



# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

### **(ESRS Concept Stage)**

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**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Western and Central Africa	Western and Central Africa	P178132	
Project Name	West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) - Phase 2		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Agriculture and Food	Investment Project Financing	5/9/2022	7/19/2022
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of Ghana, Republic of Chad, Republic of Sierra Leone	Ministry of Agriculture - Sierra Leone, Ministry of Agriculture - Chad, Ministry of Food and Agriculture - Ghana		

Proposed Development Objective

To increase preparedness against food insecurity and improve the resilience of food systems in participating countries.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	315.00

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

No

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

Over the last decade, the combined impact of multiple drivers and shocks has led to a worrying increase in food and nutrition insecurity across West Africa. After decades of progress, both the number and the share of undernourished people climbed from 36.9 million (13.8% of the West African population) in 2005 to 59.4 million people (15.2%) in 2019. This significant rise stems from growing food demand, stagnant crop yields, accelerating climate change,



growing insecurity and more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. The latter has added further strain on the region's food system through government-imposed curfews, lockdowns, and border closures, causing food supply chain disruptions, food price increases, and income losses.

Climate variability is a key force affecting West Africa's agriculture sector and the region's food security and is expected to significantly increase under climate change. Recent study shows that climate conditions account for approximately 40% of the variation in cropland productivity over West Africa between 2001 and 2018 (Mechiche-Alami and Abdi, 2020). In the medium term, regional climate models consistently predict both fewer days of rainfall and shorter wet spells over 70 percent of the region's land area coupled with higher precipitation intensity on wet days (Dosio et al. 2019). In the absence of adaptation, climate models anticipate median yield decreases of 20 percent for irrigated rice, 14 percent for sorghum, and between 5 and 7 percent for maize, soybeans, and groundnut by 2050 (Jalloh et al. 2013).

Responding to the Kigali call for action, the West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP) has been proposed to increase preparedness against food insecurity and improve the resilience of food systems in participating countries. To contribute to the Kigali vision, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), and the World Bank have initiated preparations of FSRP, which is scheduled to become effective in early 2022. Led by ECOWAS and financed by the World Bank, this large-scale regional-level investment operation will make simultaneous investments in three interconnected priority intervention areas considered critical for enhancing food security and strengthening overall food system resilience in the near and mid-term. Due to the program's innovative cross-sectoral approach, the sum of FSRP's interventions will be larger than the sum of its parts. In other words, FSRP will allow the region to generate mutually reinforcing food security benefits which could not be achieved through a set of separate sectoral interventions.

FSRP is designed to achieve greater regional impact and food system resilience gains than any number of individual national investments could achieve. Figure 4 summarizes FSRP's anticipated regional benefits. Part of the program's approach is to augment effective operational regional collaboration, which is a prerequisite for any type of information services on transboundary concerns such as extreme climate events or pest and disease outbreaks. To better monitor and forecast these occurrences, neighboring countries must pool resources and jointly provide analytical insights in addition to sharing data and information. Even specific actions confined to a single country will have a regional impact, produce spillover benefits, and require a coordinated response. Climate information can be analyzed and used more efficiently if it flows from global and regional forecasting centers to national and subnational forecast offices, following a cascading process paradigm. A regional collaborative information flow is also essential for tracking meteorological hazards, as West African countries rely either on their own national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs) or cover their national needs through services from a neighboring country or regional institution.

FSRP priority areas translate into three components, including (i) C1: Digital Advisory Services for Agriculture and Food Crisis Prevention and Management; (ii) C2: Sustainability and Adaptive Capacity of the Food System's Productive Base; and (iii) C3: Regional Food Market Integration and Trade. Component 1 will be led by CILSS AGHRYMET, Component 2 by CORAF while Component 3 and overall program coordination will be under the leadership of ECOWAS.



Component 1 is designed to: (i) enhance decision support systems with demand-driven information services in order to increase the effectiveness of agriculture and food crises prevention and management, integrating data and leveraging cutting-edge science, innovation, and technologies; and (ii) strengthen regional capacity and institutional sustainability, as well as capacity to adapt to climate change. Expected outcomes are: (i) upgraded regional food crisis prevention and management systems leveraging stronger regional operational capacity of agro-hydro-meteorological services and impact-based early warning systems; and (ii) food system stakeholders accessing and using agro-hydro-meteorological information services in their decision-making.

The objective of Component 2 is to enhance the resilience of the food system's productive base and contribute directly to the Great Green Wall Initiative. Expected outcomes are: (i) strengthened national and regional agricultural research systems; (ii) a strengthened policy environment for landscape governance (multi-sectoral inclusive policies and regulations to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation); and (iii) landscape units (LUs) under integrated management that are able to achieve multiple objectives sustainably (food production, provision of ecosystem services, protection of biodiversity, and improvement of local livelihoods).

The component 3 will serve as a low-carbon climate adaptation mechanism, by balancing food production across intra-regional spatial production volatility driven by climate change and increasing the pace of response to these climate-induced food shortages. The component expected outcomes are: (i) increased intra-regional food trade between surplus and deficit areas; and (ii) increased value creation in regional priority value chains. ECOWAS will ensure overall coordination of this component.

Adopting a multiphase programmatic approach (MPA), FSRP will be rolled out across different phases, reflecting borrower needs and differing levels of readiness. Coverage extending to a critical mass of countries in the region is essential for the viability of regional food system mechanisms such as the food crisis early warning system, pest and disease monitoring across borders (locusts, for example), ECOWAS regulation for intra- and extra-regional trade, and efficient management of the Regional Food Security Reserve. Phase I (scheduled to enter effectiveness in early 2022) includes the three regional organizations ECOWAS, CILSS and CORAF as well as three Sahelian countries with high prevalence of food insecurity in transboundary areas (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger) and one coastal country (Togo) which is emerging as a trade hub in West Africa. In Phase II, two additional countries with high prevalence of food insecurity (Chad and Sierra Leone) will join the program as well as another trade hub in the region (Ghana).

#### **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

FSRP2 includes Chad, Ghana and Sierra Leone. The project area in Chad covers all 3 agro-ecological zones (Sahelian, Saharan, Sudanian) characterized by different climatic and agricultural conditions, largely influenced by rainfall that varies from north to south (00-200 mm/yr). The intervention areas correspond to the boundaries of the administrative provinces (Kanem, Bahr Ghazal, Batha, Borkou, Ennedi Est, Ennedi Ouest, Tibesti and Wadi Fira for Components 1, 2 and provinces of Sila, Ouaddaï, Hadjer-Lamis, Chari Baguirmi, Lac, Mayo Kebbi Ouest, Logone Oriental for agricultural value chains). These areas have a high agricultural potential but is at high risk of food and nutritional security and rural poverty. They were chosen on the basis of (i) sensitivity to locust invasion, the potential of the value chains identified; (ii) complementarity with other interventions by the government, the World Bank and



other partners; (iii) the extension of the Climate Resilience Agriculture and Productivity Enhancement Project (ProPAD) to other provinces of the country, and (iv) locust control and also the development of targeted value chains. Project areas are known to have conflict between producers and between pastoralists and farmers, including in cross-border conflict issues in transhumance corridors between Chad, Central African Republic (CAR) and Sudan. These areas also host refugees and returnees who are displaced by conflict.

Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries (182 of 189 countries in 2019). The agricultural sector contributes 60% of GDP (2020) and 28% of exports, however, food insecurity remains a challenge and is worsening. The country has abundant rainfall (2500–5000mm/yr), and the land is suitable for the cultivation of a wide range of crops (i.e. rice, cassava, maize, millet, fruits, and vegetables). Agricultural productivity remains low and the country is vulnerable to climate change which will exacerbate food insecurity and jeopardize economic gains. The project will be implemented in all districts of the country. Specific districts are targeted to specific value chains. Seventy percent of the workforce is employed in subsistence agriculture. There is a dual land tenure system (customary system under traditional authorities and private land ownership). Access to basic services is limited especially for rural communities and women. Gender disparity in agriculture is large, which hinders women from participating in and benefiting from agricultural development.

Ghana has been among the fastest growing economies in Africa and has made gains in poverty reduction. Climate change is adversely affecting Ghana, lowering agricultural production. Increasing mean annual temperatures of 1.4–4.2°C and decreasing rainfall, particularly in Northern Ghana have led to serious climate change impacts such as increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events leading to droughts and floods, and worsening environmental, social and economic vulnerability. These climatic changes result in yield and increased pestilence. About 70% of water resources are in a transboundary river basin (the Volta) which depends on amount of rainfall and discharge from neighboring countries, making Ghana, located on the downstream of the Volta, highly vulnerable to floods. The proposed project will operate in the Lower Volta (Adaklu, Asusuturo and Akuse) in Greater Accra; White/Red Volta (Upper East and Northern Ghana); and Middle Belt or forest transition area. There is a high incidence of gender inequality in Ghana's agricultural value chains, although women contribute around 70% of agricultural production, marketing and processing, there are several inequalities regarding land possession, access to improved seedlings, other modern inputs, training and education, and extension services, and livestock, etc.

A Gender Action Plan will be developed for each country to address gender disparity in the sector, monitored and budgeted.

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

The Borrower's institutional capacity for each of the three countries (Chad, Sierra Leone and Ghana) to implement the program under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is considered weak, given the expanded scope of the ESF. Some of the countries have relatively mature environmental ministries and environmental agencies, sufficient staffing and an adequate regulatory framework, while other countries' institutions are relatively young, understaffed and with weak legal frameworks. Most of the borrowers have implemented previous World Bank-funded projects but under the safeguards policies. Capacity building is required to enable environmental and agencies to play their role more fully which are: (i) the review and approval of environmental and social studies, (ii) the monitoring of the implementation of ESMPs and RAPs; (iii) the evaluation of such studies. In addition,



where possible this project will build upon any residual institutional capability for project management and in particular regarding the ESF. Capacity assessment/ building activities will be recommended in the ESMF and the RPF of each country, targeting the parties involved in project’s implementation, will be included in the overall capacity building activities of each country’s project activities, annual workplans and budgets. Capacity building efforts for the three regional institutions (Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS; Permanent Inter-State Committee against Drought in the Sahel- CILSS; and West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development- CORAF are in the ESMF and ESCP of these institutions under phase 1. The components and activities have not changed for their involvement in phase 2.

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

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

Substantial

#### Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

The environmental risk rating of FRSP phase 2 is classified as substantial. This classification considers the potential risks and impacts of proposed interventions, the nature of the program, and the environmental sensitivity of potential program areas. Proposed program activities, mainly those related to livelihood activities, value chain development for high value agriculture and the infrastructure investments in small-scale irrigation, intensification of rice cultivation, installation of agro-climatic infrastructure, establishment of fodder banks and production of silage, re-forestation; and promotion of community woodlots. Potential environmental risks could include soil degradation, surface and ground water contamination, waste generation (including domestic and hazardous), destruction of vegetation and habitats, pesticide poisoning, noise and dust production, vibration, animal attacks and other occupational and community health and safety issues etc. Some impacts will be limited and localized. However, the risks of surface water contamination which could arise from misuse of agrochemicals and leakages of petroleum and hazardous materials from construction related activities could be carried through downstream fringe communities. These risks could be mitigated through proper screening of subproject sites once the sites are identified and preparation and implementation of relevant environmental and social risks and impacts management instruments.

#### Social Risk Rating

Substantial

Social risk for FSPR2 is rated Substantial at concept. Key social risks include: economic and/or physical displacement which may arise from activities involving the construction/rehabilitation works and expansion of agricultural farms; disturbances to culturally/historically important sites (i.e. graveyards and shrines); social exclusion and lack of access to vulnerable groups (i.e. women, persons with disabilities, pastoralists, etc.) of project benefits and elite capture; displacement of small farmers and traditional herding communities; Herder-farmers conflict; child and forced labor; community health and safety (including the spread of communicable diseases such as COVID-19 and STDs/STIs; SEA/SH risks due to labor influx and other project workers in project areas. In addition, improved value chain may be accompanied with unhealthy competition leading to the crowding out of small farmers most of whom are women as big players may involve in price fixing to gain a larger share of the market. This will be addressed through the provision of incentives to ensure their improved production techniques and retention. The risk for the project to generate and exacerbate GBV is moderate (Ghana and Sierra Leone) to substantial (in Chad) based on the proposed activities. In addition, the capacity of each of the three country PIUs and three regional PIUs is considered weak as they have limited experience and facility with implementing projects under the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework.

Public Disclosure



## 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:**

The activities to be financed by the program are expected to have limited environmental and social impacts. Most of them are small-scale and intended to improve social cohesion and inclusion as well as support sustainable livelihoods in targeted areas. However, these activities may generate environmental and social risks related to irrigation, watershed management, water and sanitation infrastructure, value-chain development, labor risks (child and forced labor), physical and/or economic displacement, conflict, damage to personal property, labor influx risk including community health and safety in the form of potential SEA/SH and transmission of communicable diseases (such as COVID-19 and STDs/STIs).

As the scope and exact sites of the infrastructure works and livelihood activities are not yet defined (except for Ghana which has some sites known in irrigation areas for which a PPA is fund the preparation of ESIA/RAPs), a framework approach will be adopted to provide guidance on the preparation of the various instruments. This includes the preparation by each country of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that will guide the preparation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments/ Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESIAs/ESMPs) for the subprojects. These will be prepared, reviewed and disclosed in all three countries and on the World Bank websites prior to appraisal.

In Ghana, the project proposes to continue and complete the rehabilitation of the Kpong Irrigation Scheme (KIS) which was started by the recently closed Ghana Commercial Agriculture Project (GCAP). The KIS is a gravity irrigation scheme which is supplied by the Kpong dam – a dual-purpose dam for electricity generation and irrigation. The Kpong dam has a satisfactory safety program in place including international panel of dam safety experts who regularly assess its safety performance. The project will rely on the recent dam safety report to satisfy the requirements of a dam safety assessment (DSA) as described in paragraph 10 of Annex 1 (ESS4). There are other gravity irrigation schemes which are proposed for rehabilitation at various project areas. However, the dimensions of their water reservoirs are not known at this stage. The project proposes to first conduct feasibility studies to establish the dimensions of these reservoirs/dams and following the approval of the design for the irrigation schemes, and related ESIA/ESMPs to be developed, if needed, a Dam Safety Assessment (DSA) will be undertaken during implementation before the start of project activities.

Component 4 focuses on a contingency emergency response component (CERC). The request for the activation of the CERC shall come from the Borrower with a prior non-objection from the Association. In the event of a crisis leading to the activation of the CERC, the Borrower shall prepare the necessary instruments and measures before undertaking emergency response activities, in order to ensure compliance with the Project's E&S requirements. An Addendum CERC-ESMF will be prepared to cover CERC-related measures (including a screening mechanism).

Citizen engagement, grievance mechanisms are embedded in the project design and reflected in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). To address gender gaps and enhance social inclusion in this regional program, specific gender



actions are embedded in all project components and sub-components. A detailed Gender Action Plan (GAP) will be developed which identifies the concrete gender actions that will be implemented, monitored and budgeted for in each country and each institution's activity plans. Countries in West Africa are progressively narrowing gender gaps for women farmers in areas such as food insecurity and the uptake of improved agricultural practices and poverty rates, but progress is still limited and other areas show persistent gaps, in particular in the ownership of land and equipment, access to labor, quality inputs, finance and markets. The planned actions of the project aim to consolidate and further the progress made and address the barriers preventing women farmers' contributions to sustainable livelihoods and the quality of nutrition in their communities.

These ESMFs will incorporate the general and sector-specific environmental, health and safety guidelines (EHSGs), labor management procedures, SEA/SH mitigation, security management as well as proposed alternatives to direct supervision that will be required in case of restricted access to the project areas. The ESMPs will clearly define mitigation and management measures, including roles and responsibilities, schedule, costs, implementation procedures and incident reporting that are specific to each subproject.

In addition to ESMFs, Integrated Pest Management Plans (IPMPs) will be prepared to provide a detailed review of common pests which may be relevant to the program, a review of applicable pest management options and finally a management plan presenting recommendations on pest management under the project.

For the regional institutions (the Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS, the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel - CILSS), the West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development - CORAF), ESMFs that have been prepared and disclosed under the first phase of this Program and validated by the Bank. These remain valid for this second phase as the institutional arrangements and components and activities remain unchanged.

During preparation, a SEA/SH risk assessment will be undertaken and key mitigation measures will be incorporated into the project design and reflected in the ESIA/ESMPs. In Chad, security risk screening will be also completed and incorporated into the ESMP and will be used to inform project design and implementation support.

#### **Areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered:**

It is not expected that the Borrowers' Environmental and Social Framework will be used in each of the three countries of this Program given the regional nature and scale of the program activities, but relevant national laws and regulations will be reflected in the various instruments prepared.

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

ESS10 is relevant to this project. There are multiple levels of key stakeholders at the regional, national, district and community levels. The project brings together a range of different professionals and local stakeholders, including pastoralist/farmer associations who will need to continue to talk to each other to harmonize their expertise, concerns and perspectives into project design and throughout implementation. Also, the entire agricultural value-chain involves a complex network of actors with varying and sometimes opposing interests, which need to be efficiently managed, especially to mitigate conflict and exclusion.





In each country, the Borrowers will prepare and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportional to the nature and scale of the project activities and associated risks and impacts. SEPs for the three regional institutions have been previously prepared and disclosed during the first phase. The SEPs will identify various stakeholders and their interest and provide a comprehensive plan for ensuring engagement including feedback. The SEPs will be completed and disclosed prior to appraisal. As part of each SEP, a functional and comprehensive Grievance Mechanism (GM) will be designed to provide a framework for project-accessible to the different stakeholders and affected parties. Women will be consulted in a specific and safe way (during women-only focus groups facilitated by a woman) and the project will develop an Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)/Sexual Harassment (SH)- sensitive GM with multiple entry points, with an accountability framework that includes referrals for survivors to GBV services, an awareness raising strategy, among others.

## **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 will involve direct and indirect workers. Direct workers include both full and part-time workers assigned to the PIUs and consultants hired based on project needs. PIU staff, primary supply workers and, potentially, contract workers and civil servants. Civil servants working with the project full-time or part-time will remain subject to the terms and conditions governing their existing public sector terms of employment or agreements, unless there has been a valid legal transfer of their employment or engagement to the project. The indirect workers include the contractors and sub-contractors hired for the anticipated civil works. Community workers may be included but this remains to be confirmed. The terms and conditions of the contracts for any workers involved will be consistent with national labor law to ensure that working conditions are acceptable (terms and conditions of employment, nondiscrimination and equality of opportunity, workers' organizations). All Borrowers shall ensure that the requirements of ESS2 are incorporated into: (a) contracts between the Beneficiary and the Contractor and any entity (including the Project Owner's Engineer) supervising the engineering works civilian of the Project; and (b) contracts between the Contractor and the Contractor's subcontractors. Contractual obligations related to SEA/SH mitigation will be enforced through the inclusion of specific provisions in codes of conduct addressing SEA/SH and worker training.

Based on the project design and pre-identified activities, Labor Management Procedures (LMP) will be developed by each Borrower and include: working conditions, grievance mechanism for all workers and laborers within the supply chains, non-discrimination and equal opportunity, worker's organizations, working conditions for community workers, occupational, health and safety measures required, and the inclusion of and enforcement measures for Code of Conducts (CoCs) forbidding and sanctioning GBV/SEA/SH, training for workers and awareness raising for communities on the CoCs, as well as the prohibition of child and forced labor.

Given experience in the agricultural sector in the West African context, there is a potential risk of child and forced labor being used in community employment for the restoration of watersheds and floodplains and irrigation development.



The LMP will be implemented by the PIUs in each country and by the PIUs of the three regional institutions, with the support of the Bank's specialists and informed by the provisions of relevant national laws, as applicable for the various countries.

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

The project will finance activities to support livelihood activities, watershed management, irrigation, value chain development, etc. These activities are not expected to generate substantial pollution to air, water or land. The project will promote soil and water conservation and sustainable use of water and energy that are likely to have positive impacts on ecosystem services. Some of the proposed livelihood and value chain development activities may require the use of agrochemicals (e.g. pesticides and fertilizers). To this end, each country will prepare an integrated pest management plan which purpose is to provide key guidance on pesticide use to project beneficiaries. The Integrated Pest Management Plans (IPMPs) will provide a detailed review of common pests which may be relevant to the program, a review of applicable pest management options and finally a management plan presenting recommendations on pest management under the project. The IPMPs will be completed and disclosed prior to appraisal.

During construction of community based irrigation, water supply and sanitation infrastructure, some activities may generate limited pollution to air, water or land and consume scarce resources. The Borrower will put in place the necessary measures to promote the sustainable use of resources (e.g. energy, water and raw materials) and to minimize pollution from project activities. The construction works may present a short-term nuisance for the neighbors in some of the project sites. The ESMPs/ESMFs will include mitigation measures to minimize and manage the noise levels. For example, applying standard restrictions on hours for site work or the use of lights. Construction/rehabilitation activities will generate solid waste which will primarily include excavated soil and solid waste. The waste generated by the construction/rehabilitation works will be disposed of at approved sites, according to national laws and regulations. In Ghana, following the design to be undertaken for irrigation schemes, and related ESIA/ESMPs to be developed, if needed, a Dam Safety Assessment (DSA) will be undertaken during implementation and before the start of project activities.

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

Community health and safety risks are expected during civil works and during training or other meeting such as transmission of communicable diseases (such as COVID-19). Each country ESMF/ESMP will include how project activities will be carried out in a safe manner with low incidences of accidents/incidents and COVID-19 transmission mitigation measures. Road traffic movements and concomitant road safety risks due to movement of construction vehicles and food transportation for regional trade will be further assessed as part of site-specific ESMPs. The Borrower will be required to prepare and implement community health and safety mitigation measures at sub-project levels and for all contractors and suppliers. The mitigation measures, including the enforcement of the Code of Conduct (CoC), will be clearly stipulated in the contractor's ESMP (C-ESMP) based on the project's ESMP, for which the contractor will be fully responsible to implement. A site-specific SEA/SH risk assessment will be carried out and, where necessary, mitigation measures will be included in an action plan (the ESMP). A Code of Conduct, including measures against SEA/SH for ensuring community health and safety, will be prepared, and included in all bidding documents. The project's GM will be designed with sensitivity to a survivor-centric referral pathway to safely and



ethically register complaints and address and document complaints and allegations (including those involving SEA/SH) during the project implementation. The ESMPs will include measures to address SEA/SH, road security and conflict risks.

In Ghana, DSA will be conducted depending on the results of the irrigation schemes design and ESIA/ESMPs to be developed.

In Chad, the instability in the country presents risks for the implementation of project activities. In the west, continued violence by Boko Haram has increased insecurity along Chad's borders with Nigeria and Cameroon, and recently the presence of rebels has been reported in this area, exacerbating an already fragile security situation on the borders with Libya, the Central African Republic, and to a lesser extent, Sudan. In addition, tens of thousands of refugees have fled fighting in neighboring Central African Republic to settle in the southern part of the country. In addition, inter-community conflicts persist between different livelihood groups (pastoralists and farmers). The nature of the insecurity in some parts of the country is reflected in the insurgencies of armed groups over the years, violent crimes such as armed robbery, kidnapping for ransom, etc. These attacks have been reported in the southern part of the country (in potential project areas). Inter-community conflicts relate to the scarcity of natural resources such as water, vegetation cover, and land use. In addition, the intensity of these conflicts varies from province to province. As such, security risk assessment and management will be critical to the achievement of project development results. This may take the form of either (i) a separate safety risk assessment (SRA); or (ii) a detailed chapter on safety risks under other ESF instruments. This assessment will then form the basis of a Safety Management Plan (SMP). The SMP will describe how and by whom security will be managed and provided, the resources needed, and the expected behavior of security personnel if the armed forces, police, or gendarmerie are involved in project-related activities. Second, the project will maximize flexibility in design and implementation, including the selection of intervention areas and types of investments in correlation with levels of insecurity and potential negative impacts to the project. Third, the project will also use geospatial data and other information and communication technology (ICT) tools for supervision, monitoring, and evaluation, which will help ensure successful project implementation. However, it is likely that, despite mitigation measures, security risks will remain residual. As such, the SMP will stipulate clear emergency procedures for PIU staff to follow in the event of incidents.

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

Activities related to the restoration of landscapes through protecting watersheds and flood plains, water mobilization, better water retention in soils, the use of vegetation as windbreaks, irrigation development, improved agriculture services and farmers' access to credit and markets will be part of the project and could lead to the physical and/or economic displacement of people.

Given the insecurity in some areas, the mitigation hierarchy will be applied and avoiding involuntary resettlement will be the preferred option. If this cannot be avoided, measures to minimize involuntary resettlement will include livelihood improvement plans for people affected by economic displacement. Since the type and exact location of these activities are not yet known, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared by each Borrower during preparation if needed depending on proposed project activities, to provide guidance on the preparation of site-specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) during project implementation, in accordance with agreed schedule



defined in the ESMF and the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). The RPF will be reviewed, consulted upon and disclosed in the countries and on the World Bank website prior to project appraisal.

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

The application of this ESS seeks to ensure that all precautions are taken to protect biodiversity, as some activities could involve primary production and/or the harvesting of living natural resources. Among the activities supported by the project that could affect biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources are the development of targeted value chains, namely maize, vegetables (onions and tomatoes), cassava, rice and plantain. The same goes for activities related to the restoration of landscapes through watersheds and flood plains, water mobilization, better water retention in soils, use of vegetation as windbreaks, and irrigation development. Based on that, necessary measures need to be taken to prevent any potential environmental risks, and impacts, on natural resources. To promote the sustainable management of natural resources, the ESMF will provide guidance on risk assessment, the mitigation hierarchy and precautionary principles in the design and implementation of such activities. Thereafter, ESIA's prepared during the implementation phase will provide mitigation measures to ensure that project activities do not alter or cause the destruction of any natural habitats.

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

The relevance of this standard will be assessed during implementation. If found relevant, the required instruments shall be prepared, consulted upon, disclosed, and adopted prior to the commencement of Project activities.

#### **ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

The countries included in the project have rich and diverse cultural heritage. The environmental and social assessment will confirm the existence of tangible or intangible cultural heritage in project areas. If there is any cultural heritage present that could be affected by the project in a country, the Borrower will design mitigation measures, in consultation with the relevant national authorities and experts, to protect it. For activities related to construction as well as the restoration of landscapes, water mobilization, better water retention in soils, use of vegetation as windbreaks, and irrigation development, once the areas for construction are identified, the ESIA will include a section on cultural heritage to ensure that there is no pre-existing or known cultural heritage sites that could be affected by the project. In accordance with ESS10, the Borrower will identify stakeholders relevant to the cultural heritage already known to exist or likely to be encountered during the project lifecycle, and carry out meaningful consultations, with national heritage institutions and local communities. When such impacts are unavoidable, adequate mitigation measures will be outlined in the environmental and social assessment instruments. Where appropriate, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be prepared and consulted upon with stakeholders.

#### **ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

This project does not include financial intermediaries and is therefore not relevant.



**C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

<b>OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways</b>	Yes
<b>OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas</b>	No

**III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE**

**A. Is a common approach being considered?** No

**Financing Partners**

N/A

**B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower’s commitments)**

**Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:**

For each of the three countries to be prepared before Appraisal:

- Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Grievance Mechanism (GM)
- Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) with SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan (based on the GBV risk assessment conducted by the World Bank for each country)
- Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)
- Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP)
- Labor Management Procedures (LMP)
- Security risk assessment in the ESMF for Chad

**Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):**

- Implementation of SEP and LMP
- Monitoring measures in remote and/or conflict-affected areas
- Development and implementation of Institutional Capacity Strengthening Plan
- Implementation of the GM
- Site Specific ESMP under ESMF for public works
- Preparation of ESIA and ESMPs for subprojects as required (per country)
- Updates for Security Management Plan (for Chad) as required
- Implementation of IPMPs
- SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan (and mapping of services) will be prepared prior to project activities and implemented throughout project lifecycle as part of the ESMF, ESIA/ESMP
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan, if needed
- Dam Safety Assessment (for Ghana), if needed, following technical assessments of irrigation schemes

Public Disclosure



**C. Timing**

**Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS**

25-Mar-2022

**IV. CONTACT POINTS**

**World Bank**

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**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

- Borrower: Republic of Ghana
- Borrower: Republic of Chad
- Borrower: Republic of Sierra Leone

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

- Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture - Sierra Leone
- Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture - Chad
- Implementing Agency: Ministry of Food and Agriculture - Ghana

**V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

Public Disclosure



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## VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Makoto Suwa, Sheu Salau, Amadou Ba, Kadir Osman Gyasi, Katie Kennedy Freeman
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Aly Zulficar Rahim Recommended on 02-Mar-2022 at 09:12:57 GMT-05:00
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Nathalie S. Munzberg (SAESSA) Cleared on 10-May-2022 at 09:41:34 GMT-04:00