 Project will be geographically prioritized in specific districts in at least 16 drought-affected provinces in the country which are facing problems in accessing safe water and sanitation facilities. The Project will cover approximately 120 Districts. The estimated beneficiaries will be around 1.2 million people. Other districts will be added under component two of the project where surface water and demand for services exist.

The detailed criteria for selecting geographic areas and beneficiaries will be provided in the Project Operations Manual (POM), which will be prepared prior to project approval. The project will be implemented by Agha Khan Foundation USA and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as the main implementing entities.

#### D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The Aga Khan Foundation USA (AKF) will be implementing Components 1 and 3 . On the E&S side, they currently have one environmental focal point based in Afghanistan, four social specialists (three based in Afghanistan and one based in Canada), and two gender specialists (one based in Afghanistan and one based in Canada). This team supports the wider program of AKF. Given the project's complexity, there will be a need to have one environmental specialist and one social specialist, GRM officer, one security risk management specialist dedicated to the project to support AKF, and a Gender and SEAH Specialist.

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) will be responsible for the implementation of Component 2 with the support of Private Energy Service Companies ( PESCOs ) . UNOPS has experience implementing the ESF in Afghanistan and is currently implementing the Community Resilience Project -CRL(P178760). In order to ensure adequate coverage of the ESF requirements, UNOPS will also have a dedicated team for the project which will include one Environmental and one Social Specialists, GRM officer, one security risk management specialist and a Gender and SEAH Specialist. Given the multiple parties who will be engaged in the project, AKF and UNOPS will adopt a cascading strategy of the ESF requirements, and this will include requirements for implementing partners ( International and Local NGOs, contractors, CDCs, PESCOs, etc.) to appoint focal persons for E&S depending on the aspect of the project activities being implemented by the relevant partners. UNOPS and AKF will also cascade security risk management measures to ensure consistency with ESS1 and ESS4.

Capacity support to the AKF and UNOPS will be important for the entire project implementation.



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

### A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

#### Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

The Environmental risks and impacts associated with the project activities are considered substantial but can be reduced and mitigated by implementing adequate mitigation measures . These specific environmental risks include (i) construction related impacts such as generation of dust, noise, debris, waste products and vibrations at project sites; (ii) potential surface water pollution from pesticide use in irrigation canals , and vehicle / equipment fuel accidental leakages , and eutrophication from nutrient loading from irrigated areas ; (iii) soil erosion and sedimentation associated with improper site restoration after completion of civil works; (v) potential for water waste and inefficient use due to defective or leaking pipelines, (vi) occupational health and safety issues of workers and communities which may include exposure to hazardous chemicals, risk of falls into trenches and wells , and poor working conditions, and (vii) Disposal of electronic waste associated with solar panel installations Based on these project risks and impacts , the project environmental risk classification is determined to be substantial as per the WB ESF risk classification .

#### Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The social risk rating is substantial considering the risk of exclusion of vulnerable groups from accessing safe water and sanitation facilities, management of local expectations around receipt of jobs in the project, the capacity of implementing agency (IA) is limited in reference to ESF, and the risk of resistance from Interim Taliban Administration (ITA) of the approach to engage women in the participatory planning, design, and implementation process. Other potential social risks are related to the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH), risk of non-compliance with labor and working conditions requirements, including supply chain-related project risks and the allegations of forced labor risks associated with the polysilicon suppliers, as component 2 will involve the installation of solar water pump systems. The installation of the solar panel will also lead to modest labor influx, as they cannot be fully supplied locally, and threats to human security through the escalation of personal, communal conflict, crime, or violence is also an important contextual risk that may affect the safety of the workers, staff, and beneficiaries. Overall, the project will have beneficial social impacts in improving people’s access to basic human needs (drinking water and hygiene services) across severely drought-affected provinces. The project is also likely to have positive impacts in terms of enhanced capacities of relevant parties, and better opportunities for community participation and social inclusion. The risk of any adverse social impacts related to social exclusion, SEA/SH risks, and labor management can be addressed through due diligence measures proposed under ESS 1, 2, 4, and 10. In addition, a negative exclusion list will be applied to exclude any activity which may result in private land acquisition and resettlement impacts. Regarding the allegations of forced labor associated with the polysilicon suppliers, the UNOPS will require private sector companies to provide two declarations: a Forced Labor Performance Declaration (which covers past performance), and a Forced Labor Declaration (which covers future commitments to prevent, monitor, and report on any forced labor, cascading the requirements to their own suppliers). In addition, the relevant grant recipient will include enhanced language on forced labor in the procurement contracts.

### 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:**

Overall, the project will have beneficial environmental and social impacts in improving people's access to basic human needs across severely drought-affected provinces. The project is also likely to have positive impacts in terms of enhanced capacities of relevant parties, and better opportunities for community participation and social inclusion. The foreseeable environmental and social risks can be managed by the implementation of proper social management plans.

The overall project details including the full scope, details of the footprints of the proposed components are not known at this stage, therefore the project has adopted a framework approach to E&S risk mitigation. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which will include the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Pest Management Plan (PMP) and Integrated Pest management (IPM) approach, and other associated plans. Security risk management measures, based on the UN security protocols ( For UNOPS) and consistent with the ESF, will be prepared based on the ESCPs timeframe. The AKF will develop security risk management measures consistent with good international industry practice (GIIP) and consistent with the ESF, based on the ESCPs timeframe. The ESMF will also spell out the recommendations on the preparation of the site-specific screening instruments and tools, and preparation of ESMPs, which will address the risk of SEA/SH by incorporating prevention and mitigation measures in the site-specific instruments, including bidding and contract documents. The ESMF will include selection criteria that will be developed in coordination with the selected implementing partner per the beneficiary assessment report. The selection criteria of the direct beneficiaries will include conditionality for the inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups to ensure their access to safe water and sanitation facilities. Consultations will be conducted with stakeholders regarding the selection criteria, including ensuring equal access to project benefits for vulnerable groups (especially women and poor people).

The grant recipients (AKF and UNOPS) have prepared separate Environment and Social Commitment Plans (ESCPs) for their respective components.

The ESMF will detail out plans for capacity strengthening, E&S due diligence, frequency of monitoring and reporting of mitigation measures, and any other measures required to meet the ESF. These actions have already been summarized and highlighted in the ESCPs. The ESMF, ESCPs, Preliminary SEP, updated SEP, and LMP will be publicly disclosed on the relevant UNOPS, AKF, and the World Bank websites, and in relevant places, their hard copies will be available to CDCs, NGOs, and contractors' Staff.

The AKF USA will be implementing Components 1 and 3 of the projects and will establish a project implementation Unit (PIU) in Afghanistan and will sign subsidiary agreements with AKF-Afghanistan and three other NGOs as Implementing partners for project implementation. Given the project's complexity, there will be a need to have one environmental and one social specialist, and one security risk management specialist dedicated to the project to support AKF. AKF will be responsible for cascading down the E&S requirements to AKF Afghanistan and the NGOs to be identified each of which will also have environmental and Social focal points as well as security management focal points. For component 2, UNOPS has experience implementing the ESF in Afghanistan and are currently implementing the Community Resilience Project- (CRL (P178760). UNOPs will establish a dedicated PIU with the required staff for the implementation of component 2 activities. The ESMF will include capacity building and training plan with budget. Given the multiple parties who will be engaged in the project, the AKF and UNOPS will adopt a cascading strategy of the ESF requirements, and this will include requirements for implementing partners (contractors, NGOs , CDCs, PESCs etc.) to appoint focal persons for E&S depending on the aspect of the project activities being implemented by the relevant partners.



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

The grant recipients (AKF & UNOPS) have conducted a series of consultations with key stakeholders, which are summarized in the preliminary SEP. They will engage in meaningful consultations with a range of stakeholders, including beneficiaries' representatives in the targeted drought-affected areas to seek their feedback related to drinking water supply and sanitation interventions. Consultations will also be conducted with UN agencies, including UN Women in Afghanistan. The grant recipients (AKF & UNOPS) have developed a Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to be applied to all project components. The Preliminary SEP, which will be subject to update after the Project effectiveness date, includes stakeholders mapping & analysis, including mechanisms for information sharing, citizen engagement, and public outreach program. This Preliminary SEP will be updated based on the results of further consultations with consortium partners and other stakeholders and re-disclosed in the country via local websites. The SEP updating will be completed based on the agreed actions in the respective ESCPs.

Key stakeholders of this project are (i) beneficiaries/communities (community development councils -or CDCs, community members & leaders, unemployed people, irrigation associations/Mirabs, women's groups, vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as ethnic and religious minorities, internally displaced people (IDP), the population living in hard-to-reach places, female-headed households (HHs), and pastoral nomadic communities); (ii) civil society organizations (NGOs, health workers); and (iii) project workers (direct, contracted, primary suppliers or private energy service companies); and (iv) ITA (provincial and district authorities).

Consultations will be scheduled with stakeholders on selection criteria to ensure equal access to project benefits for vulnerable groups (especially women and poor people).

The SEP also includes the design of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), including an effective GRM to be responsive to SEA/SH complaints to address concerns by stakeholders and beneficiaries.

The project will involve participatory planning and engagement with communities during sub-project preparation to get their feedback on subproject design and implementation. Furthermore, the project will establish an effective public outreach program with the initiation of various citizen engagement tools (public awareness & communication, GRM, participatory planning, and satisfaction survey) to empower beneficiaries and communities to hold the implementing partners (IPs) to account.

Two different sets of GRM will be implemented for this project. AKF will set up and implement a three-tier GRM system (with separate GRCs at national and regional levels) for Component 1 and Component 3 activities, and UNOPS will implement a three-tier GRM (with separate national and regional level GRCs) specifically for Component 2 activities. The local GRCs can be cross-cutting, and the AKF and UNOPS will establish an effective collaboration with MoU for GRM management.

### **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 activities will employ the use of direct workers to be engaged by the Implementing Entities (AKF, and UNOPS), and contracted staff/workers to be engaged through implementing partners (IPs), and contractors' staff for delivery of the emergency interventions (short-to medium-term interventions for drinking water and hygiene provision and surface water pumping to the canals for irrigation, and solar water pump systems will be installed to support water supply in three areas targeted under the project. The project activities may also involve the primary suppliers for the provision of the solar water pump system. The standard is relevant to address issues relating to labor and working (direct, contracted staff, and primary suppliers); supply chain-related project risks, as component 2 will involve the installation of solar water pump systems, child and forced labor issues, unsafe work conditions, and potential exposure of workers and communities to communicable diseases such as COVID-19. The combined LMP is to be prepared by the grant recipients before the involvement of any project workers and will include provisions on working conditions, management of workers' relationships, occupational health COVID-19 infection prevention, and safety (including personal protective equipment (PPE), and emergency preparedness and response ), given potential physical safety risks for project actors due to the FCV context), code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance mechanism arrangements for Project workers (responsive to SEA/SH), and applicable requirements for grant recipients and contractors.

The LMP will also include terms and conditions of employment, nondiscrimination, and equal opportunity, the prohibition of child and forced labor, and a worker's GRM. The Project will comprise two GRMs for Project workers to address workplace concerns. AKF will set up a GRM for project workers, and UNOPS will also set up its own workers GRM will be made available, in line with ESS2.

The capacity building and training plan to be part of the ESMF will also include a budget for the workers' GRM and public outreach activities.

### **ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

The efficient use of water and energy, and the reduction and otherwise management of pollution, as required by ESS3, are central to achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and according to ESS3 this project will be deemed as "significant user of water". Therefore, the implementing agencies will consider measures that are technically and financially feasible to reduce the negative impact on surrounding communities, environment and other ecosystem services. The installation of solar pumps and irrigation equipment will limit the energy demands on the already scarce energy supply in local communities. The water and energy use efficiency and demand will be monitored throughout the project life to ensure judicious use of the existing water resources. Furthermore, the implementation agencies will also ensure that the water use efficiency is improved and are being implemented throughout the project period. The project will also assess and specify the details of water users during project detailed design, ensure if the water use efficiency is taken into account. The ESCP has stipulated that the development of the ESMPs will cover risks and impacts relating to the World Bank ESS3 and the ESMF will include procedures for water testing prior to the opening up of new wells to ensure that wells which may become unusable as a result of high arsenic or other heavy metal contamination are not opened. The requirements will also be included in bidding documents and contracts with NGOs, contractors, PESCs and implemented and monitored throughout project implementation.

There could be potential for surface water pollution from pesticide use in irrigation canals to be rehabilitated, and vehicle / equipment fuel accidental leakages, and eutrophication from nutrient loading from irrigated areas; soil



erosion and sedimentation in case of improper site restoration after completion of civil works; occupational health and safety issues of workers and communities which may include exposure to hazardous chemicals, risk of falls into trenches and wells , and poor working conditions, and disposal of electronic waste associated with solar panel installation .

The ESMF will provide needed tools, check lists and guidelines for testing relevant sites for water quality and to be followed during the design stages of the subprojects and during the site specific ESMPs preparation, the ESMF will identify proper dumping site to dispose all wastes generated during and after project implementation The waste management and pollution mitigation measures will be further addressed in the waste management procedure under the Contractor ESMPs (CESMP). The ESMF will also include Pest Management Plan to guide the implementation of the irrigation related activities .

### **ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

The potential risks and impacts to the community and health and safety will include temporary generation of noise, transitory dust, mobile, and other machinery emissions, risks related to physical transportation of construction material and traffic and mobility safety concerns, potential risks of transmitting COVID-19 both within the worksite and for nearby communities, and modest labor influx is likely, as the workforce for installation of solar panels under component 2 cannot be fully supplied locally.. These impacts will be covered under the ESMF, and specific mitigation measures will be detailed in the subsequent site-specific ESMPs. The ESMF would provide relevant checklists, tools and guideline for screening water quality issues prior to setting up of new wells and water distribution. The water testing will determine the quality of the water for consumption or if additional treatment might be required as a mitigation measure .The ESMP to be prepared as part of the ESMF will require measures to ensure traffic and road safety around construction sites, community health and safety in relation to prevention of exposure to hazardous materials at sites. The contractor’s ESMPs will include adequate health and safety measures to avoid any issues on community health and safety concerns. Any accidents or fatalities on either of the sites will be immediately reported to the Bank team as per the ESIRT . Lack of provision of medical services and PPEs to workers disadvantaged or vulnerable people is also a potential risk under the project interventions.

The implementation agencies will each prepare stand-alone security management plans (SMPs) consistent with this standard to support the identification of potential project related risks to human security and propose mitigation measures to be implemented throughout the project. This project will prepare the standalone SMPs with SRM measures within 90 days after the Project Effectiveness Date and thereafter implemented throughout Project implementation. A summary of the security risk management procedures will be included as part of the POM. There are potential health and safety risks associated with interactions between non-local labor brought in to undertake civil works (drilling of new wells, and installation of solar-powered pumps) and local communities, including the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), which has been assessed using the SEA/SH risk assessment tool to be moderate. Both labor influx risk and SEA/SH risk will be addressed through the provision of contractor’s codes of conduct (CoC) and other means proportionate to risk. The ESMP and the relevant bidding documents will include minimum requirements on contractors’ CoC to ensure the contractor’s personnel comply with the code of contract. .

The capacity building and training plan that will be made a part of the ESMF will include a budget for public outreach activities, training, and awareness-raising on GBV/SEA/SH prevention, as well as a referral pathway for survivors.





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

ESS5 is relevant because the Project will use land that is voluntarily donated, as per ESS 5, para 4, footnote 10. The project is not expected to involve land acquisition or result in physical or economic displacement as the civil works will be within the existing footprints or community land. The ESMF will include a negative/exclusion list which will be applied to exclude any activity which may result in private land acquisition.

The ESMF will also include procedures and steps for transferring community land, such as community land allocation, and confirmation of the required land to be free of squatters and disputes. The community land transfer process will be completed prior to handing over the land and commencement of civil work. The ESMF will also include a guideline for voluntary land donation (VLD), which can only occur with the consent of individuals using or occupying the land. Consistent with the requirements of ESS 5, the VLD Guidelines will ensure that AKF and UNOPs demonstrate that: (a) the potential donor or donors of community land have been appropriately informed and consulted about the project and the choices available to them; (b) potential donors are aware that refusal is an option, and have confirmed in writing their willingness to proceed with the donation; (c) the amount of land being donated is minor and will not reduce the donor's remaining land area below that required to maintain the donor's livelihood at current levels; (d) no household relocation is involved; (e) the donor is expected to benefit directly from the project; and (f) for community or collective land, the donation can only occur with the consent of individuals using or occupying the land. The Borrower will maintain a transparent record of all consultations and agreements reached.

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

The standard is considered not relevant . Project ESMF and its subsequent documents will have exclusion checklist to screen out working in sensitive areas to biodiversity and Natural Habitats.

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

This standard is considered Not Relevant as there are no people in Afghanistan meeting the criteria in ESS7 for Indigenous People/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLC).

### **ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

Although no impacts on cultural heritage are anticipated, the project ESMF will incorporate "chance find" procedures which will be applied when physical cultural resources are encountered during construction. At this stage, ESS 8 is not relevant.

### **ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

This standard is Not Relevant to the suggested project interventions, as no financial intermediaries will be used.



C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

<b>OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways</b>	Yes
Memo requesting an Exception to the Riparian Notification Requirement was approved by the RVP on May 18, 2023.	
<b>OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas</b>	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:

There are no areas where the use of the Borrower Framework is being considered; the project will apply the ESF.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Public Disclosure



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**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Borrower: Aga Khan Foundation-USA

Borrower: The United Nations Office for Project Services

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

Implementing Agency: Aga Khan Foundation

Implementing Agency: The United Nations Office for Project Services

**V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**



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**VI.**  
**APPROVAL**

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Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Safeguards: Robin Mearns Cleared on 04-Jun-2023 at 09:02:53 EDT

Advisor (ESSA): Pablo Cardinale (SAESSA) Concurred on 04-Jun-2023 at 10:16:29 EDT