



Additional Financing Appraisal Environmental and  
Social Review Summary  
Appraisal Stage  
**(AF ESRS Appraisal Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 01/24/2024 | Report No: ESRSAFA607



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)
Gambia, The	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Republic of The Gambia	Ministry of Agriculture
Project ID	Project Name		
P180656	Gambia Inclusive And Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (girav)		
Parent Project ID (if any)	Parent Project Name		
P173070	Gambia Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (GIRAV)		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Agriculture and Food	Investment Project Financing	2/12/2024	4/15/2024

Proposed Development Objective

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.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Current Financing	47.85
Proposed Additional Financing	55.00
<b>Total Proposed Financing</b>	<b>102.85</b>

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

Yes

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

The Gambian economy is heavily dependent on agriculture. Even though its share of total GDP has decreased over the last decade, agriculture retains a crucial role in economic growth in The Gambia. The sector contributes around 20 percent of GDP and generates 30 percent of all foreign exchange earnings. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood



for 80 percent of the rural population, the sector employs nearly half—46 percent—of the country’s labor force, including an estimated 72 percent of the poor and 91 percent of the extreme poor.

Agriculture in the Gambia is dominated by subsistence-oriented rainfed crop and livestock production systems. The performance of the agri-food sector has been poor and erratic. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) classifies the Gambia as “a Low-Income Food Deficit Country” facing severe food security issues at both household and national levels. The COVID-19 pandemic will worsen the country food and nutrition insecurity situation. However, agriculture and agribusiness could become robust engines of inclusive growth and job creation. The country has the potential to achieve huge gains in productivity and market share, given its rich natural resource endowment and strong domestic, regional, and international demand for its agricultural products, including rice, groundnuts, cashews, vegetables, and fruits.

The design of the proposed project supports The Gambia in transforming the agricultural sector into a competitive and resilient commercial agri-food sector. This transformative change will be achieved through a logical chain of activities: (i) improving the enabling environment for agriculture/agribusiness development by expanding access to markets for producers and SMEs (through better logistics, market infrastructure, critical SPS services, and access roads), improving the policy and institutional framework, and strengthening the coordination and efficiency of value chain actors; (ii) increasing the productivity and competitiveness of producers and SMEs, as well as their resilience to climate change, by expanding access to climate-smart technologies, inputs, and services; and (iii) increasing private investment along the value chains by strengthening the key public and private institutions responsible for promoting and mobilizing private investment and by providing support services (technical, managerial, and financial) to agribusiness operators.

The World Bank Group (WBG) Gambia Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2021–26 (under preparation) and recently completed Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD), “Overcoming a No-Growth Legacy,” fully support the national vision and objectives for the agricultural sector. The three CPF Focus Areas recognize that The Gambia can transition out of fragility only by addressing its underlying public service delivery challenges, tackling constraints on development in key economic sectors such as agriculture, and investing in human capital. The proposed project is an integral part of CPF Focus Area 2, which aims to Enable Inclusive and Resilient Private Sector Driven Job Creation through sustained support for government efforts to create an enabling business environment that fuels job creation, by boosting commercial agriculture and increasing access to finance for MSMEs, among other actions.

The project will contribute to the achievement of the WBG’s twin goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity, as well as the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of no poverty and zero hunger by 2030. Like other African countries, Gambia—if it is to meet the twin WBG goals and realize the SDGs—must achieve economic growth that is transformational, sustained, inclusive, and pro-poor, capable of lifting the poor one million Gambians, most of whom live in rural areas and depend on agriculture as their main source of livelihood.

## D. Environmental and Social Overview

### D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

The Gambia is a small fragile country in West Africa, its 10, 689 sq. km area is surrounded by Senegal, except for a 60 km Atlantic Ocean front. The country has a population of 2.1 million. Most of the population is concentrated around urban and peri urban. Nationally, incidence of poverty is highest among those in rural areas. The proposed Af is the



inclusion of an additional Sub-component on securing access to land under Component 1: Improving the business environment for commercial agriculture development, and a new Component on the provision of water supply to rural and peri-urban areas. The Gambia is endowed with ample water resources whose economic value is not fully exploited. About 11.5 percent of The Gambia's surface area is covered by water and 20 percent is considered as wetland. The Gambia has considerable irrigation potential but only a very small part has been developed. Indeed, country arable area is nearly 620,000 hectares of which less than 3 percent under irrigation. Virtually all the drinking water is derived from groundwater. The transboundary Gambia River flows through The Gambia and its basin fully covers the country, but the water is too saline to exploit. The River Basin is managed by the Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Gambie (OMVG) which is the Gambia River Basin Development Authority, which was established in 1978 and manages several river basins among the riparian countries: Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea. The economic use of the water resources remains limited despite their abundance. Surface water resources have been mapped by OMVG, but very limited studies have been done on groundwater. Many residents in the Greater Banjul Area (GBA) drill wells without a clear understanding of the hydrology of the area, such as the quality of the water and the sustainability of the source. No authority is clearly responsible for monitoring boreholes and sanctioning illegal wells. While the Department of Water Resources within MFWR is responsible for monitoring groundwater resources, it does not have the resources to do so. The Department also provides limited services in areas where National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC) coverage is not in place. According to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5, The Gambia is expected to face a sea level rise by 35 cm by 2050. A third of the country's surface area is located at or below 10 meters above sea level, and 10 to 20 per cent is seasonally or diurnally flooded.

The project aims to promote commercial agriculture through the development of inclusive, resilient, and competitive agricultural value chains, focusing on smallholder farmers and agribusinesses in project target areas. The parent project will operate in five agricultural regions—West Coast (Brikama), North Bank (Kerewan), Lower River (Mansa Konko), Central River (Janjanbureh), and Upper River (Basse) and two municipalities (Banjul and Kanifing), which together comprise 35 districts of 43 nationally. These areas have relatively good connectivity to urban centers which have a high and fast-growing demand for agricultural products (Banjul and its port/airport for exports, and the large regional capitals of the other regions, shown in parentheses), as well as high potential for developing commercial agriculture. The project will take place in a largely savannah context with annual rainfall between 300 mm and 1000 mm. This makes for a variation of drought and water stressed conditions across the country. The principal crops cultivated are millet, groundnut, rain fed upland rice, irrigated lowland rice. Areas around floodplains and riverbanks of the River Gambia are important habitats for wildlife and play an important role in the local economy and livelihood.

The main causes of poverty are: income insecurity resulting from weather induced crop failures, shortages of cash forcing farmers to sell their produce immediately after harvest at low prices and then buy back grain at high prices during the hungry season (August-September); rising costs of living (education and healthcare) 72 percent of the extremely poor of the Gambian population depend on agriculture for their survival. It has been recorded that female-headed households, or 18 percent of the rural population, have higher levels of poverty, while over 78 percent of women engage in the agricultural sector.

The four proposed priority value chains are: rice (to substitute for increasing imports), horticulture (vegetables and mango to supply urban centers and exports), cashew (for exports and domestic processing), poultry (urban markets). These value chains have been identified as having: (i) a high development potential (market opportunities and productivity gains) that can be realized in the short to medium term; and (ii) a high impact on job creation, particularly for women and youth.



The water production does not meet demand. Potable water supply in The Gambia is provided by the NAWEC. NAWEC has been supported in the last few years to improve its operational efficiency and this can be seen mostly in urban water areas but little impact in rural areas. The current total production capacity of NAWEC water supply is 6613.5 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. Approximately 91 percent of water distribution by NAWEC is in the Greater Banjul Area (GBA) and the part of West Coast Region. The last census (2013) indicated that the rural population was 904,263 and this accounts for 40 percent of the population. The rural population which accounts for majority of the farmers receive only about 9 percent of water produced by NAWEC. The AF will support increasing water supply to the rural areas to enhance agribusiness and to improve the health and well-being of small holder farmers. Additionally, school children, especially girls, in rural areas will have time to attend classes, since they would not have to travel long distances to fetch water for their families.

Legally, all land in The Gambia is public land but most of The Gambia's land mass is governed by customary tenure (80 percent) while land disputes are the most common form of conflicts in rural areas. The Government recognizes three forms of land tenure (freehold, leasehold, and customary), each of which is governed by different rules and institutions. The State Lands Act (1991) mainly governs freehold and leasehold tenure, which cover a minority of the overall land area of The Gambia, whereas customary tenure is governed by the Lands (Regions) Act (1991). This legal framework was not updated since the early 1990s and does not address current land sector challenges, which relate to tenure insecurity and land related disputes, thus compounding risks to social stability, investments, and productivity. Land disputes represent 28 percent of all conflicts in The Gambia. The situation is most severe in rural areas, where 41 percent of all conflicts are based on land disputes, making it the most common form of conflict .] However, it is estimated that less than 10 percent of the customary land boundaries have been surveyed and demarcated .

The rise in food inflation is due to both high domestic food prices and high import prices, as The Gambia imports 50 percent of its food needs, with higher imports for some staples such as rice and sugar, for which imports account for 80 and 100 percent of consumption, respectively. 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 Harmonise, CH) for The Gambia indicates that the number of people in The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 3 and more (IPC3+) between June and August 2023 was an estimated 319,628 or 13 percent of the analyzed population. The Government strategy to deal with the food crisis is underpinned by a supply response targeting increased food production using improved inputs including fertilizers and seeds. A first project restructuring was done and approved on November 30, 2022, to include a new expenditure category on fertilizers to the tune of US\$15 million to respond to the Government request. This proposed additional financing (AF) includes US\$15 million therefore to replenish the original project resource planned to be used to procure the fertilizers. This AF will allow keeping the original project design and the activities to be implemented as initially planned as they are on good track.

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

The project will be executed by the Ministry of Agriculture in coordination with key implementing partners including Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration, and Employment, Ministry of Youth and Women, Ministry of Transport Works and Infrastructure, Ministry of Lands, Regional Government, and Religious Affairs (MLRG&RA), Ministry of Water, Ministry of Youth and Sport, MOTIE, Gambia Investment & Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC), Gambian Groundnut Cooperation (GGC) etc.) and other private sector operators through effective contractual arrangements.



Recent experience in the GCAV project (P125024) revealed that the Central Projects Coordination Unit (CPCU) does not have the capacity to comply with World Bank and national requirements for environmental and social risk management. The CPCU failed to recruit an environmental or social specialist for the GCAV project. In addition, arrangements made with the National Environmental Agency (NEA) were not been respected, as required field visits to ground-truth the level of E&S risks and impacts was not conducted.

CPCU staffing is strengthened to meet the specific needs of GIRAV. CPCU has already recruited full time environmental and social specialists to accompany the implementation of the project, by November 1st, 2021 . The CPCU participated in ESF and SEA/SH training in December 2020. Staff, and recruited consultants, of the CPCU will be encouraged to participate in future Bank-organized ESF capacity building activities. The Bank will provide advice and support to the CPCU for the development of the project’s environmental and social management instruments. The CPCU will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the recommended environmental and social mitigation measures in the E&S risk management instruments.

For Land sector, risks related to institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability are upgraded to high given the land activities. Low human and institutional capacities of the land sector pose significant risk to the proposed activities. The capacities within MLRG&RA have consistently decreased over time due to a lack of investment in continuous capacity building. The universities in The Gambia do not offer any holistic land administration, valuation, cartography, or surveying courses, while government surveyors have no academic surveying background. It is also added that the MLRG&RA has no capacity on social safeguards, in particular the ESF. On the other hand, NAWEC has implemented several Bank projects under OPs and ESF, often with satisfaction. Specifically, it is recommended for NAWEC to recruit specialist in social (1) and environmental (1) that support the implementation of the project. For the MLRG&RA the recruitment of a social specialist experienced in conflict management and the promotion of women towards access to land will help to achieve the associated indicators.

Public Disclosure

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

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

Substantial

#### A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

The environmental risk classification for the AF deemed Substantial. The expected environmental impacts associated with the AF activities include the increase of water supply to (i) promote irrigation and develop inclusive and resilient agricultural value chains, and (ii) improve access to potable water for smallholder farmers and peri-urban families to improve their health and well-being; the procurement of mineral fertilizers to improve agricultural productivity and production. The main potential risks and impacts are related to pollution and degradation of water resources, nuisance like dust and noise, waste management and traffic safety issues to the community as well as occupational health and safety concerns related to use of community workers and to the use of construction equipment and industry machinery. Other risks include (i) soil erosion and degradation, (ii) degradation of surface water quality due to the increased use of agro- chemicals such as mineral fertilizers, (iii) impact on biodiversity and protected species, (iv) occupational health and safety of workers, (iv) nuisances related to air and noise emissions, and (vi) community health and safety due to increased traffic and infectious. In addition, the CPCU’s weak track record regarding ES issues would present a challenge.

#### A.2 Social Risk Rating

Substantial



Land tenure systems marked by legal pluralism materialized by the coexistence of several sources of legitimacy. There is both land legislation derived from statutory law and deep-rooted customary practices that overlap, in many cases, with Muslim law. This situation leads to hybrid land practices that are complex and difficult to control, especially by local population. The social risk of the project is currently rated Substantial for the following two reasons: 1) the land process need to be support buy a robust complaint mechanism to solve land disputes disputes for example on boundaries during demarcation. To mitigate this the project needs adequate documentation procedures, clear dispute resolution mechanisms, and public display and consultations of boundaries before these are being formally registered to allow community members to file their concerns if needed. 2) Ensuring that women's land rights are registered during the project could create resistance from male community members that benefit from existing patriarchal norms.

## **B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered**

### **B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards**

#### **ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

The Additional financing is focusing on scaling up activities falling within the Parent project's objectives, components and areas the environmental and social risks and impacts assessed under the parent project remain relevant. Any risks and impacts identified as a result of the AF activities that were not considered under the parent project will need to be assessed and adequately mitigated particularly activities under Sub-component 1.5: Securing access to land, Component 2 (Building a productive and climate-resilient agri-food system to improve farmers' access to mineral fertilizers), Sub-component 6.1: Expansion of Water Supply to Rural Areas, Sub-component 6.3: Provision of Water for Irrigation particularly infrastructure and equipment to connect boreholes with horticultural perimeters for irrigation. These activities involve a social assessment in view of the multiplicity of actors including vulnerable groups, the economic and financial stakes, the risks of conflict, misunderstanding or gender-based violence. The main environmental, social, health and safety risks associated with proposed project activities such as the rehabilitation of feeder roads and marketing infrastructure, may affect negatively the surrounding physical environment and local people. Anticipated risks include land acquisition and impact on livelihoods, loss of assets, labor influx and SEA/SH risks. Other risks include: (i) soil erosion and degradation, (ii) increased use of mineral fertilizers and other chemicals due to agricultural activities; (iii) occupational health and safety of workers, (iv) nuisances related to air and noise emissions, and (v) community health and safety due to increased traffic and communicable diseases (e.g. COVID-19). The ESMF, RPF, LMP, SEP and SEA/SH action plan will be updated as needed and disclosed, before project effectiveness. Any proposed changes are reflected in the ESCP, accordingly. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) addressing relevant ESF requirements, was prepared by the Borrower, to examine the risks and impacts of the parent project, and to provide guidance on the appropriate site-specific instruments, such as the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments/Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESIAs/ESMPs) to be prepared. The identified potential adverse risks and impacts on human populations and/or the environment are the deterioration in air quality and ground vegetation, the disturbance of fauna, the pollution of soil and water resources, the degradation of the living environment by the construction waste, the noise pollution, the risk related to health and safety. The identified risks and impacts will be managed during project implementation in accordance with the ESMF that will guide the preparation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments/ Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESIAs/ESMPs) including adequate key mitigation measures to be incorporated into the design of



infrastructure. In addition, the updated E&S instruments will provide guidance for the preparation of appropriate site-specific instruments, such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessments/Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESIAs/ESMPs) and RAP and documentation for any voluntary land donation will be prepared as necessary according to the provisions of the country specific ESMF and RPF.

Each updated instrument will be consulted upon, reviewed and disclosed before project effectiveness. The ESMF provide guidance regarding mitigation and management measures during all phases of the project, including the respective roles and responsibilities, schedule, costs and implementation procedures. They integrate general and sector-specific EHSs for the AF activities /investments in relation to occupational and community health and safety, include an assessment of the SEA/SH risks, proposed mitigation measures, adapted to cultural context and an assessment of the available SEA/SH services in the project area. Grievance Mechanism (GM): The GM of the parent project responds to concerns and grievances of PAPs related to the environmental and social performance. However, the grievance mechanism for project workers will be provided separately under the Labor Management Procedures prepared for the parent project. The grievance mechanism provided will set specific procedures to manage SEA/ SH complaints ethically and confidentially accompanied by an appropriate response protocol.

Related to the AF the SEP will be updated and adapted in order to meet the needs of the new stakeholders, particularly the Land actors. NAWEC is implementing diverse Bank project and has the capacities to monitor and enforce communication and GM. The plan will be implemented through interviews with the various stakeholders, public meetings, workshops or discussion groups on issues. The SEP is an operational and flexible document that will evolve as the Project is prepared and implemented, in order to take into account the concerns and needs of stakeholders whose actions will bring more benefit and value to the achievement of the objectives of the Project.

For the AF, RAP will be developed if site or line are defined that will require ESS 5 for activities on components 2 and 6. The RPF defines the principles that govern involuntary resettlement resulting in the loss of land and other assets and restriction of access to sources of livelihood. It also defines the institutional arrangements, mechanisms for managing grievances or conflicts, the monitoring and evaluation system for the involuntary resettlement activities. The RPF includes an indicative implementation budget and a systematic process of engaging stakeholders at the different implementation stages in conformity with national laws and the requirements of ESS 5, ESS1 and ESS 10 of the World Bank's ESF. If the determination is made, site-specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) will be prepared if needed.

An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), drawn and agreed upon with the Bank, has also been prepared. The ESCP sets out the substantive measures and actions that will be required for the project to meet environmental and social requirements. The ESCP has been updated to reflect the changes related to the AF activities. These measures shall be implemented within the specified timeframes and the status of implementation will be regularly reviewed as part of project monitoring and reporting.

Monitoring and Reporting. The ESMFs include specific monitoring indicators. The environmental and social management plans (ESMPs) that will be prepared by contractors/subcontractors for the civil works will also include these monitoring indicators. The World Bank will require quarterly E&S monitoring performance reporting during implementation.

This regular monitoring and reporting on the agreed project indicators will include the timely, efficient, and effective implementation of the ESMPs and RAPs. It will also report on grievance resolution, including SEA/SH cases. Any severe/serious Incidents/accidents will be reported within 24/48 hours of occurrence using the ESIRT template that will be annexed to the Project Implementation Manual. With regard to the FA conflicts could be exacerbated as the project aims to promote women access to land.





A "CERC-ESMF" addendum will be prepared to update the project ESMF accordingly when preparing the CERC Manual.

**Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:**

**ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

In consultation with the Bank, the Borrower have prepared and disclosed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportional to the nature and scale of the project and associated risks and impacts. . With the AF, the SEP will be updated to take into account the different stakeholders involved. The project has established Grievance Mechanisms (GM) which is functional. The GM for the parent project was assessed during the preparation of the E&S documents and reinforced with the requirements of the ESS10. The existing institutional and implementation arrangement of GIRAV will be maintained and reinforced with additional implementing partners needed for the new activities. The main stakeholders are Ministry of Agriculture in coordination with key implementing partners including Ministry of Lands, Regional Government, and Religious Affairs (MLRG&RA), Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration, and Employment, Ministry of Youth and Women, Ministry of Transport Works and Infrastructure, Ministry of Water, Ministry of Youth and Sport, MOTIE, Gambia Investment & Export Promotion Agency (GIEPA), National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), West and Central Africa Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF), National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC), Gambian Groundnut Cooperation (GGC) etc.) and other private sector operators through effective contractual arrangement, as well as involved village/town and district authorities (formal and customary), civil society, the private sector. Other stakeholders will be identified through the actualization of the SEP.

Information sessions will be held in all regions involving all administrative and community authorities, civil society organizations, men, youth and women as well as all vulnerable groups in order to consult them and take into account their concerns in the management of the project, in particular on aspects related to land reforms and increasing water supply to promote irrigation, to boost agribusiness, and to improve access to potable water in rural and peri-urban areas. L’actualisation du SEP permettra aussi aux nouvelles structures, le CPCU

The disadvantaged and vulnerable groups include women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, persons suffering from HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases who are generally marginalized and unable to fully participate and benefit from development actions. To ensure adequate engagement with the vulnerable individuals and groups often requires the application of specific measures and assistance aimed at facilitating their participation in project-related decision-making so that their awareness of and input to the overall process are commensurate to those of the other stakeholders.

The Borrower will apply the following principles for stakeholder engagement: Openness and life-cycle approach: public consultations for the project(s) will be arranged during the whole lifecycle, carried out in an open manner, free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, or intimidation; informed participation and feedback, inclusiveness and sensitivity, flexibility: if social distancing inhibits traditional forms of engagement, the methodology should adapt to other forms of engagement, including various forms of internet communication.

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### ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

Under the AF, a substantial amount of labor is expected due to the nature of the civil works related to Sub-component 6.1: Expansion of Water Supply to Rural Areas and Sub-component 6.3: Provision of Water for Irrigation particularly infrastructure and equipment to connect boreholes with horticultural perimeters for irrigation. Labor influx could be an issue as some sites could be located close to Senegal; and also because, of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, many young people are likely to be searching for work. Some contractors could bring workers from outside and house them near or within local communities. These occurrences could present challenges for the project if not properly managed. All the principles developed in initial financing and presented below will be continue with the AF.

The Borrower have prepared and disclosed a labour management procedures (LMP) to manage labor prior to appraisal. It includes, among other things: ensuring that, to the extent possible, unskilled labor for construction/rehabilitation is hired locally, in order to minimize an influx of unskilled labor and reduce the potential for conflict. All workers will be sensitized to a code of conduct, which they will be asked to sign and keep as an annex to their work contract. This will contain detailed information on their terms and conditions of work, including the explicit prohibition of child and forced labor, particularly for activities under Components 1 and 6. Looking at the nature of the project workforce (mostly unskilled and semiskilled construction workers) and characteristics of the labour force market in The Gambia, it is likely that the workforce, especially the lower-skilled workers will be predominantly male. Female workers are expected to be employed by GIRAV through consultants and Contractors in limited numbers. It is estimated that women would represent about 5-10 percent of the workforce, and those would likely be technical (engineering) and/or administration and general services (in site offices and camps as secretaries, receptionist, cleaners, cooks, etc.). The expectation is that the majority of labour will be locally hired with the exception of a few skilled workers. All other works will be outsourced. Contractors shall be encouraged to train and hire as many workers as possible from local communities. The LMP noted that project will take steps to prevent accidents, injury, and disease arising from, associated with, or occurring in the course of work by minimizing, as far as reasonably practicable, the causes of hazards. In a manner consistent with good international best practice, as reflected in various internationally recognized sources including the World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines. The LMP, noted that Gambia has been working towards abolishing past practices of child labour associated with the agricultural sector, and has achieved significant progress. A Grievance Mechanism, Civil Societies Groups and the Child Protection Unit of The Gambia Police Force to report cases of forced and child labour are established and responsible for the monitoring of child rights. Protections using a 24-hour helpline and internet sites should be established. No child or forced labour, involuntary or unpaid labour shall be used in any civil works



activities, contracted by or directly associated with the project. These will be implemented and monitored by GIRAV Project Coordinating Team and will be included in the training to be provided to GIRAV staff, staff of Participating Financing Institutions (PFIs), and government officials in participating regions.

The LMP indicates that Codes of Conduct will be applied to help ensure the project meets its ESHS and OHS objectives, as well as preventing and/or mitigating the risks of SEA/SH and VAC on the project and in the local communities. Contractors should make sure these Codes of Conduct are signed and adopted by those working on the project and are meant to: create awareness of the ESHS and OHS expectations on the project; create common awareness about SEA/SH and VAC and ensure a shared understanding that they have no place in the project; and, create a clear system for identifying, responding to, and sanctioning GBV and VAC incidents.

### ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Under the component 6, the AF is expected to be significant user of water and material resources. Should the project utilize raw materials for construction activities, the material will be sourced through measures specified in Good International Industry Practices (GIIPs).

The ESMF includes general measures to avoid/minimize pollution and waste generation (dust suppression, noise control, waste management at construction sites) The Borrower will put in place the necessary measures to promote the sustainable use of resources (in particular water and energy) and to minimize pollution from project activities. Site-specific ESMPs will identify measures to avoid or minimize the pollution of air, soil and water resources, as well as the degradation of the living environment by the construction waste and noise pollution.

The Project will use a climate-resilient approach focused on increasing the adoption of climate smart-technologies and practices. Examples include water-efficient and labor-saving irrigation technologies; vertical farming; an array of high-yielding, early maturing, drought-resistant, and salt-tolerant varieties; solar energy for irrigation and processing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and best environmentally friendly technologies and practices (biofertilizers, organic fertilizers, integrated pest management, agroforestry, and others). The project intends to use sustainable techniques and will not use pesticides. However, certain products such as fertilizers and chemicals for the improvement of production and the protection of crops could generate pollution and degradation of water resources. Site-specific ESAs/ESMPs will assess the risks associated with the use of agrochemicals including pesticides and adequate mitigation measures will be recommended.

Under component 6: Energy efficiency improvements of the water business including to support the development of irrigation services. It will finance: (i) consultant services for the mapping of groundwater resources in terms of availability and quality; (ii) the technical assistance for an updated assessment of the actual irrigated land areas and the potential of irrigable land; (iii) infrastructure and equipment to connect boreholes with horticultural perimeters for irrigation; and (iv) associated training to increase water use efficiency and sustainability of infrastructure and equipment. 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;

Regarding the procurement and use fertilizer which may rise some potential environmental risks such as pollution and degradation of water resources that could impact farmers health and the environment, the CPCU safeguard team through a collaboration with the National Environment Agency (NEA) will work with community to mitigate the risk by proving them with sensitization and training on fertilizer best application practices. The training sessions will take



at the appropriate locations in the regions. They will include making decisions to the judicious use of fertilizers, transport, storage, in case of ammonium use for example, handling, distribution and safe application of inorganic pesticides, organic pesticides and bio-pesticides. The mitigation measures will include standard pollution prevention and control measures in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy.

The AF will support the preparation of a water supply and sanitation masterplan for the rural areas and a groundwater management and monitoring plan for The Gambia. There shall be coordination with other stakeholders in the development of the plan.

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

Civil works activities under the FA, Sub-component 6.1: Expansion of Water Supply to Rural Areas and Sub-component 6.3: Provision of Water for Irrigation particularly infrastructure and equipment to connect boreholes with horticultural perimeters for irrigation can cause the influx of some workers, which can have an adverse social impact on local communities. The project will ensure the safety of communities and other visitors during the civil works by identifying general measures in the ESMF and by adopting adequate Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) protocols following World Bank Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) guidelines. These will be supplemented by measures recommended by the site-specific environmental due diligence documents. Works contracts will also require that contractors do not expose communities to any hazardous activities, materials or substances that may be used in the project. A road safety assessment will be carried out, as part of the environmental and social assessments and effective arrangements and measures put in place to deal with emergency situations. An influx of workers, which could have an adverse social impact on local communities, will be addressed in the LMP, per ESS2 requirements. Under the AF, the Borrower will update the SEA/SH risk assessment and Action Plan of the parent project with a budget in the updated ESMF. While most of the workers for the small civil works are likely to be from the local communities, experience has shown that any influx of workers into a project area can lead to adverse social impacts (SEA/SH and sexually transmitted and communicable diseases), particularly in rural areas. To manage these impacts, the site-specific ESIA/ESMP will assess and include measures for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

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

Project activities, aimed at promoting the development of new agribusiness firms equipped with modern irrigation technologies, such as: pressurized water management technologies to modernize production systems, on-farm water storage tanks, on-farm drip, sprinkler or pivot irrigation equipment, greenhouse, vertical farming, fencing, solar energy system and processing platforms, can have impacts on communities' assets or livelihoods. As specific sites are not yet known, a resettlement policy framework (RPF) has been developed to provide principles of resettlement and organizational arrangements to be applied to subprojects. This RPF is valid for FA activities related to sub-component 6.1: Expansion of water supply in rural areas and Sub-component 6.3: Water supply for irrigation, in particular infrastructure and equipment to connect boreholes to horticultural perimeters for irrigation. Based on the principles established in the ESMF, environmental and social screening will be conducted to determine if physical or economic displacement could occur as a result of sub-project activities. If the determination is made, site-specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) will be prepared for initial financing and AF. If a RAP is required at a sub-project site, no construction works will be permitted in the affected prior to compensation to those affected by the project, in



accordance with ESS5. Where applicable, project affected persons should be provided moving allowances in addition to compensation, to allow them move so that the project can take possession of affected lands. The RPF and any RAPs will be published in country and on the World Bank’s website prior to project appraisal.

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

The project aims to develop small-scale irrigation schemes for horticultural crops in selected project areas, (rural areas) and the civil works for irrigation infrastructure should not take place within protected areas and wildlife corridors due to a possible negative impact on biodiversity and protected species. Therefore, the E&S instruments include clauses that take aspects of biodiversity, wildlife and sustainable management into consideration; for individual subprojects, too, screening will be included to ensure these are covered; and site specific ESIs will further assess impacts on biodiversity and wildlife and provide adequate mitigation measures where needed. The project will follow the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), 2015 which provides the framework for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The final choice of the areas selected for the project is still pending, once it is known the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM) under the Ministry in charge of Environment will be contacted to get access to the most up-to-date data on protected areas and wildlife corridors to exclude them from the project intervention areas.

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

There are no Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities in the project area.

### **ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

This Standard is relevant as the civil works under the AF will involve excavation and earth moving which could lead to chance finds of cultural heritage. As part of the preparation of the ESMF, consultations have been carried out with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MOTC) - and in particular the National Centre for Arts and Culture - to identify the known cultural heritage in project areas and to determine the type of heritage that could likely be encountered during project implementation.

Extensive consultations with regional leaders and community members in the potential project areas and many state institutions reveal that the proposed project area does not contain any critical cultural heritage site (i.e., site protected by both national and international laws). The project will also avoid any impacts on locally significant However, given that in some of the works of Labor-Intensive Public Works (LIPW), it is possible that upon cultural heritage sites and/or materials, during land clearing, “Chance Find Procedures”, incorporated into the ESMF, will be implemented. The primary objective of this Chance Find Procedure is to provide practical and step-by-step procedures for protecting any cultural heritage that may be accidentally discovered during the project implementation. These provisions will also be reflected in construction companies' contractual clauses. The screening mechanism in the ESMF will include questions that would lead to the exclusion of project activities that may have an adverse impact on any cultural heritage.



**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

The project is not transferring resources to any Financial Institution (FI).

**C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

**OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways** No

**OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas** No

**B.3 Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts**

**Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework?** No

**Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:**

The project will not rely on the Borrower’s Framework but will comply with all environmental and social laws, policies and regulations.

**IV. CONTACT POINTS**

**World Bank**

Task Team Leader: Aifa Fatimata Ndoye Niane Title: Senior Agriculture Economist

Email: andoye@worldbank.org

**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Borrower: Republic of The Gambia

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture

**V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

Public Disclosure



The World Bank  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
Telephone: (202) 473-1000  
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

## VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Harold Esseku, Aifa Fatimata Ndoye Niane, Linus Benedikt Pott
ADM Environmental Specialist:	Ahmed Fall
ADM Social Specialist:	Mamadou Moustapha Ndoye
Practice Manager (ENV/SOC)	Abdelaziz Lagnaoui Cleared on 24-Jan-2024 at 15:07:26 EST