Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 06-Mar-2024 | Report No: PIDA35568

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Project ID	Project Name	Parent Project ID (if any)
Gambia, The	P180656	Gambia Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (GIRAV)	P173070
Parent Project Name	**Region**	**Estimated Appraisal Date**	**Estimated Board Date**
Gambia Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (GIRAV)	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	27-Feb-2024	12-Apr-2024
Practice Area (Lead)	**Financing Instrument**	**Borrower(s)**	**Implementing Agency**
Agriculture and Food	Investment Project Financing	Republic of The Gambia, Ministry of Lands, Regional Government, and Religious Affairs.	Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, Ministry of Agriculture

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to promote the development of inclusive, resilient, and competitive agricultural value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agribusinesses in project target areas.

Proposed Development Objective(s) Additional Financing

The Project Development Objectives (PDO) are to promote (i) the development of inclusive, resilient, and competitive agricultural value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agribusinesses, and (ii) improved water supply and sanitation in project target areas.

Components

Component 1. Improving the business environment for commercial agriculture development
Component 2: Building a productive and climate-resilient agri-food system
Component 3: Mobilizing productive private investments along the value chains
Component 4: Project coordination, monitoring and knowledge management
Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response
Component 6: Improving access to water, sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	73.00

Total Financing	73.00
of which IBRD/IDA	68.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	68.00
IDA Grant	68.00

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Counterpart Funding	5.00
Local Beneficiaries	5.00

Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Substantial

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. **The Global spillover effects of the war in Ukraine combined with economic vulnerability are adversely impacting The Gambia and dampening progress towards economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.** Real GDP growth reached 4.3 percent (1.8 percent in per capita terms) in 2022 similarly in 2021 (1.3 percent per capita terms), up from 0.6 percent in 2020 (contraction of 2.7 percent in real GDP per capita). On the supply side, this economic growth was driven by the agriculture sector growth estimated at 6.1 percent in 2022 resulting from a relatively favorable rainy season combined with better access to quality inputs and particularly, improved seed varieties. A stronger growth performance would have been achieved if there was not a deceleration of growth in industry and subdued growth in the services sector. Growth in industry was affected by rising prices and limited availability of manufacturing and construction inputs. Weak growth in services was linked to a weaker-than-expected recovery in tourism, which, although the number of arrivals increased, was not sufficient to offset weak growth in other subsectors. On the demand side, growth was driven by increased public consumption and infrastructure investment, while private consumption slowed, and exports contracted. However, in the medium term, the economic prospects are favorable with a projected GDP growth by 5.5 percent in 2023–25, although it remains below the pre-pandemic GDP growth level of 6.2 percent in 2019, reflecting the lingering effects of overlapping crises related to COVID-19 and the global price spike. Agriculture and services are expected to continue to grow, assuming respectively favorable rainfall combined with increased use of improved inputs, and higher tourist inflows as advanced economies recover.

Table 1: Gambia Macro Poverty Outlook

Table 1	2022
Population, million	2.7
GDP, current US$ billion	2.2
GDP per capita, current US$	801.1
International poverty rate ($2.15)[a]	17.2
Lower middle-income poverty rate ($3.65)[a]	47.0
Upper middle-income poverty rate ($6.85)[a]	80.6
Gini index[a]	38.8
School enrollment, primary (% gross)[b]	102.7
Life expectancy at birth, years[b]	62.6
Total GHG emissions (mtCO2e)	3.3

Source: WDI, Macro Poverty Outlook, and official data.
a/ Most recent value (2020), 2017 PPPs.
b/ WDI for School enrollment (2021); Life expectancy (2020).

2. **The Gambia is facing a challenging economic context with slowing economic growth, widening current account deficit (CAD), and high levels of inflation including for food, fuel, and fertilizer prices.** The CAD widened from 8 to 14.6 percent of GDP between 2021 and 2022, driven by a widening trade deficit due to higher global commodity market prices and lower remittances. In 2022, Inflation reached double digits for the first time in three decades and driven by higher prices for commodities, energy, transportation, and food. In 2023, headline inflation maintained an upward trend, averaging 16.7 percent year on year between January and November 2023, driven by both food and energy prices. Fertilizer prices in the country rose unprecedently from US$230 to US$800 per ton between 2021 and 2023 - a 257 percent increase. According to data from the Gambia Bureau of Statistics, food prices inflation reached 21 percent, with high increases in milk, cheese, and eggs (28.7 percent), vegetables, root crops and tubers (28.7 percent), bread and cereals (21.5 percent) between April 2022 and 2023. This persistently high food inflation continues to limit the pace of poverty reduction and affects food security, especially among the most vulnerable. Data from the Harmonized Framework (Cadre Harmonisé, CH) for The Gambia indicates that the number of people in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 3 and above (IPC3+) between June and August 2024 was an estimated 226,724 or 9 percent of the analyzed population.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

3. **Agriculture as the backbone of Gambia's economy is and will continue being central to ameliorating these economic challenges.** Stronger and sustained agricultural sector performance is required for overall economic growth[1], reduced food security- as a supply response, and narrowing the CAD, especially if the country can increase the volume and competitiveness of its agricultural exports.

4. **However, challenges related to availability and use of improved agriculture inputs/innovations, water, and land tenure security continue to hinder the optimal performance of The Gambia's agriculture sector and overall livelihoods, especially those in the rural space.** Small scale farmers for example, still face difficulties in accessing and adopting the use of essential productivity enhancing technologies and inputs due to a lack of access to credit, constrained availability of such technologies and inputs in remote areas, affordability, as well as farmers' aversion to risk and inadequate extension services. This results in lower productivity and hampers the sector's overall growth. Increased and more wide-spread adoption of quality inputs including climate-smart seed varieties, organic and mineral fertilizers along with the use of water-efficient irrigation technologies is still needed to boost agricultural productivity, food security, and overall sector performance.

5. **Additionally, even when The Gambia is endowed with ample water resources, its value for agriculture and overall livelihood improvement is not fully exploited.** Most farmers therefore continue to rely on the increasingly erratic rainfall for agriculture production while many households, especially those in rural areas face challenges accessing clean and safe water. Out of a potential of nearly 0.62 million hectares, less than 3 percent is under irrigation and only 9 percent of the potable water distributed by the National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC) - the only water utility company is available to rural households. Increasing water supply for both agriculture and household use is not only key to increased agriculture productivity and resilience but also to improved health and well-being of smallholder farmers.

6. **Finally, The Gambia's inefficient land administration processes, insecure land tenure, and land disputes, especially in rural areas negatively affect the performance of the agriculture sector.** Security of land tenure incentivizes landholders to invest in improved varieties, fertilizers, mechanization, and improved management practices (including conservation), all of which are key to increased agriculture productivity. However, a quarter of the population (24 percent) feels insecure about their land tenure[1], which directly impacts agriculture. Additionally, high costs and time to register property is frequently cited by the private sector as a major constraint to the commercialization of agriculture, while a patrilineal customary system disenfranchises a significant number of women of land rights, thereby undermining their contribution to agriculture sector performance.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO

7. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to promote the development of inclusive, resilient, and competitive agricultural value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agribusinesses in project target areas.

Current PDO

[1] Property Rights Index (Prindex), 2018. Gambia. Securing Land and Property Rights.

8. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to promote (i) the development of inclusive, resilient, and competitive agricultural value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agribusinesses, and (ii) improved water supply and sanitation in project target areas.

Key Results

9. **The PDO-level performance indicators** of the original project were**:** (i) Increase in the volume of marketed output by project direct beneficiaries (*percentage*, *disaggregated by gender, smallholders, and Small and Medium Enterprises–SMEs*); (ii) Increase in productivity of targeted agricultural commodities by project direct beneficiaries (*percentage*); (iii) Farmers and other value chain actors reached with agricultural assets or services (core indicator–*number*, *gender disaggregated*); and (iv) Farmers and other value chain actors using/adopting climate-smart technologies (*number*, *disaggregated by gender*). The proposed change reflects the increased focus of the AF on promoting improved water supply in targeted areas. Against this backdrop, two new PDO-level indicators are added: "People provided with access to improved water sources" *(number, disaggregated by gender) and "People provided with access to improved sanitation services (number, disaggregated by gender)*. In addition, to align with the new WBG Scorecard (Outcome Area 7 - Sustainable Food Systems), a third PDO-level indicator is added: *"People with strengthened food and nutrition security"*.

D. Project Description

10. The original project has five components: (i) Improving the business environment for commercial agriculture development; (ii) Building a productive and climate-resilient agri-food system; (iii) Mobilizing productive private investments along the value chains; (iv) Project coordination, monitoring, and knowledge management; and (v) Contingent Emergency Response.

11. **First, the proposal is to add a new sub-component (sub-component 1.5) on *"securing access to land"* under Component 1.** With an estimated cost of US$9 million, the objective of support under the proposed subcomponent is to improve The Gambia's land administration system and contribute to secure land tenure and climate-resilient spatial planning. Lessons learned from the parent project and the previous Gambia Commercial Agriculture and Value Chain Management Project (GCAV, P125024) indicate that further investments in the land sector would support increased productivity. A review of GCAV registration of women's vegetable gardens demonstrated that beneficiaries feel more confident to invest in their farms after receiving a Certificate of Occupancy, which they felt assured their rights to continue to use the farms regardless of their marital status. The GCAV experience also highlighted the importance of simplifying land registration procedures and making them more affordable to have more impact. Based on these experiences, this subcomponent will finance three key activities:

(a) Institutional and legal support to land administration institutions with the objective to enhance the capacities of land sector institutions, mainly the Ministry of Lands, Regional Government, and Religious Affairs (MLRG&RA) as well as relevant village/town and district authorities (formal and customary). The project will finance: (i) a capacity development program for MLRG&RA, local authorities, customary institutions, civil society, and the private sector in fit-four-purpose surveying, land registration, land dispute resolution, property valuation, climate-resilient spatial planning and other relevant disciplines with a specific focus on the participation of women to strengthen women's representation in the land administration professions; (ii) development of strategies for organizational restructuring, improved coordination mechanisms and financial sustainability of the land administration system, including the project investments; (iii) legal assessment and reforms, including consultations with relevant stakeholders

to update the existing land laws including but not limited to strengthening women's land rights; and (iv) an awareness raising program to inform the general public about any institutional and legal changes in the land sector, including those related to climate-resilient spatial planning. Altogether, these activities will lead to an innovative land tenure administration system enabling the agribusiness environment and creating incentive for more investment and wide adoption of innovations including climate-smart technologies to increase productivity while reducing emissions.

(b) Digitalization of the land administration system *with a focus on providing support for* establishing a digital land information system that will combine geospatial parcel data with ownership information and make land data available for climate resilient land use planning and disaster risk management. The project would finance (i) re-engineering of existing land administration processes and development of a basic land information system, incorporating climate-resilient design standards and energy-efficient technologies. This includes training and digitizing of paper-based land records; (ii) supply and installation of ICT equipment with a focus on energy-efficient devices and technologies; (iii) minor renovations of decentralized MLRG&RA offices to enable use of ICT in priority project intervention areas incorporating energy-efficient building materials and design standards to enhance climate resilience; and (iv) re-establishment of the geodetic reference network. MLRG&RA will obtain satellite imagery from the Gambia Bureau of Statistics, which would form a base layer in the land information system for georeferencing gender-disaggregated land ownership information with land parcel information.

(c) Demarcation and registration of land rights, which will include a pilot program for developing a systematic, cost- and time-efficient, participatory and gender-sensitive customary land rights registration process and program, focusing on communities and specifically women horticultural producers, building on the GCAV experience. By ensuring that women have secure access to land, land administration institutions can contribute to gender-responsive climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Specifically, the pilot would include climate-resilient spatial planning at the community level to demarcate and support protection of forests, mangroves, and other natural resources and ecologically sensitive areas. The target areas are being discussed and final decisions will be made based on criteria such as high presence of women's community vegetable farms, accessibility, commitment from customary leaders and communities, as well as minimal presence of land disputes to ensure successful implementation. The AF will finance: (i) a consultancy services to support MLRG&RA with developing and implementing a customary land rights demarcation and registration pilot, climate-resilient land use planning, and preparing strategies and technical support for scaling up the pilots; and (ii) goods required for demarcating and registering customary land and preparing climate-resilient land use plans in priority project intervention areas (e.g., mobile data collection devices, surveying equipment, drones, vehicles). The activities will follow the principles of fit-for-purpose technologies, systematic registration, full participation of community members, registration of women's land rights (communal, individual, or jointly with husbands), and will ensure that field staff is recruited locally and from the target areas as needed, with a focus on recruiting female staff to strengthen women's representation and participation in land administration.

12. **Second, the proposal is to add a new US$23 million component (Component 6 - Improving Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene - WASH) to the project design.** The objective of this new component is to increase water supply to promote irrigation to boost agribusiness, and to improve access to WASH in rural areas. It includes 3 sub-components as follows:

(a) Sub-component 6.1: Provision of Water for Irrigation (US$4.50 million). The objective of this subcomponent is to further support the development of irrigation services. It will finance: (i) consultancy services for the mapping of groundwater resources in terms of availability, quantity and

quality, which will help in identifying areas that have faced or may face in the future increased water stress of changes in groundwater recharge patterns due to climate change induced variability; (ii) technical assistance for an updated assessment of the actual irrigated land areas and the potential of irrigable land using climate-smart irrigation techniques such as drip, sprinklers or micro-pivot irrigation systems to improve water use efficiency and resilience to climate extremes such as droughts or floods; (iii) sustainable infrastructure and equipment to connect boreholes with horticultural perimeters for irrigation, following climate-resilient design standards to withstand extreme weather events and considering energy-efficient technologies to minimize greenhouse gas emissions associated with irrigation pumping.; (iv) upgrade GCAV women-led agribusiness firms irrigation system to address water deficit they are facing using climate-resilient design standards and energy-efficiency considerations; and (v) associated training to increase water use efficiency using climate-smart irrigation techniques (drip, sprinkler and micro-pivot irrigation system), maintenance and sustainability of infrastructure and equipment.

(b) Sub-component 6.2: Expansion of Water Supply and WASH to Selected Schools in Rural Areas (US$14 million). The objective of this subcomponent is to improve access to water supply in rural areas[2] and to provide improved WASH in selected schools.

(i) Interventions to be funded would include: (i) drilling new boreholes, construction of pump headworks and on-site generation of solar energy (ii) extension of water distribution networks including construction of tanks and centralized treatment centers where necessary, and (iii) new household connections. These interventions will include features such as durable materials and backup systems for water storage to ensure the resilience of the connections in the face of climate-related shocks. The on-site solar energy connections will greatly contribute to building climate resilience in the water supply systems. The priority areas to be served in the rural areas include (i) Greater Soma, (ii) Greater Basse, (iii) Greater Barra-Kanuma, (iv) Greater Farafenni, and (v) Greater Bansang which particularly faces peculiar water quality challenges. A feasibility study to use water from the Gambia River through Riverbank Filtration method to augment or serve as an alternative source to groundwater has been completed. A water treatment station would be constructed at Bansang following climate-resilient design standards and energy-efficiency considerations. Rural area will be prioritized. However, peri-urban areas in Greater Banjul Area (GBA) which do not have regular water supply and have been especially affected by the changing water patterns due to climate change will also be served. Each WYLAF will also have a toilet with handwashing station and basic hygiene training will be undertaken during construction of the toilets.

(ii) ***Provision of WASH in selected schools:*** Support will be provided to selected schools with water supply connection, toilet facilities and handwashing stations. This pilot will cover up to five selected schools located along the water distribution mains. Training will be provided to ensure the facilities are well managed and menstrual health and hygiene incorporated in the training.

(c) Sub-component 6.3: Meter Replacement, Energy Efficiency Improvements and Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Improvement (US$ 3.5 million equivalent). This subcomponent will fund:

(i) ***Meter Replacement Program***. The use of smart meters ensures the process of billing and reading of the water meters is automated. As a result, it will also enhance water management and reduce

[2] The Bank-funded Gambia Electricity Restoration and Modernization Project (GERMP, P163568) supported NAWEC to provide water in the Greater Banjul Area and therefore this AF will focus mainly on the rural area.

water losses and wastage through real-time monitoring and leak detection, aligning with climate adaptation goals. Under the Gambia Electricity Restoration and Modernization Project (GERMP), NAWEC was supported to procure 15,000 smart water meters to replace faulty ones and use for new connections. The use of the smart meters and the development of the district metering areas contributes to the non-revenue water management. The proposed AF will support the scale-up of the smart water meter initiative in the rural areas, prioritizing communities vulnerable to climate-related water stress. It will procure 25,000 of the smart water meters. This will help address part of the commercial losses for NAWEC.

(ii) ***Improvement in Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Management***. NRW is estimated at about 40 percent. The estimate may be incorrect since there are many factors impacting on the estimate including incorrect sizing of meters, incorrect pump rating, age of pumps and meters and outdated technology. The project will address the technical losses, active leak detection and pressure management with the engagement of the appropriate technical assistance and the procurement of the relevant equipment and spares. This intervention will ensure water conservation in the face of climate-induced water scarcity and enhance its availability at times of increased water demand such as droughts. Support will be provided for the ongoing NRW reduction program in the GBA and new NRW program in the rural areas.

(iii) ***Energy efficiency improvements of the water business***. NAWEC has completed a feasibility study of energy efficiency, renewable energy potentials and load management options of the water and sewerage business unit operations under the GERMP. These studies are aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of the Water and Sewerage Business Unit of NAWEC. The project will support the implementation of some of the recommendations of the study to ensure sustainability, prioritizing energy-efficient solutions to reduce the carbon footprint of water and sewerage operations including renewable energy integration such as solar-powered water pumps, to reduce energy consumption while enhancing climate resilience.

(iv) ***Technical Studies for Water Supply Masterplan and Groundwater Monitoring.*** A climate-resilient water supply masterplan is to be developed for the GBA with support from Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency - AFD). There are ongoing discussions with other development partners on the development of a masterplan for the rural areas. The AF will finance the preparation of a water supply and sanitation masterplan for the rural areas and a groundwater management and monitoring plan for The Gambia, integrating climate change considerations and resilience measures. There shall be coordination with other stakeholders in the development of the plan.

Legal Operational Policies

	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

13. **The existing project institutional and implementation arrangements will be maintained and reinforced with additional implementing partners needed for the new activities.** Regarding project oversight, the Ministry of Agriculture remains responsible for overall project implementation. It will collaborate closely with MLRG&RA, Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (MOPE) and National Water and Electricity Corporation (NAWEC), Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources and National Assembly Matters (MoFWRNAM) in addition to other relevant ministries and their respective departments and agencies, including (i) Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration, and Employment; (ii) the Ministry of Youth and Sport; (iii) the Ministry of Transport Works and Infrastructure and (iv) Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education. The established inter-ministerial Project Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary will be extended with new membership including representatives from MLRG&RA, MoFWRNAM and MOPE. The Central Projects Coordination Unit (CPCU) within the Ministry of Agriculture remains responsible for project coordination and implementation. The CPCU staff will be strengthened with a Land Administration Specialist who will work closely with the MLRG&RA and a Civil Engineer in charge of infrastructures including feeder roads, ALCs and others through a strong partnership with MOPE and NRA.

14. **Regarding implementing agencies, as the new activities related to water supply and land would be executed by specialized public agencies, the CPCU will sign partnership agreements with them.** Thus, the CPCU will sign an agreement with the existing Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of the GERMP to implement the water activities under the project. The Water Engineer at the GERMP PIU will be responsible for the water activities and shall work in close collaboration with the Projects and Planning Directorate of NAWEC to ensure all the water activities are mainstreamed into NAWEC activities. The two projects will also ensure that Missions overlap to make implementation support missions less cumbersome. The CPCU will sign a partnership agreement with MLRG&RA. The focal person for the activities will be the Permanent Secretary from MLRG&RA. The multistakeholder technical working group on land will continue to converge during implementation and will function as the technical committee for reviewing and planning the implementation of the land sector activities.

15. **These partnership agreements will be well defined.** They will include the assigned objectives; annual action plan; obligations and responsibilities of contracting parties; administrative, technical, and financial implementation modalities; date of effectiveness and duration; allocated budget; and categories of eligible expenditures. Through these partnership agreements, the CPCU will delegate to the relevant directorate or partner the technical responsibility for component and subcomponent implementation while maintaining overall fiduciary responsibility. The project implementation manual (PIM) will be updated accordingly to include these new implementing partners.

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