

**SUDAN EMERGENCY LOCUST RESPONSE AND FOOD SECURITY  
PROJECT (SD-ELRP)**

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)**

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## Abbreviation and Acronym

AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DG	Director General
DL-STF	Desert Locust State Task Forces
E & S	Environmental and Social
ELRP	Emergency Locust Response and Food Security Project
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCV	Fragile, Conflict and Violent
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IP	Implementing Partner
MAAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NTPP	Non-timber Forest Product
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
SIU	State Implementation Unit
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RoS	Republic of Sudan
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
TPM	Third-party monitor
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VLD	Voluntary land donation
WFP	UN -World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 Country Overview**

The Republic of Sudan (RoS) is in North Eastern Africa. The state is bordered by Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Central African, Chad and Libya, with an estimated total surface area of 1.882 million km<sup>2</sup>. Sudan has an estimated (August 2021) population of 44.93 million. About 30% of the population lives in urban areas and 63% in rural areas. The remaining 7% of the population lives according to a nomadic lifestyle. Most of the population depends on the state's natural resources for their livelihoods. It is estimated that agriculture (e.g., crops, livestock and forestry) contributes for 35-40% of the gross domestic product (with livestock accounting for 50% of the production) and employs more than 80% of the total population. Traditional farming accounts for 60-70% of the agricultural output and is largely subsistence production based on shifting cultivation and livestock-rearing. The population is a combination of indigenous Nilo-Saharan speaking Africans and descendants of migrants from the Arabian Peninsula. The main ethnic groups are Sudanese Arabs (70%), versus other Sudanese Non-Arab (30%). Official language is Arabic. English is widely used together with several local dialects in northern Sudan, South Kordofan, Kassala, Darfur and Red Sea states. The distribution of the population of Sudan is concentrated along the river Nile and its tributaries and around agricultural and forest areas.

### **1.2 Desert Locust Outbreak and Context in Sudan**

Food security in Sudan is further being threatened by the DL upsurge in the region. Sudan is home to both summer and winter DL breeding grounds, and, when climatic conditions stimulate excess population growth and swarming, locust swarms devastate crops and pasture. This persistent threat of DL compounds an already vulnerable food security situation in the country, and demands policies and actions to prevent, and, when necessary, respond to DL emergencies. Sudan's vulnerability to DL has gotten worse, and the ongoing DL upsurge that started in May 2018 on the Arabian Peninsula illustrates the role that climate change is already playing in shocks to agriculture and livestock systems, as well as to food security. The DL situation in Sudan has worsened significantly since the end of 2019, largely due to breeding along Sudan's Red Sea coast as well as swarms invading from neighbouring countries. Despite control efforts of invading locust swarms from neighbouring countries during January 2021, escaped locusts laid eggs in Tokar Delta and on the coastal plains in Sudan's Red Sea State. As a result, hatching and hopper bands formation started at the end of January, and immature adult groups and swarms started to form in early March, threatening crops and pasture areas in the Red Sea and River Nile, Northern, Kassala and North Kordofan States. By late March 2021, a new round of

breeding in Ethiopia and Somalia signified the potential of a further increase in locust numbers in the Horn of Africa, including Sudan. The Sudan Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster co- led by FAO and World Food Program (WFP) reported that hopper bands and swarms of locusts in 16,781 hectares of Sudan were observed, mainly in the northeast. Therefore, the DL situation in Sudan is currently at “caution risk level” especially with the beginning of the rainy season and the start of the main cropping season, May through November. The current weather conditions are ripe for the growth and spread of DL as predicted by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center (ICPAC), Rainfall and Temperature forecast for 27 July – 03 August (26 July 2021) where heavy to very heavy rainfall (100 to 200+ mm) is expected in northern Ethiopia, western Eritrea, as well as parts of western Darfur, Sennar, and Gedarif in Sudan, which would exacerbate the already fragile food security situation in these areas as upsurge of DL swarms is highly correlated with unusually heavy rains.

The Government of Sudan has taken commendable measures to address the DL upsurge; however, more remains to be done to mitigate the impacts of potential DL invasions from the East and Southeast, as well as maintain the gains achieved so far. The Plant Protection Department (PPD) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) has worked closely with the FAO to combat the threat of DL invasions through a program of field surveys and control operations. Over 1,632,000 hectares were surveyed in 2020 and approximately 112 mature/immature swarms were destroyed through aerial and ground control operations.

Most importantly, a number of eastern states, currently vulnerable to invading swarms due to high rainfall and cross-border migration from neighbouring countries, need immediate support and the GoS has made this a high priority. Critical areas of support include, inter alia, technical assistance and investments for surveillance and control operations, and actions to mitigate health risks due to the use of pesticides for control interventions.

Combating the threat of DL upsurge and addressing the high level of food insecurity requires anticipatory investments for the vulnerable populations in the path of possible DL invasions. Lessons from earlier phases of the MPA and from the locust outbreak in West Africa in 2003-2005 have demonstrated the exponential nature of growth of locust swarms and the corresponding escalation in the cost of responding to these outbreaks. With the Eastern and Southern states already dealing with high levels of food insecurity, it is important to shore up food security and resilience in these areas as a pre-emptive measure to stave off the impacts of potential DL invasions from localities where swarms are not under control. This entails support to improve and increase the resilience of: (i) the supply side of food security, that is, food

production for both consumption and commercialization in a climate-stressed environment; and (ii) the demand side of food security, i.e., increase in the purchasing power of vulnerable populations, including landless groups such as IDPs, refugees, returnees and host communities.

The proposed Project is designed to assist vulnerable populations in areas: (i) currently impacted by or under threat of DL outbreak; (ii) of high levels of food insecurity; and (iii) where there is a presence of ongoing operations with sound implementation arrangements that can scaled up in an emergency context. Due to the emergency nature of the Project that necessitates rapid implementation of activities, as well as the limited capacity of the MoAF, the Project will piggyback on the ongoing operations of several UN agencies that have considerable presence on the ground through the implementation of a broad range of activities to address the DL and food insecurity issues in Sudan, most of which are largely complementary and synergistic to those envisaged under the proposed project. These include the FAO, IFAD and WFP. Partnering with these UN agencies will allow the Project to leverage their existing in-country capacity, technical expertise and institutional structures, as well as prevailing relationships with various stakeholders.

### **1.3 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

Stakeholder engagement refers to a broad, inclusive, and continuous process to engage persons or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by a project, as well as those who may have interests in a project and/or the ability to influence its outcome, either positively or negatively. Public participation is a similar, though not interchangeable concept. It is generally defined as a process in which an organization directly engages with the public in problem-solving or decision making and that fully considers the public input to make decisions. Stakeholder engagement and public participation share a common goal to involve the stakeholders and/or the public in decision-making processes related to a proposed project. However, public participation is often perceived as a mandatory but low value action, stakeholder engagement refers to a broader and more participatory process that seeks to address a range of activities and interactions over the life of a project (EPA, 2016).

#### **1.4 Rational of the SEP**

Consultations with stakeholders have to be communicative and be based on stakeholder mapping and investigation, plans on how to engage stakeholders, disclosure of information, actual consultations, as well as responses to stakeholder grievances and reporting back to stakeholders. Communicative stakeholder engagement throughout the project cycle is an essential aspect of good project management and provides opportunities for Borrowers to learn from the experience, knowledge, and concerns of the affected and interested stakeholders, and to manage their expectations by clarifying the extent of the Borrower's responsibilities and resources. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is designed to anchor all stakeholder engagement in a systematic way for the Sudan Emergency Locust Response and Food Security Project (ELRP). Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is intended to be a formal strategy to communicate with project stakeholders in the targeted states in Sudan to achieve their support for the project. It specifies the frequency and type of communications, media, contact persons, and locations of communication events. It also arranges legal and policy requirements in regard to stakeholder engagements, lists engagements already undertaken, identifies and analyses stakeholders of all relevant project-affected parties to the ELRP project and sets up means of dissemination of information to different parties, as well as means and ways to continue to consult different stakeholder groups throughout the project cycle. Furthermore, it contains a monitoring plan that ensures the implementation of the SEP.

#### **1.5 Objectives and guiding principle of the SEP**

The general objective of this SEP is to setup a plan of action for stakeholder engagement throughout the ELRP project life cycle, comprising through confirming technically and culturally appropriate approaches for community consultation and information disclosure. The involvement of different stakeholders, including project-affected local communities and other interested parties, in the consultation and engagement process, is essential to the success of the project in order to ensure smooth collaboration between project staff and local communities and other interested parties. Communicative, inclusive and effective stakeholder engagement will assist in avoiding, minimizing and mitigating environmental and social impacts and risks related to the proposed project activities. The SEP is designed to consider the main characteristics and interests of the stakeholders and the different levels of engagement and consultation that is appropriate for different stakeholders.

This SEP is based on the guiding principles that stakeholder engagement should:

- Identify all stakeholders without discrimination whether have positive or negative interest

in project

- Focus on stakeholders who have the most power to help or hinder your goal. This narrows the field down to help the project focus engagement on the stakeholders who are most important.
- Be very clear about what you want from each stakeholder
- Connect stakeholders' interests to project goals
- Increase the goal's priority of the project in the mind of positive stakeholders and lessen it with negative stakeholders.
- Trigger provision of resources and other modifications, where needed and be properly documented and disclosed by the borrower

## **2. Description of Sudan Emergency Locust Response and Food Security Project**

The proposed project (ELRP) in Sudan of US\$65 million would be part of the IDA-funded Emergency Locust Response Project, a regional Multi-phase Programmatic Approach (MPA) with financing from the national IDA allocation (US\$5 million), the IDA Regional Window (US\$10 million) and the Early Response Facility of the Bank's Crisis Response Window (\$50 million). Previous projects supported by the MPA have been approved in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya and South Sudan. Given the urgency to combat locust swarm and damage with target control campaign and protecting and restoring the livelihoods of affected households that are central to the local economies, it is proposed to follow a condensed procedure.

The developmental objective of the project is to respond to the threat posed by the locust outbreak and protect and restore livelihoods and food security. The project will cover 8 states which were selected based on (i) presence or future threats of desert locust, (ii) where food insecurity is high and (iii) where there are already existing initiatives than can be scaled up to be on the ground as quickly as possible.

### **2.1 Project Components**

As a phase of the MPA, the project would consist of three components:

**Component 1: Desert Locust Surveillance, Control and Preparedness.** This component is designed to limit the growth and spread (driven by climate change and climate patterns) of existing outbreak or likely DL invasions while mitigating the risks associated with the control measures and their impacts on human health and the environment. It will scale up the ongoing activities of the Plant Protection Department (PPD) of the MoAF which oversees locust response and will focus primarily on the urgent, prioritized needs to support locust survey and control operations and promote national preparedness. The component will strengthen the technical capacity of the PPD and the sustainability of the survey and control operations using biopesticides with low carbon footprint. The PPD is currently being supported with technical assistance from the FAO which is expected to be contracted for implementation of this component.

**Sub-component 1.1: Improve Desert Locust Surveillance and Control.** Through the provision of equipment, technology, training and operational expenses, this sub-component will enhance the capacity of PPD and other relevant staff at the national, state, and local levels, as well as relevant communities, on locust identification, swarm management techniques, and damage assessment. Towards this, the Project will finance goods and equipment such as

ground transportation for field operations and surveillance drones for hard-to-reach areas. The Project will support control operations through the provision of spraying equipment, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and renting of control planes. The control measures would emphasize neutralizing hopper bands using bio-pesticides before they develop into adult swarms, the control of which requires extensive use of conventional pesticides. The Project component will strengthen the quality of field operations through procurement/rehabilitation of mobile mechanical workshops and service vehicles, including fuel and water tankers, and upgrading of selected field camps. The Project will provide technical support and training to both ground survey and control teams as well as the rural population. The Project will support the scaled-up adoption of surveillance tools, such as Locust3 tablets. To improve implementation of Environmental and Health Standards (EHS) for DL control operations, this sub-component will also focus on the secure handling and storage of pesticides. It will support the construction of a pesticide storage facility, purchase mobile pesticide incinerators, and provide training on EHS.

**Sub-component 1.2: Strengthening National Preparedness and Regional Coordination.** The Project will help establish linkages with regional and international organizations for overall preparedness for transboundary pests. The Project will strengthen resilience by supporting Sudan's activities with relevant regional/international institutions in areas such as early warning system management, climate prediction system or research in biocontrol mechanisms to name a few. As a country participating in the MPA, Sudan will be able to engage with the IGAD information platform on DL, financed under phase 3 of the MPA, for cross-learning among participating states and to ensure that campaigns for the control of DL and other transboundary pests are tackled in accordance with area-wide principles of integrated pest management.

**Component 2: Supporting Food Security and Resilient Livelihoods.** This component will provide support to increase the availability of and access to food through restoring household food production capacity and protecting livestock assets among vulnerable farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and fishing households that are, or likely to be, in the path of DL invasions. It will also provide emergency livelihood support to vulnerable rural populations by financing labour-intensive agricultural public works that would contribute to improving incomes, agricultural productivity and commercialization in the targeted project areas.

**Sub-component 2.1: Support for Increased Agricultural Production.** This sub-component will target both vulnerable households involved in homestead gardening as well as relatively larger smallholders involved in commercial farming. Activities related to homestead gardens will focus on women participation, given that women largely engage in activities that further nutritional outcomes at the household level (through food production, purchase, preparation, child feeding and child-care). The activities under this sub-component will be implemented by

MoAF in all project states, using institutional structures and mechanisms set up with support from the ongoing IFAD-funded SNRLP, except for the Red Sea state. As the Government does not have an IFAD-funded presence in the Red Sea state, the MoAF will enter into an output agreement with FAO for the implementation of this sub-component in the Red Sea state. The FAO is currently active in the Red Sea state where it is already implementing livelihood support activities and has established the relevant systems and structures necessary. This sub-component will be financed as follows:

**Activity 2.1(a): Activities to be implemented by MoAF.** The activities will cover (i) provision of inputs for kitchen gardens and field crops, (ii) provision of improved breeds of (small) livestock, (iii) fishing kits for immediate food access, (iv) revolving agricultural commodity programs and (v) provision of extension services and training. They will be implemented by MOAF in all project states using institutional structures (for example State Implementation Units) and mechanisms set up under the ongoing IFAD-funded SNRLP, except for the Red Sea state.

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

**Sub-component 2.2. Support to Agricultural Infrastructure, Natural Resource Management and Income.** This sub-component will build climate resilience by providing income support, in the form of cash-for-work (CfW) to poor, vulnerable households to meet their urgent food needs and smooth consumption gaps, build/protect their assets or receive training that focuses on creating opportunities and strengthening community resilience, create jobs and improve livelihoods/enhance incomes. Interventions under the sub-component will also contribute to climate mitigation through reduction in food loss and waste in agriculture and food value chains. IDPs, returnees, refugees and host communities, including youth-at-risk, who are primarily landless, as well as women-run households, will particularly benefit under this activity. The sub-component will scale up and build upon the existing, successful CfW program currently being implemented by WFP in Sudan. The MOAF will enter into an output based agreement with WFP for the implementation of this sub-component which will rely on the structures and mechanisms already put in place by the UN agency.

## **2.2 Proposed project Implementation Arrangements**

Because this project is an emergency operation requiring fast preparation and fast implementation, and because of the lack of existing IDA financed projects with the MoAF, the project proposes to rely on existing implementation arrangements using other development partners whenever possible. The MoAF will be the line ministry with overall responsibility for project implementation. A Project Coordination Unit (PCU) will be established within MoAF for the overall coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation of the proposed project. The Project will engage with the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (MoARF) with regard to activities related to livestock and fisheries.

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

The PCU will directly implement sub-component 2.1(a) on supporting livelihood and resilience through increased production in close collaboration with the IFAD-supported projects<sup>[1]</sup>. These projects have strengthened the capacity of state and local authorities as well as communities for community-based, livelihood and resilience programs. The Project will leverage such local capacity for a quick and smooth implementation of the proposed activities under sub-component 2.1(a). The IFAD-financed interventions are being implemented by State Implementation Units (SIUs) which provide services that are complementary to the proposed interventions and reach targeted beneficiaries with similar profiles. The PCU will implement activities under sub-component 2.1(a) through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the MoAF and State authorities whereby the SIUs will be entrusted with the day-to-day implementation of the proposed activities. The Project will finance any increased capacity needs in the SIUs for the implementation of these activities, including operating costs.

The PCU will enter into output agreements with FAO for component 1 (locust response) and

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<sup>1]</sup> These include the Sustainable Natural Resource and Livelihoods Program and the Agriculture and the Integrated Agriculture and Marketing Development Project.

sub-component 2.1(b) (agricultural productivity activities in Red Sea State) and WFP for sub-component 2.2 (labor-intensive public works). These technical partners will carry out the implementation of these activities, including the fiduciary, and environmental and social safeguard aspects. They will report to the PCU.

The Project will build on the current partnership between MoAF and FAO whereby MoAF will enter into an output agreement with the FAO for the implementation of the agreed activities. FAO is the lead international agency globally on agriculture and food security in general, and specifically on the recent upsurge of DL.

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

### **2.3 Review Summary of Stakeholder Engagement Requirements**

The WB's ESS 10 is about the Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure recognizes the importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice. Effective stakeholder engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation. Stakeholder engagement is an inclusive process conducted throughout the project life cycle. Where properly designed and implemented, it supports the development of strong, constructive, and responsive relationships that are important for successful management of a project's environmental and social risks. Stakeholder engagement is most effective when initiated at an early stage of the project development process and is an integral part of early project decisions and the assessment, management, and monitoring of the project's environmental and social risks and impacts. According to the Guidance Note (published June

2018) the ESS10 is intended to: i) establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help Borrowers identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular project affected parties, ii) assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project and to enable stakeholders' views to be taken into account in project design and environmental and social performance, iii) promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life cycle on issues that could potentially affect them, iv) ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible, and appropriate manner and format, and v) provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances, and allow Borrowers to respond to and manage such grievances.

#### **2.4 Government of Sudan Interim Constitution (2005)**

Article 39(1) spells out that all citizens shall have an unrestricted right to freedom, reception, and dissemination of information. This was also supported by the Sudan Access to Information Act chapter 7 of 2015, which designates that every citizen shall have the right of access to information. The Act promotes maximum disclosure of information in the public interest and create operative instruments to secure that right.

#### **2.5 World Food Program Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement**

The WFP'S commitment on stakeholder engagement is described in its the Mission Statement as participatory approaches and in the Commitments to Women. This is further elaborated in various policy documents and guidelines related to WFP's program in relief, rehabilitation, and development. Relevant documents include: the policies, Enabling Development (1999), From Crisis to Recovery (1998), and Partnership with NGOs (1999); and the guidelines—WFP in Emergencies: Framework, Preparedness and Response Strategy (1996). These documents and their application at the field level encourage stakeholder engagement that is inclusion of a wide range of actors. WFP's policy urges the process of stakeholder engagement to be inclusive, actively involves representative community structures, and does not discriminate against marginalized groups and women. The policy encourages the participation of women and other marginalized groups given their priorities, capacities, and problems. The stakeholder engagement policy of the WFP is design based on key guiding principles. One of which is that stakeholder engagement is refer to participatory process that should started from planning strategically & contextually intended to enhance participation at different stages of a program. The policy outlines four elements of participation in all phases of the program cycle: needs

assessments, targeting, activity identification and implementation, and monitoring. Key stages in a participatory process of WFP policy entails 1) information sharing in a one-way flow; 2) consultation in at least a two-way flow of information; 3) collaboration with shared control over decision-making; and 4) empowerment with the transfer of control over decisions and resources. The WFP policy indicates that enhancing participation in emergency operations, moving beyond information sharing. In general, participation in emergencies tends to concentrate on consulting beneficiaries about their needs, priorities, and capacities, rather than entrusting beneficiaries with control over the program. From their experience, participation in emergencies should be introduced in an incremental manner, starting with dialogue and discussion in the initial phases. WFP is part of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Participatory Approaches and works closely with FAO and IFAD. As a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), WFP follows the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) guidelines. Their emphasis on collaboration with local partners reinforces WFP's commitment to listening to affected populations in emergencies, and to working with and through representative structures.

#### **2.6 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

Moreover, the FAO environmental and social management guideline outlines the FAO's commitment and approach to achieve sustainable development and provides guidelines for FAO headquarters and decentralized offices for the management of environmental and social (E&S) risks in its strategies, policies, and field projects. The requirements stipulated in FAO'S guideline includes,

- 1) Commitment to meaningful, effective, and informed participation of stakeholders.
- 2) Consultation with project-affected representative communities and/or groups and civil society representatives.
- 3) "Stakeholder" refers to project-affected communities and national and local authorities, and where appropriate, other stakeholders.
- 4) Stakeholder engagement is required throughout the project cycle.
- 5) Stakeholder engagement is an ongoing process that involves in varying degrees: identification of stakeholders, disclosure, and establishment of a mechanism by which people can make comments on project proposals and performance or raise grievances.
- 6) The need for and nature of any specific consultation is determined based on the stakeholder identification.
- 7) The importance of maintaining and documenting the evidence for stakeholder engagement.

On top this, the FAO Desert Locust Control Guideline notes that the public must be informed about the impacts of pesticide before, during and after locust control operation including the

hiring of a specialized Communication and Information Officer. The guideline states: “It is important to keep the public informed about possible environmental and health effects of insecticides, before, during and after locust control operations. This is to ensure that precautionary measures are taken whenever needed but also to reduce any misunderstandings that may exist about the risks of locust control. It is suggested that a specialized communication and information officer must be assigned to this task, especially if the campaign is expected to be large (FAO, 2003).” As stated in this guideline, detailed stakeholder’s communication strategy/plan is suggested to prepare and put in place during the campaign planning phase. Issues to be addressed by detailed stakeholder’s communication strategy/plan includes:

- 1) Location of treatments, general information on potential risks of pesticides, precautionary measures, re-entry intervals, pre-harvest intervals, etc.
- 2) Appropriate and effective type of communication method to reach the target groups (e.g., radio, television, newspapers, extension service, locust survey/control teams).
- 3) Means of informing the public in case of emergencies (e.g., insecticide spills, human intoxications, etc.).
- 4) Reach all affected villagers in the operation area including medical information sources in case of intoxications. It is also required that vulnerable people, including children, either receive necessary information.

#### **2.7 World Bank Group Environmental and Social Framework**

Accordingly, the relevant Bank’s requirements stipulated in ESS10 are fully consistent with relevant policy and legislation of the borrowers and implementing partners. In circumstance inconsistencies or lack of clarity against the Bank requirements is appeared, the Bank’s requirements remain apply while updating the SEP. The World Bank Environmental and Social Standard 10 (ESS10) requires preparation, disclosure and implementation of a stakeholder engagement plan proportionate to the nature and scale proposed project and its potential risks and impacts.

### **3.Potential social and environmental impacts of the project**

The project will have positive impacts/benefits by controlling the swarm invasion and further damage on livelihood assets of the affected communities and enhance livelihood and resilience in areas where food insecurity is high, and locust may cause further damage through improving agricultural productivity and increasing economic and employment opportunity. Despite the benefit, locust control activities such as pesticide handling, transportation, spraying and disposal may increase the contamination of natural resource & sensitive ecosystem. The locust control measures coupled with the surveillance activities may also increase community & worker exposure to health, safety and security risks. Whereas the environmental and social risk associated with livelihood support activities tend to interact with existing problems and inflame the existing equity and inclusiveness issues, food insecurity, and poverty. Such risk may occur during project targeting, employment, and benefit-sharing.

#### **3.1 Brief Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities**

The project is being processed as an emergency project under OP 10 paragraph 12 and thus there is no dedicated consultation beyond implementing agency, its counterparts, implementing partners (FAO, IFAD, and WFP) and other public authorities, CBO, and local NGO.

To ensure stakeholder engagement early in the project design period the MoAF has made a formal consultation with key project stakeholders as an integral part of the SEP & ESMF development. The primary purposes of this consultation were 1) to inform the stakeholders about the project (objectives, component, geographic areas, and implementation arrangement) and to capture their concern, interest, and opinion 2) to discuss the potential impact of the project and its mitigation 3) to identify information gaps to facilitate the project design and draw ways forward. The discussion mainly focused on targeting the beneficiary states; capturing their feedback on the project (objectives, component, geographic areas, and implementation arrangement); prioritizing the project components among the different options; identifying targeting criteria, identifying potential impact (-) and mitigation measure associated with environment & social aspect; identifying community/groups affected by the project and needing special attention; identifying thematic areas of stakeholders' participation and support for the project including means of consultation and communication they prefer. Prior to the consultation session, more than thirty affected and interested stakeholders were mapped from government institutions, CBOs, and CSO (local and international NGO) who have a presence in the affected local community and targeted states of Red Sea, Kassala, Gadarif, Blue Nile, Sennar, White Nile and River Nile.

The consultation was held on the 2nd of August 2021 at the premises of the MoAF in Khartoum. Over 33 stakeholder's representatives from the Khartoum area and 56 from targeted states respectively attained physically and virtually i.e., zoom video conference. Those stakeholders virtually participated from targeted states include Women groups, Farmers Association, State Food Security Secretariat, production & Economic Resources, Animal Resource Directorate, Agriculture Department, Forests National Corporation, Department of Plant Protection, Zainab Organization for Women Development, Planning and Extension Department, Rain Fed Department, Horticulture Department, Rangeland Department, and Department of Pests Control.

Stakeholders participated from the federal government, and local & international NGO consists of MoAF, (ELRP Project Follow-up team, Public Relations and Admin of WTO), State Ministry of production & Economic Resources, DPP, General Department of Defence, Labour union, Foreign Funded Projects Admin, Ministry of Accreditation and International Cooperation, Framers' association, Agricultural Chamber of Commerce, Business Owners Association, National Research Centre for Food, Medical Secretariat for Food Security, IOM, WFP, UNDP, IFAD, FAO, WB, and other local NGOs. See annex 2 for a list of participants. Concerning the stakeholder feedbacks, interest, concern, and opinion drawn from the consultation are provided in detail in annex 1.

### 3.2 Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

Stakeholder engagement is the interaction with, and influence of project stakeholders to the overall benefit of the project and its advocates. ESS10 recognizes two broad categories of stakeholders: Affected Parties and Other Interested Parties. Depending on the societal context, women, children, youth, and the elderly or other groups is required to be considered as stakeholder groups of vulnerable and disadvantaged. In view of the Sudan-ELRP, for the purposes of effective and tailored engagement, stakeholders of the proposed project can be divided into the following core categories:

- **Affected parties** those individuals, groups, local communities, and other stakeholders who may directly or indirectly be affected by the project, positively and negatively because of the actual impacts or potential risks to their wellbeing (health, safety, and security), livelihoods source (livestock and cultivation), and natural resource (water, grazing land and farmland). Historically, the affected parties have been highly prone to recurrent and overwhelming flooding events due to the lack of resilient infrastructure/system and the livelihood source & settlement of these peoples co-existed

around or close to the river Nile. In circumstances where flooding and locust synergistically pose threat, they may be considered as vulnerable groups/people. Given this, affected parties need to be involved in decision making processes based upon meaningful consultation.

- **Other interested parties** those individuals/groups/entities who may not experience direct impacts from the Project, but they consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the project and/or who could affect its implementation in some way. Examples of other interested stakeholders may include government authorities, local organizations, NGOs, labor unions, academics, national social and environmental public-sector agencies, and the media. These parties may have a long-time presence in providing humanitarian and development support and have in-depth knowledge about the environmental and social characteristics of the project area and the nearby populations, and may help play a role in surveillance & controlling mission, delivering livelihood support, supporting the emergency and early warning operation, targeting beneficiary, consulting the community, training & awareness creation, identifying risks, potential impacts, and mitigation measures, and risk communication.
- **Disadvantage and vulnerable groups** those social groups who may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by the Project as compared with any other groups due to their vulnerable status and that may require special engagement efforts to ensure their equal representation in consultation and decision-making process. Examples of these are women, women headed household, children, youth, elderly, PLWD, IDP and refugee.

In addition to what is mentioned above, affected parties and disadvantage & vulnerable groups will likely be in the eight states proposed for project implementation. Among these stakeholders' groups, beneficiaries will be identified and targeted for livelihood assistance through transparent, participatory and inclusive approach with verification being done by an independent third-party monitor (TPM). Before any intervention particularly during locust surveillance & control mission and targeting beneficiary for livelihood support, it is crucial to disseminate information and engage with all stakeholders in continues dialogue on operational modalities. The aim of this is to notify or instruct the stakeholders a head of control or spraying operation; get their feedback, concern & interest; obtain broad participation & sense of ownership and discuss how negative impact and grievances (if any) will be mitigated. This will be achieved by

a joint effort of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU), and field staff of the implementing partners with close supervision from the MoAF.

### 3.2.1 Affected Parties

Affected parties include those farmers & pastoral communities, nomads, NTFP collectors, and gum producer who have been inhabiting within the Project’s area influence i.e., in the targeted states of Red Sea, Kassala, Gadaref, Blue Nile, Sennar, White Nile, River Nile. Table 1 summarised lists of stakeholders fall within this category and describes the project impact and their engagement. However, identification and analysis of the affected stakeholder category further will be refined during implementation by undertaking consultation with local community. Since table 1 presents a comprehensive set of stakeholders, the relevance of stakeholders may vary from State to State and shall be used as a guide for undertaking site specific stakeholder analysis as part of the other environmental and social risk management instruments.

*Table 1: Directly or Indirectly Project-Affected Parties*

Stakeholder groups	Component	Expected ELRP Project Engagement/Interest
Small farmers including village level farming community members, livestock and pastoralist sector, nomadic pastoralists, camel herders, gum Arabic producers, other NTFP collectors, agro-pastoralist and pastoralist households in locust-affected areas, communities and indigenous peoples	1 / 2	Most affected by desert locust invasions and destruction of crops, pastureland and loss of livelihoods. Project interventions such as desert locust control measures, emergency cash transfers, training on good agricultural practices, provision of agricultural inputs and restoration of pasturelands have significant impacts on them. They need equal access to information, meaningful consultation, capacity support/training, and grievance redress mechanism. They need to be part of the decision-making process particularly during targeting beneficiary for emergency cash transfer and cash-for-work program as well as during need assessment for livelihood & agricultural input support (seeds, fertilizers, livestock, fodder, etc), identification of project impacts and mitigation measures, etc.

		<p>May lose income as a result of unintended damages from accidental pesticides spray impacts on people, livestock, agricultural produce and livestock feed beyond the defined buffer zone will also be considered eligible for the emergency direct income support. They need equal access to information, meaningful consultation, capacity support/training, and grievance redress mechanism. They need to be part of the decision-making process particularly during targeting beneficiary for emergency cash transfer and cash-for-work program as well as during need assessment for livelihood &amp; agricultural input support (seeds, fertilizers, livestock, fodder, etc), identification of project impacts and mitigation measures, etc.</p>
IDP Host communities	1 / 2	<p>Often tension is reported between IDPs and their host communities. In the eight respective states there are several locations where IDPs meet host communities. It is therefore important to also attend to the needs of host communities.</p>
Project workers including project staff, contracted workers, driver, pesticide sprayers, storekeepers, Community workers or volunteers	1 / 2	<p>The project employs different types worker from the community for project management, locust surveillance &amp; pesticide spray operation, transportation and public or community work. Within the communities, youth and women with some level of education exist, but not enough to take up jobs in the cities. Therefore, they are important resources that could be employed for above-mentioned activities. The project will need to sensitively manage expectations among affected communities in relation to the actual numbers of persons who can be hired to work for</p>

		the project. Operation of pesticide handling, transportation, spraying and disposal may adversely affect the health and safety risk of these project workers.
Native administrations and community leaders including religious leaders	1 / 2	Native administrations and community leaders including religious leaders play a vital role in community entry and the attainment and social license to operate. They need to be engaged in community consultation and the endorsement of community decisions.

### 3.2.2 Interested Parties

These are stakeholders, who have presence in the project area and/or have interest in the project activities or outcomes. Interested parties include all relevant government institutes found in federal and states administration structure, local and international NGO, CBO and civic association. Table 2 below identifies these groups and describes their expected project engagement.

**Table 2: Interested Parties**

Stakeholder implementing partners	Expected ELRP Project Engagement/Interest	Responsible entity
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) including Department of Plant Protection (DPP)	MoAF is the borrower, project Manager through the PCU. The Ministry will also receive technical assistance and capacity building support in various areas related to the core project activities. Staff at state level will also have responsibility for extension service delivery to beneficiary communities.	MoAF
Other federal ministries (MoAR, MoFEP,	Some of their representatives will be part of the project PCU, to supervise the creation and implementation of the project Strategy and Action Plan against desert locust and ensures overall coordination of desert locust	MoAF as implementer and HCENR as

<p>MoFG, MoSA, MoLHD, etc), Federal administration directorates, Forests National Corporation (FNC), Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR), Gum Arabic Board (GAB), UN agencies, and development partners</p>	<p>surveillance, control, and follow-up. They deal with the other project components (food security and livelihood aspects, project management issues)</p>	<p>regulatory entity</p>
<p>State government sector institutions: State Ministry of Production &amp; Economic Resources, including natural resource departments &amp;</p>	<p>These representatives will comprise the Desert Locust State Task Forces (DL-STF) to coordinate surveillance, control and/or preparedness activities within the state. A state-level rapid response team comprising representatives of the relevant administrations will provide field support for surveillance and control. The DPP at the state level will work with Technical Committee, FAO, IFAD, WFP and other technical agencies to strengthen monitoring and early warning structures and customize, distribute, and disseminate awareness raising materials and messages, in collaboration with MoAF, farmers associations, native</p>	<p>State MoAF as implementer and State HCENR as regulatory entity</p>

<p>directorates, DPP Native administrations (Nazir, Sheikh &amp; Umdas), Locality administration (Executive directors) Women associations Farmers unions State level community representatives (Resistant committees, service committees) and other stakeholders</p>	<p>administrations, universities, and organizations from within the communities (CBOs).</p>	
<p>Academia and research institutions</p>	<p>These institutions will provide technical assistance, applied research and training in desert locust control techniques.</p>	<p>National and State MoAF as implementer</p>
<p>International NGOs, local and national CSOs and</p>	<p>With most having invaluable experience in the successful delivery of a wide range of humanitarian and emergency services, their networks, delivery systems and knowledge of intricate community dynamics will need to be tapped for use by the project.</p>	<p>National and State MoAF as implementer</p>

NGOs <sup>1</sup> operating in the agriculture, health, education, livelihood sectors.		
Public and private commercial enterprises, other local business, and construction companies.	These are local enterprises that will provide various input supplies and construction services.	National and State MoAF as implementer
FAO	Lead technical partner in component 1 and partially in component 2	FAO as implementing entity and report to MoAF
WFP	Implementing partner for livelihood (Cash for work program) under Component 2	WFP as implementing entity and report to MoAF
IFAD	Coordination and use of existing systems for the project implementation for component 2, Sub-component 2.1a	MOAF
World Bank	Donor	

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<sup>1</sup> This comprises a set of national and international NGOs, State and locality level CBOs. There is no information regarding these organizations, which will be identified during site specific consu

Other UN agencies and entities (e.g., UNDP)	All organisations working in project locations are stakeholders and close coordination would add value	MoAF in collaboration with FAO and WFP
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### 3.2.3 Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Groups

It is recognized that the Project may have unexpected or unintended outcomes that may adversely affect some people or groups within the Project’s area of influence i.e., in the targeted states of Red Sea, Kassala, Gadaref, Blue Nile, Sennar, White Nile, River Nile. The prevailing economic and socio-cultural realities in these states tend to marginalize or pose risks to certain groups of people such as children, women and girls, persons with disability, IDP, returnee, refugee, minority, and the elderly, among others. These peoples may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by the Project as compared with any other groups due to their vulnerable status and that may require special engagement efforts to ensure their equal representation in consultation and decision-making process. Although the stakeholders fall within this category further being refined and investigated through key informant interview and focus group discussion, table 3 below summarizes the project impact on vulnerable or disadvantaged people., who will benefit from the additional attention mentioned below:

**Table 3: Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Groups**

Stakeholder implementing partners	Expected ELRP Project Engagement/Interest
Women groups (women, women-head of household, women farmers)	<p>Although women play a critical role in the maintenance of household livelihoods and provision of labor in agriculture, they generally have less access to productive resources, services and employment opportunities. Women in the rural areas of Sudan suffer from significant marginalization or discrimination, including in education, economic empowerment, benefit sharing, training, and public participation, and are subject to widespread Gender-based Violence (GBV) and other abuses.</p> <p>They need targeted and meaningful consultations to openly discuss their interest and concerns related to accessing project benefit, and challenges they are facing from accessing social service and information about project, GBV, participation in consultation &amp; training. Thus, they need 1) project benefit tailored to their specific needs; 2) social service, training and consultation to be contextualize to their specific living conditions and health status; 3) project intervene on gender mainstreaming training and women economic empowerment, 4) sensitizing the public on SEA/GBV, 5) accessible GBV service provider and referral pathways to be in place; 6) communicate or raise women awareness on the referral pathways and about the different entry points to lodge the grievance/complaints.</p>
Persons with disability and Elderly	<p>Owing to their condition, this group of people may face constraint to engage in cash for work activities; they may unable to cope with high living cost or cost of food particularly those who have no valuable possessions/assets, income and/or relative support; they lacks the means to link them to social services including to health care and educational services, they may unable to access information.</p> <p>So that they need targeted consultations and channel to convey their interest, concerns and challenges they face. They need special livelihood support tailored to their specific needs and condition. They need information in accessible formats; and leverage the possible relay role of community-based organizations providing support to them.</p>
Ethnic minority groups <sup>2</sup>	<p>Some of these groups have suffered historic discrimination and economic and political marginalization. They will need special attention. They need targeted and meaningful consultations as well</p>

<sup>2</sup> The SEP shall benefit from the Social Assessment findings in the identification of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups including minorities.

	as to receive accessible and culturally appropriate project benefit and information.
IDPs, returnees and refugees	Due to the internal and external conflicts in the country, many people (IDPs) fled their home areas to more stable areas within the state for security reasons and would likely return (Returnees) to their places of origin as soon as stability and security is restored. Refugee numbers are also increasing due to the border conflicts. Demand for basic services would increase. They will need special attention. They need meaningful consultations as well as to equally access project benefit and information.

### 3.3 Summary of project stakeholder needs

Summary of project Stakeholder needs are depicted in Table 4. The table showed the different stakeholder groups with their key characteristics, needed language, methods of notification and engagement and the key topics to discuss with them.

**Table 4: Project Stakeholder Need**

Stakeholders	Stakeholder groups	Key Characteristics	Language Needs	Preferred notification method (e-mail, phone, radio, letter)	Method of Engagement	Specific needs (accessibility, large print, childcare, daytime meetings)	Key topics to discuss
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF)	Federal Government	Implementing agency	Arabic and English	Letter, email, phone	Formal meeting, Written information,	Presentation of the project Video conferencing	Priorities for Implementation Implementation arrangements Guidance on sites selection (localities)
Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP)	Federal Government	Govt Ministry	Arabic and English	Letter, email, phone	Formal meeting, Written information,	Presentation of the project Video conferencing	Priorities for Implementation Financial arrangements
Ministry of Federal Governance	Federal Government	Govt Ministry	Arabic and English	Letter, email, phone	Formal meetings, Written information	Presentation of the project Video conferencing	Priorities for Implementation Guidance on selection sites (localities)
State Government Office	State Government (in each of the 8 states)	State Government	Arabic	Letter, email, phone	Formal meetings, Written information	Presentation of the project Video conferencing	Priorities for Implementation Guidance on selection sites (localities)
Department of Plant Protection (DPP) at the MoAF	DPPs at Federal & State levels	Federal & State Department	Arabic and English	Letter, email, phone,	Formal meeting, Written information	Presentation of the project Video conferencing	Priorities for Implementation of component 1 & 3, i.e. To lead the locust response component with the most appropriate interventions
Forest National Corporation (federal)	Federal Government	National Govt agency	Arabic and English	Letter, email, phone	Formal meeting, Written information,	Video conferencing	Priorities for Implementation Guidance on selecting forests under locust threats at targeted states that the project can support
Range and Pasture Administration (Federal)	Federal Government	National Govt agency	Arabic and English	Letter, email, phone	Formal meeting, Written information	Presentation of the project Video conferencing	Priorities for Implementation, i.e., rangelands to be selected and the most appropriate interventions
Higher Council for Environment	Federal Government	Govt Advisory Body	Arabic and English	Letter, email, phone	Formal meeting, Written information,	Video conferencing	Priorities for Implementation arrangements

and Natural Resources (HCENR)							Identifying specific technical and logistical needs to strengthen environmental and social risks management
Gum Arabic Board (GAB)	Federal Government	Govt Advisory and coordinating Body	Arabic and English	Letter, email, phone	Formal meeting, Written information,	Video conferencing	Priorities for Implementation arrangements Identifying specific technical and logistical needs to combat desert locust in the gum belt
Academia and research institutions	National and State level	Independent knowledge production and dissemination entities	Arabic and English	Letter, email, phone	Formal meeting, Written information (articles, brochures, booklets, lessons)	Video conferencing	Lessons of implementation-success, challenge.
Public and private commercial enterprises, other local business, and construction companies	National, State and locality level	Business entities	Arabic and English	Letter, email, phone	Formal meeting, Written information	Video conferencing	Value chain, agricultural inputs.
Ministry of Production and Economic Resources (state level)	State Government	State Govt ministry	Arabic	Letter, email, phone	Formal meeting, Written information	In each of the 8 states	Priorities for Implementation Guidance on specific sites selection (localities)
International NGOs, local and national CSOs and NGOs operating in the agriculture, health, education, livelihood sectors.	Community representation	Active at both Federal and state level	Arabic	Letter, email, phone	Formal meeting	In Khartoum (those with national HQ in Khartoum) <u>AND</u> State level Video conferencing	Priorities for Implementation
World Bank	Funding	Federal	English	Letter, email, phone	Implementation Support Missions,	Video conferencing	Implementation arrangements
FAO	Implementing partners	Federal/State	English	Letter, email, phone	Implementation Support, one of the main partners	Video conferencing	Implementation arrangements

IFAD	Cooperation and coordination during project implementation	Federal/State	English	Letter, email, phone	Implementation Support, one of the main partners	Video conferencing	Implementation arrangements
WFP	Implementing partners	Federal/State	English/State	Letter, email, phone	Implementation Support, one of the main partners	Video conferencing	Implementation arrangements
Local Community living in the eight (8) targeted states	Affected parties	Pastoralist, nomadic, small farmers, collectors and NTFP	Local language	Visit with translator by field staff, local gov or community representative	Meaningful consultation tailored to their situation and using household survey, public meeting, traditional means of consultation	Accessibility	Project activities, project benefits, project adverse impact or risk, mitigation measure, targeting, planning, monitoring, decision making, GRM
Local Community located in eight (8) targeted states	Affected parties	Host community	Local language	local gov or community representative	Meaningful consultation based on public meeting	Accessibility	Project benefits sharing
Project worker, including contracted	Affected parties	Project staff, driver, contracted workers, pesticide sprayers, storekeepers, Community workers or volunteers	Working language	Phone and letter	free consultation through workshop and survey	Weekday and working hour. Preferred out of office	Occupational Health and safety risk and control measures, labor management and working condition
Local Community located in eight (8) targeted states	Affected parties	Native administrations and community leaders including religious leaders,	Local language	Visit with translator by field staff, local gov or community representative	Meaningful consultation including key informant interview, focus group discussion and traditional means of	Accessibility	Project activities, project benefits, project adverse impact or risk, mitigation measure, targeting, decision making, planning, monitoring, GRM

		State level community representatives (Resistant committees, service committees)			consultation and decision making		
Local community in eight (8) targeted states	Vulnerable & disadvantage groups	Women groups, women-head of household, women farmers youth, household head, pregnant, breastfeeding women, GBV survivor, field worker, Women associations, Farmers unions	Local language	Visit with translator by field staff, local gov or community representative	Meaningful consultation tailored to their situation and need by using workshop, key informant interview, focus group discussion and traditional means of consultation and decision making	Accessibility and child-care	Project activities, project benefits sharing, project adverse impact or risk, mitigation measure, targeting, planning, monitoring, decision making, GRM
Local com eight (8) unity located in 8 targeted states	Vulnerable & disadvantage groups	IDP, refugee, and returnee	Local language	Visit with translator by field staff,	Meaningful consultation tailored to their situation and need by using key informant interview and focus group discussion	Accessibility	Project activities, project benefits, project adverse impact or risk, mitigation measure, targeting, planning, monitoring, decision making, GRM
Local community located in eight (8) targeted states	Vulnerable & disadvantage groups	Persons with disability and Elderly	Local language	Visit with translator by field staff,	Meaningful consultation tailored to their situation and need by using survey and key informant interview,	Accessibility	Project activities, project benefits sharing, project adverse impact or risk, mitigation measure, targeting, planning, monitoring, decision making, GRM

Local community located in eight (8) targeted states	Vulnerable & disadvantage groups	Ethnic minority groups	Local language	Visit with translator by field staff,	Meaningful consultation tailored to their culture by using focus group and key informant interview,	Accessibility	Project activities, project benefits sharing, project adverse impact or risk, mitigation measure, targeting, planning, monitoring, decision making, GRM
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#### **4. Stakeholder Engagement Program**

The current COVID-19 crisis requires short-term adaptation of the stakeholder engagement approach. The project shall include appropriate measures and communication regarding COVID19 risks mitigation measures including the national, World Bank and WHO COVID19 guidelines outlined under ESS2, ESS10 and other relevant ESSs. The project will therefore follow (i) WHO guidance on prevention of the spread of the COVID-19 virus; (ii) respective instructions by the Government of Sudan; (iii) FAO guidance on undertaking fieldwork under the Covid-19 pandemic (iv) international good-practice on consultations under Covid-19 and innovative approaches established by World Bank, UN, and other development agencies. The stakeholder engagement mechanism will evolve as the situation of COVID-19 improves or deteriorates.

The project will ensure compliance with provisions of relevant national laws as well as World Bank guidelines regarding the COVID-19 situation, in particular, ESF/Safeguards Interim Note: COVID-19 Considerations in Construction/Civil Works Projects, April 7, 2020. The Borrower will ensure that all project activities are undertaken in accordance with national law, WHO and World Bank guidance in relation to COVID-19, to combat the transmission of COVID-19 between project workers and affected local communities. In addition to ESS2 requirements, the project will adopt the following interim notes and guidance against COVID-19 transmission: (i) ESF/Safeguards Interim Note: COVID-19 considerations in construction/civil works projects; (ii) for rational use of PPE: WHO interim guidance on use of PPE for COVID-19<sup>3</sup>; and (iii) for workplace-related advice: WHO guidance getting your workplace ready for COVID-19<sup>4</sup>.

The primary responsibility for designing and conducting stakeholder engagement rests with the Borrower according to World Bank requirement. In view of this, the Borrower retains primary ownership and maintain the requirement by incorporating in contract management and in partnership arrangement with FAO, IFAD and WFP. Depending on the scope and context of the ELRP project, stakeholder engagement can take place as part of an integrated Environment and Social Assessment, or as part of preparation of any planning instruments required in a project under Bank policies, such as the 10 WB Environmental and social standards (ESS). Yet,

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<sup>3</sup> [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331215/WHO-2019-nCov-IPCPPE\\_use-2020.1-eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331215/WHO-2019-nCov-IPCPPE_use-2020.1-eng.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/getting-workplace-ready-for-covid-19.pdf>

stakeholder engagement may also conduct may also be performed as part of the project component outside the scope of any of the above assessments and instruments.

The ELRP in Sudan targets 8 states namely, Red Sea, Kassala, Gadaref, Sennar, Blue Nile, White Nile, Khartoum and River Nile. The planned activities and implementation arrangements for the overall project phases will consider a wide range of core stakeholders' category within this targeted state.

Stakeholder engagements on the project different phases will be a continuous process including during the project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. The PCU in partnership of FAO, WFB and IFAD will ensure stakeholder engagement with affected, vulnerable & disadvantage, and other concerned stakeholders using various communication channels and consultation methods tailored to the specific stakeholder needs and circumstances and following the COVID19 protocol outlined above. This approach will thereby ensure that information provided is meaningful, timely, as complete as possible, and accessible to all affected stakeholders, use of different languages including addressing cultural sensitivities, as well as challenges deriving from illiteracy or disabilities, tailored to the differences in geography, livelihoods, and way of life. The stakeholder engagement program should be guided by the following core principles as there is no adequate information regarding the diversity of stakeholders to tailor to specific States, groups and needs. State and locality level stakeholder engagements shall be guided by the principles outlined below and the relevant aspects of this SEP.

1. **Inclusiveness:** target a broad audience of stakeholders both at national (federal), regional (state) and local levels including those who are directly or indirectly affected by Project (various social groups such as disadvantaged groups, women and youth).
2. **Transparency:** the Project status should be communicated to stakeholders. The outcomes of all consultations and participation shall be properly recorded, documented, reported, and disclosed to the public timely in culturally appropriate form and languages. All stakeholder consultation participants shall have full and equal access to relevant information about the Project in an appropriate manner.
3. **Free:** occurs freely and voluntarily, without any external manipulation, interference, or coercion for taking part in the consultation.
4. **Prior informed:** the parties consulted have five days prior access to information on the intent/agenda, date and will ensure that the consultation happen at convenient time for

the consultation participants, place and scope of the proposed consultation in a culturally appropriate manner, form (ensure acceptable cultural representation in the form of participation), and language (i.e., in the language understood by participants). The information should be shared with intended stakeholders.

5. ***Participatory engagement***: the project shall involve stakeholders in a truly participatory manner. It shall incorporate voices and concerns of stakeholders including identifying the alternatives. Describe and document, any suggestions from stakeholders that cannot be considered along with the reasons/justification.
6. ***Consensus building***: the process shall facilitate dialogue and two-way exchange of information taking into consideration the views of stakeholders/community, their existing institutional structures, and cultural diversity, with the aim of building consensus and garnering broad community support for the project.
7. ***Grievance redress mechanism***: the project should create awareness to stakeholders regarding the availability of the grievance redress mechanism to express their concerns and grievances at any time and be the right to be heard.

#### **4.1 Purpose and Timing of Stakeholder Engagement Program**

The purposes of stakeholder engagement in the ELRP in Sudan are:

- (a) Adapting project interventions to the evolving needs of the affected populations.
- (b) Ensuring of coordination between all implementers and government and community authority structures.
- (c) To ensure that project information and risks is properly communicated and disclosed to stakeholders and in turn to receive feedback, comments and grievances from all stakeholders on project design, and implementation, and to adapt the project accordingly.
- (d) Provision of transparent and accountable mechanisms particularly for information disclosure, risk communication, feedback mechanism, and grievance
- (e) Ensuring that members of vulnerable groups from project affected communities are able to participate fully in the consultation process and enjoy project benefits. To ensure this, a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be in place throughout the life cycle of the Project and will be set up in a way that all affected individuals and groups can report on project-related grievances or can provide comments and feedback.

**Table 5: Summary of stakeholder Engagement Purpose and Timing**

No.	Objective	Project stage	Stakeholder Engagement activities	Targeted Stakeholders	out Decision Feedback/outcome
1	Adapting project interventions to the evolving needs of the affected populations more importantly on livelihood and food security intervention	Project design, annual, implementation planning, annual budget planning, targeting beneficiary	Community based need assessment and participatory planning using traditional decision making or household survey or key informant interview or focus group discussion.	Affected people from local community in 8 states  Vulnerable & disadvantage people within the affected local community in 8 states	The result and finding from participatory planning & community need assessment will be used to make decision on annual implementation planning, procurement planning, budget distribution and cash transfer
2	Ensuring coordination between all implementers and government and community authority structures;	Project design, implementation and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review meeting</li> <li>• Supervision mission</li> <li>• Training workshop</li> <li>• Document sharing</li> <li>• Electronic communication</li> </ul>	Interested stakeholder from state and local public institution  Implementing partners  PCU	The result and finding from various stakeholder engagement activities will be used to establish horizontal and vertically coordination system (plan, manual, guideline, format, etc.)
3	To ensure that project information and risks is properly communicated and disclosed to stakeholders and in turn to receive feedback, comments and grievances from all stakeholders	Project design, budget planning, annual implementation planning, project implementation and monitoring, impact assessment, risk management planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion box and notice board</li> <li>• Radio and TV</li> <li>• Hotline and SMS</li> <li>• Flyer and Billboard</li> <li>• Traditional risk communication</li> <li>• Survey and interview</li> <li>• Review meeting</li> <li>• Email and social media platform</li> </ul>	Affected people from local community in 8 states vulnerable & disadvantage people within the affected local community in 8 states.  Interested stakeholder from state and local public institution.	The stakeholder's feedback, comment and grievance will be collected, and the borrowers address accordingly through revising it plan or implementation and delivering compensation and responding to grievance.
4	Provision of transparent and accountability mechanisms or means	Project design	Focus group discussion and key informant interview to identify accessible and inclusive means of feedback mechanism	Affected people from local community in 8 states  vulnerable & disadvantage people local community in 8 states	Based on stakeholder interest, accessible and inclusive means of information disclosure, feedback and grievances mechanism will be set up.

				Interested stakeholder from state and local public institution	
5	Ensuring that members of vulnerable groups from project affected communities are able to participate fully in the consultation process and enjoy project benefits.	Project design, budget planning, annual implementation planning, project implementation and monitoring, impact assessment, risk management planning	household survey or key informant interview or focus group discussion.	vulnerable & disadvantage people local community in 8 states	The result and finding from survey, KII and FDG will be used to make decision on annual implementation plan, procurement plan, budget distribution and cash transfer

### **Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure**

Information disclosure to the beneficiary communities and other interested parties will rely on the following key methods: website release, email communication, social media, flyer distribution, billboard, TV and radio broadcasting, community meetings in coordination with local authorities (state governments, community leaders, farmer and pastoralist associations), traditional communication system, phone communication (SMS), and notices at the state and administration units. Information will be disclosed in Arabic/English or the respective key local languages in Sudan, where appropriate. Local authorities, such as native administrations, religious leaders, and state governors will be requested to inform communities in community meetings and through disclosure at project locations. In addition, the ESCP, ESMF and other relevant environmental and social risk management instruments with non-technical summary of these will be publicly disclosed on MoAF and World Bank websites. Stakeholders will also be encouraged to provide feedback, raise queries on gaps and suggest solutions to enable the improvement of project implementation.

**Table 6: Strategy for Information Disclosure**

<b>PROJECT PHASES</b>	<b>INFORMATION TO BE DISCLOSED</b>	<b>METHODS PROPOSED</b>	<b>LOCATIONS/ DATES</b>	<b>TARGET STAKEHOLDERS</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>
Project Preparation	SEP (including GRM)	Online and physical consultative workshops, Email, websites, radio, community meetings, community boards, universities, schools, mosque, church/ markets, etc.	Prior (and during) to project effectiveness	Affected and beneficiary communities (farmers, pastoralists), project workers, all vulnerable groups, direct and indirect	PCU & others
Project Preparation	ESCP	Email, websites, stakeholder meetings	Prior to project effectiveness	All national, and state level stakeholders	PCU
Project Preparation	ESMF and LMP including GRM	Email, websites, stakeholder meetings	Within one month after the Effective Date	All identified stakeholders at all levels	PCU
Project Initiation, Preparation and implementation	Activity specific screening reports and ESMPs	Community meetings, radio, mobile phone, email, website	Continuous	State level stakeholders and affected communities	State Implementation Unit (SIU)
Project implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk communication and awareness raising regarding timing of the spraying, potential impact of the pesticides/chemicals on during and after spraying human health, livestock and fodder, water wells for humans and livestock, agricultural crops.</li> <li>Communicating or information disclosure on location of treatments, general information on potential risks of pesticides, precautionary measures, re-entry intervals, pre-harvest intervals, etc.</li> <li>Awareness on spraying mechanism (handheld, vehicle, aircraft and drone), roles and responsibilities including that of the communities.</li> <li>Disclosure of Voluntary Land Donation</li> </ul>	Online and physical consultative workshops, Email, websites, radio, community meetings, SMS, radio or TV, traditional communication system, community boards, universities, school, mosque, church/ markets, etc.	Prior, during, and after the spraying of pesticides	Affected and beneficiary communities (farmers, pastoralists), project workers, all vulnerable groups	SIU and FAO

	Guidelines, and Emergency Preparedness Response Plan.				
Project Initiation, and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness creation on targeting criteria and</li> <li>• Awareness creation on the need of stakeholder engagement, benefit sharing opportunity</li> <li>• Orientation on occupation health and safety measure and LMP</li> <li>• Awareness creation on gender mainstreaming, GBV, referral pathway, GRM</li> </ul>	Community meetings, radio, project worker briefing and workshop, SMS, email, website, flyer, and radio/TV	Continuous	All identified stakeholders at all levels	SIU and PCU
Project implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosure of GRM, referral pathway, GBV service providers</li> <li>• Disclosure of budget allocated and utilized</li> <li>• Disclosure of list of targeted beneficiaries</li> <li>• Disclosure of cash transfer</li> <li>• Disclosure of list of prioritized agriculture input, infrastructure, training, extension service, cash for work or public work activities etc.</li> </ul>	Community meetings, billboard, Flyer, notice board, radio, TV, SMS, free mobile phone, email, website	Continuous	All identified stakeholders at all levels	PCU and SIU, and implementing partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosure of Project progress and performance Reports, annual implementation plan, annual budget plan, monitoring and audit report</li> </ul>	Community meetings, radio, mobile phone, email, website	Bi-annual and annual	All identified stakeholders at all levels	PCU and SIU

## **4.2 Proposed strategy for consultation**

As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, Sudan have imposed a range of restrictions on travel, public gatherings, and social interactions. These restrictions mean that it is difficult to undertake stakeholder consultations as it is often happened under the normal conditions. Accordingly, stakeholder consultation will be designed to follow the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place. This is mainly to avoid close-packing public gatherings, workshops, community meetings and reducing frequency of stakeholder visiting, and relying on ICT, social media and traditional media, online channels, email and smart phones. However, digital technologies also provide the potential to reach a much wider range of stakeholders and at lower cost than traditional methods of stakeholder consultation. Although, most categories of stakeholders will have access to mobile phones, it is unrealistic to expect that all categories of stakeholders can be consulted using remote means such as online questionnaires, social media groups, phones, email etc.

The strategy lays out the overall consultative processes of the project with its different stakeholders. In principle, MoAF, FAO, IFAD, WFP and others that oversee sub-component activities will follow their existing participatory engagement and consultation methods, especially with affected communities and beneficiaries. These will make use of specific tools and methods of community consultations that FAO and other agencies have developed in past experience. The Project will ensure that these tools and methods fulfil the requirements outlined in the ESS10. In case any additional needs arise from identified deficiencies or from context changes, the project will update and adapt this SEP accordingly. The GRM will be another Table 7 indicates the stakeholder consultation strategy. The strategy addressed the following key questions 1) What are the issues/topics on which stakeholders needs to be consulted? 2) Who should be consulted on these issues? 3) What form should the consultations being delivered? 4) What are the appropriate locations for conducting consultations? 5) What is the appropriate timing / schedule for conducting consultations? 6) who is responsible to deliver the consultation.

*Table 7: summary Stakeholder consultation strategy*

<b>Project stage</b>	<b>Topic of consultation</b>	<b>Method used</b>	<b>Timetable: Location and dates</b>	<b>Target stakeholders</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
Project preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental and social risk management Planning</li> <li>• Risk communication on pesticide and community engagement strategy</li> <li>• Designing project operational manual</li> <li>• Designing the GRM system</li> </ul>	- Sample Interview, KII, FGD and community meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Villages Where affected people and beneficiary community are located</li> <li>- Prior to planning ESMF, ESIA, POM, SEP and GRM</li> </ul>	- All stakeholders' groups	- PCU and SIU
Project preparation and implementation	- Identifying benefit sharing opportunity for disadvantage and vulnerable groups	- FGD, KII, consultative meeting and workshop tailored to their specific condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Villages Where vulnerable and disadvantage group are located</li> <li>- Prior to annual work planning and budget setting</li> </ul>	vulnerable and disadvantage group	SIU
Project preparation and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GBV Action Plan</li> <li>- Women economic empowerment</li> </ul>	- Consultation workshop, FDG, KII and GRM and questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Village where project affected Women are identified</li> <li>- Quarterly</li> </ul>	Women groups	SIU & PCU
Project preparation and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pesticide health and safety risk or working condition</li> <li>- Worker health assessment</li> <li>- Hazardous (pesticide) waste management</li> </ul>	- Consultation workshop, GRM and questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project office</li> <li>- During worker appointment</li> <li>- Every six month</li> </ul>	Project worker	PCU and SIU
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Locust affected people assessment for livelihood support and food security intervention</li> <li>- Identification and Prioritization of livelihood support intervention measures i.e., agricultural input, infrastructure,</li> </ul>	- Participatory planning and targeting beneficiary based on Household Survey, KII, FGD and community meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Villages Where affected people and beneficiary community are located</li> <li>- Prior to annual work planning and budget setting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Affected people from local community in 8 states</li> <li>- vulnerable &amp; disadvantage people within the affected local community in 8 states</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SIU,</li> <li>- WFP</li> <li>- IFAD</li> </ul>

	extension service & technology and training - Targeting beneficiary or affected people targeting				
Project implementation monitoring, audit and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project progress and performance monitoring</li> <li>• Project evaluation and review</li> <li>• E&amp;S auditing</li> </ul>	- KII, FGD and community meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Villages Where affected people and beneficiary community are located</li> <li>- Prior to reporting the quarter &amp; annual project progress, mid-term project review, and E&amp;S audit</li> </ul>	All stakeholders' groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SIU,</li> <li>- PCU</li> <li>- FAO</li> <li>- WFP</li> <li>- IFAD</li> </ul>

### **4.3 Proposed Strategy to Incorporate the View of Vulnerable Groups**

MoAF assisted by FAO, IFAD and WFP will ensure that women, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, IDP, returnee, refugee and other members of vulnerable groups are participating effectively and meaningfully in consultative processes and that their voices are not ignored. This will require specific measures and assistance to afford opportunities for meetings with vulnerable groups in addition to general community consultations. Owing to the personal or socio-cultural factors or disability status women, social minority groups, PLWD, elder, IDP, returnee and refugee may not actively participate or express their interest & concern openly. Or there may be a need for detailed or knowledgeable information from the community leaders. In such the cases, meaningful consultation (separate Focus Group Discussions [FGD] or key informant interviews) tailored to community leaders or women, minority, PLWD, etc. will be arranged. In view of promoting women's empowerment, it is most important to engage women's groups on an ongoing basis throughout the lifetime of the project. Women voicing their concerns and contributing to the decision-making process on issues such as community infrastructure, agricultural inputs, extension service, training and economic opportunity should be encouraged, especially in governmental or traditional committees predominantly consisting of men. GRMs will be designed in such a way that all groups identified as vulnerable have access to the information and can submit their grievances and receive feedback as prescribed. Accountability program officer will be appointed to ensure the view and interest of these groups is incorporated and addressed by the project.

The project, during preparation of the environment and social risk management instruments preparation. Particularly, the preparation of the social assessment shall identify the IP/SSAHTLCs that are present in or have collective attachment to the project targeted eight States and that the MoAF will seek inputs from appropriate specialists to meet the consulting, planning, and other requirements of ESS7 for the project, as necessary. The determination of the social assessment and findings shall inform the approach for engaging IP/SSAHTLCs that is culturally and linguistically appropriate.

#### **Timelines**

The project is planned for a duration of three years. It is expected to be launched in November/ December 2021. The stakeholder consultations shall be conducted throughout the project lifecycle. It was conducted during the preparation of the project and will be conducted throughout project implementation. Information disclosure and consultations during project implementation will include monthly visits and meetings with community leaders and regular

meetings with state authorities. Activities under each sub-component will include further consultations prior to their commencement to ensure a good selection of beneficiaries, transparency and accountability on project modalities, and to allow community voices to form the basis of the concrete design of every intervention and consultations will continue throughout the project cycle. The SEP will be updated, and the detail will be prepared prior to commencement of the subproject activities depending on the local context. Consultations will be done on during voluntary land donation (VLD) and preparation of ESMPs as required.

### **Review and Integration of Stakeholder Consultations**

MoAF assisted by FAO, IFAD and WFP will gather all comments and inputs originating from community meetings, SMS, GRM outcomes, surveys, KII, questioners, interview and FGDs. The information gathered will be submitted to the SIU – specifically to the Social, Environmental and Gender Officers - to ensure that the project has general information on the perception of communities, and that it remains on target. This will then be shared with the PCU for oversight purposes. It will be the responsibility of the implementing partners to respond to comments and inputs, and to keep open a feedback line to the communities, as well as the local authorities.

Training on environmental and Social Standards facilitated by WB and other implementing partners will be provided soon after the project becomes effective to ensure that all implementing staff are equipped with the necessary skills.

This SEP provides the overarching guidelines for the rolling out of stakeholder engagements. The Environmental and Social Standards Specialists within the PCU and SIU will continue to monitor the capacity of the IPs, and recommend appropriate actions, e.g., refresher trainings.

## **5. Resources and Responsibilities for Implementing Stakeholder Engagement Activities**

### **5.1 Resources**

Stakeholder engagement is core to the project interventions and will be the daily responsibility of project staff working at community level when facilitating the organization of groups and other activities. Therefore, all human resources mobilized by the project MoAF (PCU) and other implementing partners (FAO and WFP), State MoAF will be primarily engaged in the process on an on-going basis. The project will recruit officers dedicated to guiding the process of stakeholder engagement with groups, such as, women, IDPs/returnees, minority groups. The project finance assigned in respective components and the project management cost will cover their costs.

Budgetary resource will be dedicated to the implementation of the SEP. While there will be an overall budget administered by the SIU to monitor the SEP and other ESMF activities, implementing partners (FAO and WFP) will have dedicated budget resources to implement the SEP as part of the integral project costs for each activity.

### **5.2 Management Functions and Responsibilities**

The overall responsibility for the implementation of the SEP lies with the National PCU and SIU Project Manager, overseen on a day-to-day basis by the SIU Environmental and Social Risk Specialists, and Gender Officer. This will be done in close collaboration with the Environmental, Social and Gender Specialists from the MoAF Project Coordination Unit (PCU), who will also play a key role in facilitating engagement with local authorities and other players. The Officers will maintain a stakeholder database for the overall project and will lead a commitment register. However, while the SIU and PCU will oversee all coordination and disclosure-related consultations, implementing partners (FAO and WFP) will implement the activity specific SEPs elaborated in accordance with the SEP at the community level in their respective project sites, and will report on their activities to the SIU Social, Environmental Risk Specialists and Gender Officer monthly. The SIU will then prepare consolidated reports and submit to the PCU. The SIU and PCU officers will undertake field verification activities jointly with IPs – at least every other month, or during planned events.

Each IP (implementing partner) will identify dedicated staff responsible for the implementation of the SEP within the organization. Staff names will be submitted to the SIU. Selected staff must have ample qualifications to implement the SEP. ToR will be prepared for staff appoint. The ToR will be submitted for World Bank's approval. They will also receive training on stakeholder engagement. IPs will also commit to communicate the stakeholder engagement

strategies for their respective sub-components, in accordance with the principles laid out in this SEP.

IPs who will contract local companies for construction work, or local NGOs or CSOs for the implementation of their activities will submit SEPs to the SIU Social, Environmental Risk Management and Gender Officers, who will verify the implementation of those plans as well as their alignment to this SEP during field visits.

### **5.3 Grievance Redress Mechanism**

#### **5.3.1 World Bank Grievance Redress System**

Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a World Bank (WB) supported project may submit complaints to existing project-level grievance redress mechanisms or the WB's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address project-related concerns. Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the WB's independent Inspection Panel which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of WB noncompliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS), please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/grievanceredress-service>. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, please visit [www.inspectionpanel.org](http://www.inspectionpanel.org).

#### **5.3.2 Project Grievance Redress Mechanism**

The stakeholder engagement program will also ensure the establishment of a Grievance Redress Mechanism for the project. A distinct GRM shall be established for GBV/SEA/SH response mechanism adhering to the principles of confidentiality and services to survivors. The SEA/SH GRM shall be communicated to different stakeholders as part of this SEP considering cultural and linguistic appropriateness. This detail will be outlined as part of the ESMF and during updating of this SEP. Whereas a separate worker grievance mechanism in line with ESS2 will not be required for the project. Given the small-scale nature of works and focus on locally sourced labour, the intake mechanisms of the overall GRM will also allow intake of grievances under ESS2 to enable all project workers category to raise workplace concerns.

#### **Objective**

The main objective of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is to assist resolve complaints in a timely, effective and efficient manner. The GRMs can provide the most effective way for people to raise issues and concerns about project that affect them. The GRM may deal with grievance cases such as intoxication and damages from accidental pesticides spray on people, livestock, crop and livestock feed beyond the defined buffer zone; on the compensation provided based on this damage; targeting beneficiary peoples and community, cash transfer; working condition, GBV and SEA/SH, and other community health and safety risks. The GRM

will be culturally appropriate, effective, accessible and should be known to all affected population. Implementing partners (FAO and WFP) will conduct awareness raising for the affected communities about the presence of the GRM and inform their right to file any concerns, complaints and issues they have related to the ELRP. The GRM provides a transparent and credible process for fair, effective and lasting outcome. It also builds trust and cooperation as an integral component of broader community consultation that facilitates corrective actions.

FAO and WFP will develop and implement GRM guideline that details the procedure, timing, referral system, etc in a manner consistence with the relevant national policy and registration, and ESS10. Resources will be allocated for the GRM in the project. The overall ELRP environment and social progress report will have a distinct section on GRM that include the complaints recorded, resolved and referred to the formal court system.

As per World Bank standards, the GRM will be operated in addition to a separate GBV Action Plan, which includes reporting and referral guidelines. Additionally, in line with the provisions of ESS2, a grievance mechanism will be provided to all direct and contracted workers to raise workplace concerns. Workers will be informed of this grievance mechanism at the time of recruitment and the measures put in place to protect them against any reprisal for its use. This worker grievance mechanism is included in the project's Labour Management Procedures (LMP). Given the small-scale nature of works and focus on locally sourced labor, the intake mechanisms of the overall GRM will also allow intake of grievances under ESS2. Note that for Sexual Harassment at the workplace, provisions under the GBV Action Plan apply.

### **Guiding principles**

The guiding principle in designing a GRM system specific to working condition, GBV and to risk associated to project activities will be based on the following five core principles:

1. **Fairness and objectivity:** grievances are treated confidentially, assessed impartially, handled transparently, and managed with accountably. The confidentiality of complainants, victims and other relevant parties must be respected at all times. The functioning of reporting mechanisms will remain transparent. The presence of the GRM system must be early communicated to project stakeholder before any activities. Assessment and decision must be free from biasness or retaliation. The GRM incorporate all interested parties to guarantee an objective focused on the grievance and not the complainant, and avoid any additional harm, and does not prevent access to judicial and administrative remedies. The safety of victims will be ensured at all times.

2. **Simplicity and accessibility:** Procedures to file grievances and seek action are simple enough that complainants can easily understand them. Complainants have a range of contact options or shall be facilitated with multiple channels to insure objectivity and triangulation of information. The GRM is accessible to a wide range of stakeholders, irrespective of their level of education or income. The GRM does not use complex processes that create confusion or anxiety to potential users.
3. **Responsiveness and efficiency.** The GRM is designed to be responsive to the needs of all complainants. Accordingly, staff handling grievances are trained to take effective action, and respond quickly to grievances and suggestions. All grievances, simple or complex, are addressed and resolved as quickly as possible. The action taken is swift, decisive, and constructive.
4. **Inclusiveness and sensitivity:** A wide range of stakeholders, including affected or beneficiary community members, members of vulnerable and disadvantage groups, project implementers, civil society, and the media, are encouraged to bring grievances and to seek feedback or complaint on the system. The cultural sensitivities of diverse ethnic groups will be taken into account. The system will be designed in a culturally appropriate way, and special attention will be given to access by the vulnerable & marginalized, such as women, children, the youth, persons with physical disabilities and the elderly.

### **Traditional Authorities Conflict Management**

In Sudan the process of conflict management and resolution is subject to cultural diversity. Each of the major ethnic groups has rules and procedures for conflict resolution. Traditional mechanisms of conflict resolution are similar in Sudan in that they rotate around the concepts of mediation, compensation and restitution (*Judia* traditional mechanisms). ELRP will respect native administration objectivity, representability and responsibility in grievance and redress management. Therefore, any communitarian grievance might be dealt by traditional authorities. For a better understanding of traditional authorities, IA will assess each traditional system in project intervention areas at the beginning of the project including their recognition by the community itself and rules alignment with national laws and World Bank ESF standards. Therefore, specific rules would be accordingly defined with traditional authorities and would apply for project related complaint. In case no agreement is made with local authorities to support WB ESF within resolution rules, the Project GRM would apply.

Nevertheless, many factors constrain traditional mechanisms. The absence of codification is one of the main issues as each ethnic group applies traditional justice in the way it finds appropriate. Regarding the respect of the World Bank ESF, project will support a sensitization of broader consideration of codification included the ESF. Then competition over traditional authority is likely to lead to and aggravate communal conflicts in many parts of post conflict Sudan. Project Will therefore insure a Third party within each conflict resolution through the AAP focal point and Legal Third party. Then, claims of rights is expected to be on the increase due to the current war, therefore project will particularly focus on vulnerable groups emerging from the actual and precedent situation. Finally, the lawlessness in the post conflict peace agreement is a limit for the implementation of traditional resolution. Project referent (AAP focal point or Legal Third party) will play the role of objective member within conflict resolution. The full Project Grievance Redress Mechanisms will be elaborated in the ESMF and this SEP when it is updated.

## **6. Monitoring and Reporting**

### **6.1 Participatory Monitoring**

Adequate institutional arrangements, systems and resources will be put in place to monitor the application of stakeholder engagement in line with this SEP across the whole project components. The goals of monitoring will be to measure the success rate of the activities, determine whether interventions have handled negative impacts, identify ideas for improvement of interventions, and whether further interventions are required, or monitoring is to be extended in some areas. The goal of inspection activities is to ensure that sub-component activities comply with the plans and procedures laid out in the ESCP and ESMF to be prepared after one month of project effectiveness. The ESMF will lay out environmental and social risks mitigation measures, with a dedicated E&S monitoring and reporting plan.

The main monitoring responsibilities will be with the SIU, as the administrator of the GRM, and overall project-related environmental and social monitoring and main implementer of the SEP. This will be led by the SIU Environmental and Social Safeguards and Gender Officers, with the support of the AAP Officers, and with oversight from the PCU Safeguards team. The SIU Project Manager will be overall responsible for the implementation of the environmental and social mitigation measures, including the SEP and activity-specific SEP, as well as for monitoring and inspections for compliance with the SEP.

The GRM will be a distinct mechanism that will allow stakeholders, at the community level, to provide feedback on project impacts and mitigation programs. The project will also establish and operate a separate grievance mechanism for all direct and contracted workers to raise workplace concerns, as provided under ESS2.

In addition, IPs will have their own dedicated means of monitoring impacts, administering mitigating measures and stakeholder involvement in consultation with FAO to ensure consistency in quality. These will be launched and implemented within the partners' specific sub-component activities. The IPs will share these means with the SIU and integrate stakeholder inputs into their regular monitoring and reporting activities. The IPs will report the number, locations and results of their SEP or SEP-related activities to the SIU monthly. The SIU will then consolidate these reports for submission to the PCU quarterly.

A third-party monitor (TPM) will be engaged by the PCU on a competitive basis to provide independent operational review of overall project implementation and project results, including the implementation of the SEP and GRM. The SIU will synthesise all reporting by TPMs and

IPs, as well as its own findings, and produce an overall environment and social progress report with a distinct section on stakeholder engagement in line with a template to be provided in the ESMF. The project will follow a bi-annual reporting cycle to the WB for both regular and TPM reporting in line with World Bank requirements for Fragile, Conflict and Violent (FCV) environment projects. These reports will further be shared with all stakeholders, as defined in the SEP.

The SIU will also provide an annual review of project implementation, with the aim to: (i) assess the project performance in complying with ESMF procedures, learn lessons, and improve future performance; and (ii) assess the occurrence of, and potential for, cumulative impacts due to project-funded activities. Project stakeholders will be engaged in the review process. In addition, data from the GRM will be analyzed and presented. These reports will be the main source of information for the World Bank supervision missions, MoAF, FAO, WFP and national authorities, as needed.

## **6.2 Reporting back to stakeholder groups**

Results of stakeholder engagements will be reported back to the affected communities, as well as the relevant local authorities and other stakeholders through quarterly project reports produced by FAO, IFAD, and WFP. It will be the responsibility of the SIU and PCU to ensure that all relevant reporting is shared through the above defined public means. At a sub-component and activity level, IPs will be responsible for disclosing their stakeholder engagement results and relevant reporting on a quarterly basis. The reporting will include feedback on how stakeholders' concerns are being addressed, and they and all stakeholders will be reminded of the availability of the GRM in case of any issues arising from the reporting.

## **Annex 1: Stakeholder Consultation Report**

Stakeholder engagement and consultations activities follow a series of the ELRP project phases which has embedded regular consultations with various stakeholders into its arrangements. The planned activities and implementation arrangements have been started earlier with some meetings undertaken at federal (Khartoum) and state level (River Nile). The consultations covered a wide range of decision makers and experts from the government line ministries (e.g., MoAF & MoFEP), relevant institutions, key informants, and representatives of the UN implementing agencies (FAO, IFAD, UNDP & WFP).

### **First Stakeholder Consultative Workshop**

The first stakeholder consultation workshop (SCW) including the representatives from relevant government ministries and departments, and development partners such as UN agencies, as well as NGOs and women groups and representatives of farming communities. The workshop was held on the 2nd of August 2021 at the premises of the MoAF. It was conducted physically with the stakeholders who exist in Khartoum and through online Zoom media with those who attended remotely from the other targeted states (Red Sea, Kassala, Gadaref, Blue Nile, Sennar, White Nile and River Nile)

#### **i. Objectives of Stakeholder Consultative Workshop**

- Brief stakeholders about the project profile and to show the progress pertinent to its preparation process
- Get the stakeholders responses towards the project objectives, components, geographical coverage, institutional setups and implementation modalities
- Discuss the expected project impacts (environmental, social, health, security, cultural practices, livelihoods) as well as the proposed mitigation measures (in case of negative impacts)
- Identify the information gaps to facilitate the project design
- Discuss the way forward

#### **ii. Discussion Points or Issues**

The following bullets point had been outlined for discussion to capture the stakeholder's feedback or interest or concerns

- 1) The criteria needed for identifying the project beneficiaries

- 2) Agreement/disagreement of stakeholders about the project objectives, components, institutional setups, implementation modalities.
- 3) ELRP geographical coverage (localities & administration units)
- 4) Environmental, social, health, security, cultural practices, and livelihoods and the proposed mitigation measures.
- 5) Please indicate the component you have an interest to be engaged in.
- 6) Method of stakeholder consultation and engagement

**iii. Baseline information needed from each state:**

To -fill the information gaps, the targeted states had been requested to deliver their inputs on the following needed information:

- 1) Areas of locust threats: Specify the most vulnerable areas (localities and administrative units) in the state, where the locust swarms devastate crops and cause major agricultural damage, which can lead to famine and starvation.
- 2) Capacity of plant protection units and other related authorities at the state, locality and administration unit.
- 3) Available equipment and facilities needed for locust response compared to the given magnitude and geographical extent of the infested and contaminated areas in each state.
- 4) Technology like drones for surveillance: referred to as drones, might be a suitable means of surveying areas within a short period
- 5) Use of pesticides /storage facilities: Possible insecticides for management of desert locust, transportation, storage, distribution and use of pesticides
- 6) Main sources of community livelihoods/ food security (crop farming, livestock rearing, others) within the targeted localities and administrative units
- 7) The ongoing projects (related to ELRP): The ongoing and planned projects in each state
- 8) Status of infrastructures (feeder roads, water catchments, seeds, inputs, finance, extension and other services) that are expected to receive special consideration by the project
- 9) Willingness (local communities, native administrations, vulnerable groups, youth, women groups) to take ownership and support project interventions in the targeted localities and the administrative units at the state.

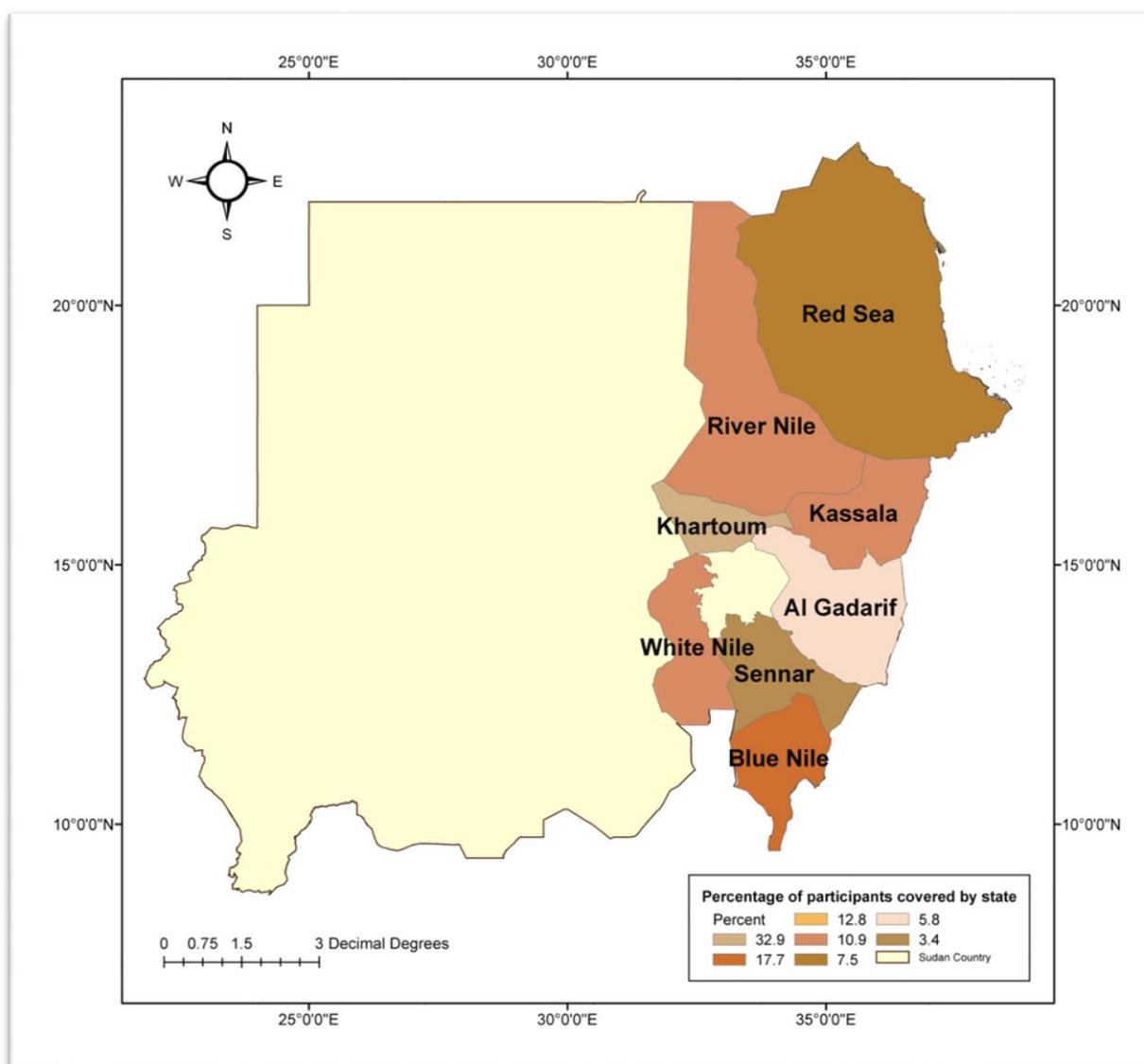
**iv. Participants of the Workshop:**

The workshop was attended by 89 stakeholders representing the different federal and state institutions (most of them are interested parties). Among them, were 33 participants attended physically from Khartoum, while 56 participants were joined through the online *Zoom* media (Table 5). Figure 1 also indicated the percentage of stakeholders by state who attended the first consultative workshop.

**Table 5: Number of participants during the first stakeholder consultative workshop**

<b>State</b>	<b>No. of participants</b>	<b>Representatives of/ Affiliations</b>	<b>Method of consultation</b>
Red Sea	7	State Ministry of production & Economic Resources, Representative of Women groups,  Animal Resource Directorate, Agriculture Department, Forests National Corporation, SORD (NGO), Farmers association, FAO	Online through "Zoom"
Kassala	10	Ministry of Production & Economic Resources, Representative of Women groups,  Animal Resource Directorate, Agriculture Department, Forests National Corporation, SORD (NGO), Farmers association, FAO	Online through "Zoom"
Gadaref	5	State Ministry of production & Economic Resources, Department of Plant Protection, Forest National Corporation, Zainab organization for Women Development, Administration of General Agriculture, Animal Resources Directorate, Farmers' Association, FAO, FSIS, FSTS, Dosh, IOM, T.T.E.A, P.M.O	Online through "Zoom"
Blue Nile	16	Ministry of production & Economic Resource, Forest National Corporation, Department of Plant Protection, NGOs, CBOs, FAO,	Online through "Zoom"
Sennar	10	State Ministry of production & Economic Resources, Planning and Extension Department  Rain Fed Department, Horticulture Department	Online through "Zoom"

		FNC, Rangeland Department, Department of Pests Control, Executive Director of Sinja locality, FAO,  Secretary FSTS	
White Nile	10	Farmers' organization, NGO's, Women groups, Sate Food Security Secretariat, Ministry of Production & Economic Resources, Animal Resource Directorate, Department of Plant Protection, General Agriculture Directorate, FAO, Forests National Corporation	Online through "Zoom"
River Nile	3	State Ministry of production & Economic Resources, IFAD, FNC,	Online through "Zoom"
Khartoum	30	MoAF, State Ministry of production & Economic Resources, DPP, MoAF- Public Relations, General Department of Defense, Labor union, Admin. of Foreign Funded Projects, Ministry of Accreditation and International Cooperation, Framers' association, Agricultural Chamber of Commerce, Business Owners Association, MoAF -ELRP Project Follow-up team, MoAF- Admin of WTO,  National Research Center for Food,  Medical Secretariat for Food Security  State Director General of Production and Economic Resources (Blue Nile state)  General Administration of Cooperation  World Bank, Natural resources management / Kenana Sugar Company, World Bank Team, WFP, FAO, IFAD	Online through "Zoom"
<b>Total</b>	<b>91 (Physically and online participants)</b>		



**Figure 1: Percentage of stakeholders who attended the first consultative workshop**

Source: Developed by the author for the purpose of this report (2021)

**v. Workshop Agenda:**

1. Welcoming speech by the Undersecretary of the MoAF (Agric. Eng. Abdelrahman Hatur)- 5 min.
2. Presentation of “Sudan Emergency Locust Response and Food Security Project” by ELRP project consultant (Tarig Elsheikh Mahmoud)- 30 min.
3. Clarification of the “Environmental and Social Standards” by the WB Social Development Specialist (Samuel Lule Demsash)- 5 min.
4. Discussion with stakeholders (Physical & online participation)

**vi. Raised questions:**

1. Specify criteria needed for identifying the project beneficiaries in your state?
2. Indicate your agreement/disagreement with the project objectives?
3. Indicate your agreement/disagreement with the project components?
4. Show your priorities for the implementation of these components?
5. Point out your view about the project institutional setups, implementation modalities and arrangements?
6. Express your view about the geographical coverage of the project in your state (localities & administration units)?
7. Indicate the expected project positive and/or negative impacts on stakeholders (environmental, social, health, security, cultural practices, livelihoods)?
8. If negative impact, can you indicate the mitigation measures?
9. Indicate the component you have an interest to join?
10. Express your preference method to be consulted (physically/ online/ both/ through representatives/ others)?

**vii. Stakeholders' responses:**

**1) Undersecretary of the MoAF:**

- MoAF emphasizes the importance of the ELRP project for Sudan. It is mainly to support the ongoing efforts by the MoAF (DPP unit) in monitoring and controlling desert locust threat, filling technical and administrative gaps and maintaining Sudan's leadership in locust control over the whole region.
- MoAF has adopted clear criteria to select states for this project. Among these criteria are the following:
  - ✓ Location of the state within the country's desert locust belt.
  - ✓ Vulnerability of the state with regard to food security. This is always done on the basis of IPC map. Accordingly, Red Sea, Kassala, Gadaref and Blue Nile states should receive top priority by this project. Other selected states (Sennar, White Nile, River Nile and Khartoum) are also justifiable and important to be considered by the project because they host most of the important agricultural schemes in the country, hence contributing significantly to the national food security as well as to the cash crops export portfolio in the country.

- ✓ State and community preparedness for the project.
  - ✓ Political will to endorse the project at the state level
- The suggested PCU for this project will comprise appropriate members representing the targeted stakeholders and their active institutions
  - Sustainability of the project in the long term, and not to waste the financial resources in the purchase of depleted assets such as cars, and to focus on the most important assets and inputs that have tangible positive impacts on food security and livelihood aspects of the small farmers and other vulnerable groups.

## 2) **Desert Locust Management Specialist (Kordofan University)**

- Desert locust is threatening crops and pasture and cause food insecurity for the nation. Based on that, this project will be received by high interest from direct and indirect stakeholders. It is also welcomed by academicians and researchers across the whole country.
- Desert Locust summer and winter breeding areas in Sudan are very active. The locust outbreak significantly affects most of states in Sudan, particularly the project' selected states. The environmental conditions in these states remained suitable for the breeding and development of the desert locust.
- Desert Locust summer breeding areas in the western part of Sudan (Kordofan and Darfur) are also important to be considered by a project like this in the future.
- It is difficult to combat the Desert Locust in Sudan because of the extremely large invasion areas as well as the limited resources for locust monitoring and control
- The project should keep close coordination with the Great Green WALL response in the Horn of Africa to combat locust outbreak, food insecurity and poverty. These problems are always aggravated by the climate change and desertification phenomena.
- Strengthening the PDD capacity and improving its emergency prevention system for Desert Locust control. It could be done through strengthens early warning and reaction of this unit.

## 3) **Department of Plant Protection (DPP):**

- Sudan is among the best 60 countries worldwide in monitoring and controlling desert locust
- There are 5 types of locust, which threat Sudan but the most dangerous one is the desert locust. Although the project will target only desert locust but the other four types will also be controlled.

- The DPP ground and air control operations always target mature and immature swarms as well adult groups.
- DPP agrees fully with the project objectives and components as well as its institutional setups
- DPP agrees with the selection of the 8 states because all these are states of either states of breeding or invasion, or both.
- It is highly recommended to upscale the project in the future to cover the western part of Sudan (e.g., North Darfur & West Darfur)
- DPP appreciated the linkage the locust response and provision of food security as important objectives to be undertaken by the ELRP project.

#### 4) **Coordination Unit between MoAF and IFAD:**

- The unit emphasizes that the strong coordination between the implementing partners (IFAD, FAO and WFP) with the project PCU at the MoAF is the driving force for the success of the project.
- The three implementing partners (IFAD, FAO and WFP) should be treated equally by the PCU

#### 5) **Response from Red Sea state:**

- A locust outbreak in Sudan is frequently spreading rapidly along the Red Sea state and invade the country. Accordingly, the quick response at the Eastern part of the country is an important factor to mitigate the locust threat
- Emphasized that the Red Sea state constitute the most vulnerable area with regard to food security
- RS representatives fully agree with the project objectives, components, geographical coverage, administrative setups and implementation modalities
- The state authorities as well as the other targeted communities are ready to be part of this project
- Strongly emphasized the involvement of local communities and vulnerable groups in the project activities.
- RS representatives stated some arguments to give special considerations to the RD state by this project and other project due to political instability and security unrest.

#### 6) **Response from Khartoum state:**

- Khartoum state is frequently affected by the continuous migration of rural people from all other states of Sudan to the capital due the negative effects of locust and other pest and diseases on the livelihood of the rural and urban people
- Khartoum is ready to support all the project components and to provide consultations for both the Locust response and food security aspects
- Capacity building programs at the state level have to be endorsed by the ELRP project

7) **Response from Blue Nile state:**

- The state should receive special consideration by the project due to the prevailing demographic, ethnic and political difficulties in the state
- The state has long boundaries with Ethiopia and South Sudan, which constitute an active opened window for the large number refugees.
- The state hosts large portion of vulnerable and marginalized groups (small scale/subsistent crop farmers, gum Arabic producers, livestock raisers, pastoralists and nomadic tribes, IDPs and returnees). These stakeholder categories are urgently in need for the project support.
- The state representatives and local communities should participate in the project PCUs.
- Project should setup efficient mechanisms to identify and support the most vulnerable and needy groups
- As an emergency project it should address quick and short-term interventions according to the project objective and should avoid the long term development programs.
- The project should pay much attention to the sustainability aspects, which are largely depending on an appropriate exit strategy.
- The criteria for selection of the project localities and project beneficiaries according to BN state are:
  - ✓ Target the most vulnerable groups due to locust threat and food security status
  - ✓ Target the hosting communities
  - ✓ Target residents of states, who are bordering the other countries
  - ✓ Status quo of infrastructure and services
  - ✓ Readiness of local institutions and communities
  - ✓ Areas with inadequate interventions

- The project should generate information at different level and for different stakeholder categories
- Despite this comment, the state authorities are fully in agreement with the project objectives, components, geographical coverage, administrative setups and implementation modalities
- The state authorities as well as the other targeted communities are ready to be part of this project

**8) Response from Gadaref state:**

- One of the most important states, which provides food security for the nation. Accordingly, controlling desert locust will secure the production of food crops and cash crops
- The state should get special consideration by the project because it receives a high number of refugees. The refugee number has nearly doubled for 2 years ago (2019). This increment was driven particularly by the external immigration due to civil war in Ethiopia.
- Crop farming, forest and livestock sectors are ready to participate and support the project components in Gadaref states because the state is suffering from desert locusts, pest and diseases and other environmental hazards
- There is a need to endorse the value chain activities due the huge amount of the raw agricultural production. This value-added activities will boost the productivity and improve the livelihood of the vulnerable farmers and livestock raisers
- The project should setup real mechanisms to engage the small farmers, nomadic pastoralists and gum Arabic producers who were kept far away from developmental projects during the last 30 years
- The project should in favor the efficiency of the rural and urban markets and improve the bargaining power of small producers in these markets
- The project should endorse the smart partnership between small landholders and private on the basis of win- win
- Coordination between the ELRP project and the 2 ongoing projects (Resilience Project/ Greater Stability in Eastern Sudan through better and more informed decision-making project) in the state is very important because these projects seem to have some integrated objectives and presumably have same beneficiary groups. The ongoing project have created a comprehensive data base that could be used by the ELRP project.
- Despite that the project should not discriminate any vulnerable groups, women, youth and minorities

- The PDD at the state level is urgently in need for many technical assistance and capacity building programs to control locust outbreak
- Representatives of the state are fully agreeing with the project objectives, components, geographical coverage, administrative setups and implementation modalities
- The state authorities as well as the other targeted communities are ready to be part of this project

9) **Response from Kassala state:**

- The real beneficiaries of the project at Kassala state comprise small and medium scale crop producers, livestock dealers, non- wood forest products, IDPs, returnees, refugees, etc.
- Representatives of the state are fully agreeing with the project objectives, components, geographical coverage, administrative setups and implementation modalities
- The state authorities as well as the other targeted communities are ready to be part of this project
- The 2 mentioned projects (Greater Stability in Eastern Sudan through better and more informed decision-making projects/ are also working in Kassala state and hopefully they could support the ELRP project
- The “food for work program” should concentrate on the rehabilitation of infrastructures to maintain the productivity of the agricultural and livestock sectors. Rehabilitation of feeder roads, water catchment, storage facilities, etc contribute significantly to food security for targeted communities at the state level
- There are some fruitful outputs regarding locust monitoring and control. Last year the state organized 5 missions to monitor and control desert locust
- There is an obsolete pesticide storage facility in Elbutana area and it needs to be rehabilitated
- The problem of Misquote is that it affects agric production.
- The state should receive special consideration by this project
- Rehabilitation of the water reservoir at Elbutana locality
- Rehabilitation of PDD, forest department, livestock section should be given more attention by the project
- Lack of energy and the way out to endorse the clean energy (solar energy- wind energy)

- Empowerment of farmers associations and women groups is very important to be done by the project
- Problems of dry storage, feeder roads, and other hard components are key important for the stakeholders of the project
- The state could play major role for the coordination between the project units in Sudan other neighboring countries

#### **10) Response from Sennar state:**

- The desert locust affects the main economic activity in the state such as agriculture and range, with the irrigated scheme of Suki, the sugar factory of Sennar, and the farming activities located on the banks of the Blue Nile.
- Locust threat together with the severe shortage in the agricultural inputs put most of the state population under the status of food insecurity
- Representatives of state are fully agreeing with the project objectives, components, geographical coverage, administrative setups and implementation modalities
- The state authorities as well as the other targeted communities are ready to be part of this project

#### **11) Response from White Nile:**

- Representatives of state are fully agreeing with the project objectives, components, geographical coverage, administrative setups and implementation modalities
- The state authorities as well as the other targeted communities are ready to be part of this project
- Very huge resource base, that hosts favorable crop farming, forests and livestock activities
- Some of the national projects are located in the state and this will provide an important value added to the ELRP project
- The state is directly connected to South Sudan, and this places hug burdens on its natural, physical, human and social resources
- There is an urgent need to rehabilitate the infrastructure and equipment for both the locust response and food security dimensions in the state

- The most important stakeholder for this project are: small, medium and large scale farmers, pastoralists and livestock raisers, NTFP producers, farmers associations, businessmen federation, line ministries, women groups, Secretariat of Food Security, and NGOs

## **Annex 2 Attendance of participant involved in consultation**

### **Attendees from Gedaref State**

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### **Attendees from White Nile State**

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10	<i>Yassir Hassan Ibrahim</i>	<i>Admin and Finance</i>	<i>FAO</i>	<i>0012303461</i>

#### **Attendees from Sinnar State**

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**Attendees from Kassala State**

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2	Dr. Khaleel Zaeid	M	SMoPER	TSFS
3	Alaweiya Ata Abakar	F	Women Representative	-
4	Dr. Manar Mahmoud	F	Animal Recourses	Director
5	Nahid Hamza	F	SORD (NGO)	Program Manager
6	Jameela Babiker	F	SMoPER - Agriculture Department	Director
7	Bakri Mahmoud	M	FNC	Director
8	Osman Ibrahim	M	Farmers association	Representative
9	Ibrahim Ahmed	M	FAO	Social Mobilizer
10	Ibrahim Dirar	M	FAO	Tech National Advisor

**Attendees from Blue Nile State**

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**Attendees from Red Sea State: It will be attached as soon as received from the Red Sea**

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**Attendees from Khartoum State**

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