



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P181428	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	Agrifood Sector Recovery & Rebuilding	2024
Operation Name	Agrifood Sector Recovery & Rebuilding in Türkiye's Earthquake-affected Provinces		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Türkiye	Türkiye	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Agriculture and Food
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Ministry of Finance and Treasury	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	19-Feb-2024	16-May-2024
Estimated Concept Review Date	Total Project Cost		
04-Oct-2023	500,000,000.00		

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Proposed Development Objective

The Project Development Objective is to rebuild agrifood productive capacity and strengthen the resilience of the agrifood system in Türkiye’s earthquake-affected provinces.

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

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

The proposed project will provide US\$500 million in financing to the Government of Türkiye (GoT) to support agrifood recovery and reconstruction while building the resilience of the sector. This will have benefits for farming communities, businesses, consumers, and the environment. The project aims to provide support for short-term economic recovery and address more mid-term recovery and reconstruction needs across agri-food subsectors. Project investments are intended to contribute to restoring agri-food supply chain flows in the affected provinces by ensuring continued access by farmers and agribusinesses to key inputs and services. Additionally, it aims to promote mid- to longer-term rebound



and recovery, focusing on higher climate resilience, inclusiveness, and environmentally and socially sustainable agri-food production and processing.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

The project will be implemented in 11 earthquake affected provinces. Three resilient structures/buildings adhering to Build Back Better principles, will also be re-constructed (in situ) in Istanbul, Mersin, and Tekirdağ. Nine of these 11 provinces occupy large areas of steppe ecosystems, which are highly vulnerable to aridity/desertification. Fifteen percent of the steppe area (4.5 million ha) mostly in Southeastern and Central Anatolia regions is highly vulnerable to climate change. Drought-driven agricultural losses have been historically observed in the southeastern Anatolia with impacts on reduced production of wheat, grains, and lentil as well as livestock from less fodder production by affected meadows. Earthquake has further disrupted the agricultural and animal husbandry affecting the livelihoods of millions of people directly and food security of all citizens of the country indirectly.

The total population of 11 earthquake-affected provinces is 14,013,196 (2022) which is 16.4% of the country's total population. Approximately 1,738,035 Syrians under temporary protection (SuTP) in Türkiye (50 percent of the total SuTP) live in these 11 provinces. The SuTPs constitute 11.48 percent population of these 11 provinces and constitute a large share of agricultural workers (14 percent of the total agricultural workforce). Over 44 percent of agricultural workers are women in Türkiye. They often lack the protection of social security due to informal employment arrangements. Considering that the number of female agricultural labourers in the region is also considerable as a reflection of Türkiye's ratio implying that women and female-headed households are at greater risk of poverty, food insecurity, and material deprivation in the project area. The disaster is expected to widen inequalities between women and men which manifest directly in the form of access to property, livestock, agricultural machinery & equipment, and financial resources.

D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's (MoAF). The MoAF has experience with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) requirements through the preparation and implementation of several projects (e.g. Türkiye Irrigation Modernization Project (P158418), Resilient Landscape Integration Project-TULIP (P172562) and Türkiye Climate Smart and Competitive Agricultural Growth Project (TUCSAP) (P175011). The implementation of this project will follow the similar arrangement as TUCSAP. The General Directorate of EU and Foreign Relations (ABDGM) will host the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) responsible for overall project coordination under the same Department as TUCSAP project, to facilitate cross-fertilization of experience and capacity. While the E&S staff turnover has been an issue in this project, there are three E&S specialists working in the project right now and another three are in the process of being recruited. The World Bank E&S team is working with the TUCSAP E&S team to build its capacity to assess and manage E&S risks and impacts of the Project. To ensure that both TUCSAP and this project have adequate E&S capacity, several activities have been planned under component four (support for compliance with environmental and social risk management, including grievance redress, gender aspects, and citizen engagement). As a part of the capacity enhancement, a permanent environmental and social unit will be proposed under component four. This unit will be established at MoAF (PCU) with adequate human resources, developing MoAF's E&S policies (that will be materially consistent with the ESF and relevant national laws and policies) and standard operating procedure to assess and manage E&S risks and impacts in development projects implemented by MoAF. Once this ESU unit is established and made functional, it will take over the role of the PCU E&S specialists.



II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The environmental risk is rated as “Moderate,” as the potential adverse environmental risks/impacts are not likely to be significant. The Project is not complex and does not involve activities that have a high potential to affect negatively the environment. The potential environmental risks/impacts are predictable and expected to be temporary and site-specific, without the likelihood of impacts beyond the actual footprint of the Project. Subcomponent 1.1 has potential adverse environmental impacts, such as changes in land use and the use of resources like water for irrigation. The project activities can lead to increased water&energy usage, and the generation of waste including (livestock and feed waste, vaccination/insemination waste). Subcomponent 1.2 activities may entail environmental risks related to land use changes, waste generation and the use of agricultural chemicals, particularly. Component 2 may carry environmental risks related to land disturbance and resource utilization. These risks and adverse impacts might also include emissions of dust and vehicle exhausts; noise and vibration; generation of wastes and soil pollution; OHS-related risks; traffic and road-related risks and associated community health and safety. Component 3.1. will focus on the dissemination of climate-friendly agricultural production models and ecosystem-based adaptation practices of local relevance. No negative environmental impacts are foreseen at this stage. Component 3.2 is critical for ecological restoration, it involves potential risks associated with changes in land use and the introduction of new management practices. Regarding the Borrower capacity, environmental and OHS legislation (under different Ministries) addressing the risks/impact is very well structured in the country. The MoAF’s experience and capacity on the ESF have been increasing under the TUCSAP (P175011) and TULIP projects (P172562) and will be reflected in the environmental management of the Project.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The social risk is assessed as “Moderate” as the potential adverse social risks and impacts are not likely to be significant and can be mitigated in a predictable manner through assessments and management of impacts. Activities planned under subcomponent 1.1 and 1.2 (e.g. repairing and expanding infrastructure, establishment of machinery banks and breeding programs) may involve some changes in land use patterns and land acquisition. The construction of water storage infrastructure under component 3.2 may require land acquisition. These land related impacts may adversely affect informal users, tenants and squatters. Second, the project will provide grants and in-kind support to farmers, livestock rearers and agricultural supply chain operators/cooperatives. Without clear eligibility criteria and selection process of grantees and beneficiaries, the project benefits may be captured by elites instead of people most in need including vulnerable groups(e.g. women and SuTPs). Thus, risk of social exclusion may be significant. Thirdly, given the post-earthquake contexts, inadequate stakeholder engagement may lead to lack of access to project services and benefits by many eligible beneficiaries. Fourthly, reconstruction of three buildings may cause occupational health and safety (OHS) and road safety-related risks (due to increased traffic volume and movement). Fifthly, land use patterns in the area may be affected by activities under Component 3 that aims to strengthen climate resilience and ecosystem service provision in productive landscapes (agriculture and pasture/grasslands). Introduction of such innovative measures may affect access to common use properties and resources especially for poor and vulnerable people. Finally, the risks of adverse impacts on land and social exclusion in the post-earthquake context may cause social tension and conflicts in the area. This may be significant risks given growing anti-SuTP sentiments among host communities.



B. Relevance of Standards and Policies at Concept Stage

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Relevant

To address potential E&S risks and impacts, MoAF will prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) including a project level Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Resettlement Framework (RF), Labor Management Procedures (LMP) prior to project effectiveness and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) by appraisal. The site-specific E&S instruments (ESMPs, Resettlement Plans) will be prepared based on the initial E&S assessments once the investments and their location details are finalized. Based on the environmental and social screening of the sub-projects, either the project level ESMP or the site specific ESMP will be part of the bidding documents and construction contracts. The contractors will be responsible for the preparation and implementation of the contractor’s ESMPs (C-ESMP) and LMPs, as well as setting up a Grievance Mechanism (GM) for the project workers. MoAF will be responsible for the review and approval of all documents.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure Relevant

The project stakeholders include farmers, producer organizations, agribusinesses, private service providers/trainers, food processors, farmers’ associations, entrepreneurs, dairy processing companies, tradesmen with commercial facilities in the project area, relevant cooperatives, non-governmental organizations etc. MoAF will prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to ensure engagement with identified stakeholders throughout the project including vulnerable groups. In Türkiye the Presidency’s Directorate of Communications (CİMER) is used as an official electronic platform to receive requests, complaints, compliments, denouncements and inquires for information from the public. MoAF currently has a webpage with a specific section on information request which jointly works with CİMER regarding the activities carried out and project implemented by the MoAF. In addition, a project specific Grievance Mechanism (GM) will be established and made functional.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions Relevant

Project workers will include direct workers (MoAF staff and full time project staff); contracted workers (experts, consultants, trainers, etc.). The number of potential workforce cannot be determined at the concept stage and will be assessed during the project' preparation. The requirement of primary supply workers and community workers will be determined during the project preparation phase. The MoAF will prepare an LMP that will outline the policies and procedures for all categories of workers, identify key labor requirements and risks associated with the project including OHS risks, and assist the MoAF in determining the resources required to address project labor issues. For the site-specific civil works, the contractors will prepare LMPs or integrate elements of the project's LMP into their respective C-ESMPs in line with the project LMP. Details of other instruments such as the Code of Conduct and SEA/SH risk requirements will also be included in the LMP.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management Relevant

While implementing the proposed reconstruction/rehabilitation ,civil works and agricultural and livestock activities, the project will address resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures consistent with WB

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ESF and GIIP. The potential risks and impacts of activities may include noise and dust emissions, the generation of wastes including (livestock and feed waste, vaccination/insemination waste) and water and energy consumption. The ESMF will identify and assess the environmental risks/impacts and determine if additional sub-management plans are required. These mitigation and monitoring activities to be specified in the site specific E&S documents will include issues on pesticides and fertilizers purchase, transportation, storage, use, handling, and disposal. In addition, the opportunities for energy and resource (including construction materials) efficiency will be sought throughout all infrastructure and building-related civil works.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

Potential community safety and health (CSH) risks and impacts are mostly associated with construction works as well as agriculture and pastureland and on-farm activities. Replacement of equipment and on-farm reconstruction efforts (e.g. barns) will follow principles of building back better, including alignment with renewable investments (solar energy, when feasible). The ESMF, project and site-specific ESMPs or ESMP Checklists will assess the risks and impacts to the health and safety of project-affected communities, including groups that might be vulnerable. These instruments will also detail management and mitigation measures to secure community health and safety during civil works and operations, as well as monitoring and reporting requirements. The project will also include measures for addressing SEA/SH risks, including a Code of Conduct for workers, a mechanism to report SEA/SH cases and training and awareness sessions for project workers and affected communities.

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

Relevant

At this stage, the information regarding land acquisition requirements of the sub-projects are limited. Although physical displacement of people is not expected, potential impacts of the activities to be carried out for the Component 1 and Component 3 may involve land acquisition and restriction of access to common use lands (e.g. grazing land). A Resettlement Framework (RF) will be prepared by project appraisal and site specific Resettlement Plans (RPs) will be prepared as and when needed.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Relevant

The project will enhance agriculture productivity, reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, improve the provision of ecosystem services and safeguard the livelihoods of the poorest who are dependent on natural resources for income and food. However, the project activities may have adverse risks and impacts on natural habitats, the flora and fauna, if not adequately managed. During the civil works, any activities situated in or near critical or natural habitats, or those with significant biodiversity impacts, will be excluded from funding. The ESMF document will establish criteria for such exclusion. Site-specific ESMPs for these investments will incorporate a biodiversity assessment and, when necessary, include the mitigation & monitoring measures. Any potential impacts associated with the physical interventions for agriculture and pastureland/rangelands management will also be assessed and if needed, a biodiversity management plan will be prepared.

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

Not Currently Relevant

This standard is not relevant since there are no indigenous groups in Türkiye who meet the definition of this standard.

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ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Relevant

The civil works will be implemented with the existing agricultural, pastoral areas and buildings and no negative risks/impacts on cultural heritage (CH) are expected, there are chances that CH are encountered, especially those that include excavation and earthworks. The national legislation covers most of the requirements of the ESS8. To avoid any impacts on CH sites, the ESMF will include criteria and a screening mechanism to ensure that the project will not finance any subprojects that may have negative impacts on them. Also, as the country is well known for its CH resources, including for archaeological artifacts, the ESMF document will include an outline of a Chance Find Procedure. The procedure will be included in site-specific ESMPs for all earth-moving sub-projects. If the project will include the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure that may be considered CH by the community, the ESMF will define the requirements for a CH management plan accordingly.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

This ESS is not relevant as the project will not use FIs.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

No

Borrower framework will not be used.

Use of Common Approach

No

The project will not be financed by other than WB sources.

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by Appraisal?

- ESCP: The WB and MoAF will agree on an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), which will set out the material measures and actions required for the project to meet the ESSs over a specified timeframe. The ESCP will be prepared, disclosed and cleared by WB prior to appraisal and will form part of the legal agreement.
- SEP will be prepared, disclosed and consulted prior to Appraisal.
- ESMF will be prepared, acceptable to the Bank that includes relevant Environment and Social Standards requirements, along with the potential project impacts, as well as rules and procedures for site specific project activities. The document will be disclosed, consulted and cleared by the WB prior to project effectiveness. The ESMF will include: (a) a baseline analysis of the country and an overview of the agriculture and earthquake related environmental and social problems; (b) proposed project activities and investments; (c) assessments of the potential

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E&S risks and impacts and generic mitigation measures; (d) a project level Environmental and Social Management Plan; e) guidelines and procedures for conducting site specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Management Plan (ESIA and ESMP) for proposed activities, including on sub-project sites biodiversity assessment and criteria for exclusion of those sub-projects that might have significant impacts; (e) outlines of subproject ESMP and ESMP Checklists; (f) requirements on pesticides and fertilizers purchase, transportation, storage, use, handling and disposal; (g) requirements for the monitoring plans; (h) implementing responsibilities for site-specific ESMPs and ESMP Checklists; (j) outline of a specialized program for information dissemination and capacity building activities; and, (i) ESMF implementing arrangements, and capacity building activities for the PCU and other involved parties.

- RF will be prepared, disclosed and consulted prior to project effectiveness.
- LMP will be prepared and disclosed prior to project effectiveness.
- Site-specific Environmental and Social screening, assessment and management plans will be prepared during implementation.
- Resettlement Plans (RPs) will be prepared during the implementation phase if land acquisition is required.

III. CONTACT POINT

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IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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V. APPROVAL

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