



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 03/21/2022 | Report No: ESRSA02037



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Afghanistan	SOUTH ASIA	P178760	
Project Name	Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Sustainability and Inclusion	Investment Project Financing	3/21/2022	4/13/2022
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		

Proposed Development Objective

The main objective is to provide short-term livelihood opportunities and deliver urgent essential services in rural and urban areas.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	265.00

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

Yes

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

This Project will provide short-term employment and income to millions of Afghans while also improving access to basic services such as clean water and sanitation. Women and vulnerable groups such as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and persons with disabilities, will be especially assisted. Second, the project will support community-level systems and institutions for long-term resilience, sustainability, and inclusive development.

Project components: The project will be implemented over two years and comprises of the following components:



Component 1: Emergency Livelihoods Support and Services in Rural Areas. This component will provide assistance in the form of cash-for-work and support for the rehabilitation of small-scale basic infrastructure services such as clean water, sanitation, or tertiary roads;

Component 2: Emergency Livelihoods Support and Services in Urban Areas. This component will provide livelihood opportunities for unskilled and semi-skilled labor and respond to urgent service delivery needs in urban areas through small-scale labor-intensive works (LIWs);

Component 3: Social Grants for Women and the Most Vulnerable in Rural and Urban Areas. This component will provide communities with a grant to assist the most vulnerable groups and households who are not able to benefit from physical work activities in the form of food/grain banks support, cash or livelihood activities. Beneficiaries would include female heads-of-households and persons with disabilities.

Component 4: Strengthening community institutions for inclusive service delivery especially for women. This component will support the mobilization of communities and trainings in selected areas. It will include providing support to communities and Community Development Councils for activities related to mobilization, planning, implementation, and monitoring;

Component 5: Implementation Support. This component will support the costs of the UN partner to manage and oversee the project, including technical support, training, monitoring, and reporting upon results.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

The project will be operating in 6,500 rural communities in 23 provinces and eight cities across the country. The country is currently experiencing immediate challenges of a devastating economic collapse, drought conditions, the COVID pandemic, millions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and suppression of women’s rights and their labor force participation. The current economic and political instability has resulted in the deterioration of basic service provision across the country, increased prices of staple foods and fuel and reduced household purchasing power. The political transition in August 2021 has led to severe negative impacts on employment and loss of income specifically for poor, women, and vulnerable people. Basic service delivery also remains vitally needed during this time of crisis, with approximately 30-40% of rural populations still in need of clean water sources. Women are especially vulnerable as they face diminishing access to public spaces, education, restrictions on work and employment, harassment, death threats and violence. Sub-groups of women, including female-headed households and adolescent girls are even more vulnerable. Finally, the large influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in cities and peri-urban areas has created challenges in terms of the availability and quality of basic services, infrastructure, and economic opportunities.

On the positive side, there are over 35,000 Community Development Councils (CDCs) in 361 districts in all of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces, providing the main participatory platform for service delivery and citizen engagement in an estimated 90 percent of villages in rural Afghanistan and most major urban cities. These CDCs comprised of both male and female community representatives will be able to play important and positive role in implementing the



operation. CDCs provide a participatory platform for service delivery. Even in Taliban-controlled areas from 2003-2021, CDCs have been able to operate to coordinate and negotiate access to services and help the poorest. As trusted and apolitical community representatives, CDCs can help identify beneficiaries and the most vulnerable, coordinate relief efforts and assistance for optimal efficiency and effectiveness and raise awareness amongst communities. During the recent COVID crisis (2020-2021), CDCs were able to successfully identify the most vulnerable including female heads-of-household, persons with disabilities, the elderly and IDPs. Working with well-established and known CDCs offers a channel to reach the most vulnerable directly without interaction with the current Interim Taliban Administration (ITA).

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The Project will be implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), with support from implementing partners such as Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to facilitate implementation on the ground. Since 2018, UNOPS has had experience implementing World Bank financed projects which includes implementation of ESF in Fragility, Conflicts and Violence (FCV) countries such as Yemen, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Sudan, Somalia, Nicaragua, and Haiti. UNOPS has demonstrated through the World Bank financed projects in FCV countries that it has the experience and capacity to prepare Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMF), Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), Labor Management Procedure (LMP) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) required by World Bank's ESF. Additionally, as a project-based organization that implements projects for partners, the UNOPS is agile in meeting partner requirements and is committed to full compliance of the World Bank ESF requirements. UNOPS' Environment and Social specialist have experience in World Bank's ESF standards, monitoring and supervision, GRM oversight, good practices in stakeholder consultations, identifying and engaging vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, individuals, labour, OHS and environmental management.

UNOPS' environmental and social policies are contained in Executive Office Directives (EOD) and Instructions EOD.ED.2017.03, EOD.ED.2021.01 and EOI.SSC.2021.01 on Health and Safety and Social and Environmental Management. In addition, UNOPS has an Environmental Management System Handbook 2015, to ensure that all environmental impacts of a project that are within UNOPS' control and influence have been considered and addressed throughout the project lifecycle. While these policies are mostly well aligned with the World Bank's ESF in substance, there are a few gaps. Some of the directives like those pertaining to labor have less detail than that of the World Bank's ESF in terms of the requirement for workers conditions, provisions for different types of workers, and workers GRM. The UNOPS directives also do not cover Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources and do not have a SEA/SH risk screening tool like the one used by the World Bank. As the Community Resilience and Livelihoods project will follow ESF, further granularity of these gaps will be described and specific measures will be included in the ESMF to ensure compliance with the ESF.

In Afghanistan, UNOPS has long experience of operation with regards to implementation of Environment and Social safeguards requirements. The UNOPS Afghanistan office currently has 210 personnel, that includes local staff who have been trained on Environmental and Social (E&S) management. UNOPS local team currently based in Afghanistan includes a local expert with ESF experience. In addition, UNOPS has trained contractors on E&S and has experience in implementing E&S management with contractors and NGO partners in Afghanistan. The Institutional arrangements will constitute the establishment of a PIU in the UNOPS that will include full time environmental and social specialists to ensure compliance with relevant E&S instruments.

NGOs will be contracted by UNOPS to implement the project activities in rural areas. At this point, no implementing partners have been identified. However, over the last two decades, bi-lateral and multi-lateral development partners



have funded a number of NGOs to implement basic service delivery and livelihood programs. The organizations have years of experience in implementation of CDD projects under Citizens Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP) and National Solidarity Project (NSP). These development bodies were successfully implementing community development subprojects throughout Afghanistan prior to August 15, 2021. Thus, there are NGOs and their personnel on the ground who have good capacity to implement the project activities including E&S impacts mitigation measures. World Bank will engage a Third-Party Monitoring Agency (TPMA) to undertake independent results verification of project activities funded under the project. The TPMA will report quarterly on the activity outputs, services for the intended beneficiaries, and the fiduciary and Environmental and social management processes followed by the local partners. The TPMA will monitor and report on implementation and compliance with the ESMF and other environmental and social risk management measures and instruments that will be prepared as part of project implementation.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The environmental risks are rated moderate. The key environmental risks and impacts include (i) generation of low to medium noise and dust pollution from minor civil works; (ii) removal of vegetation and land degradation in the rehabilitation sites and extraction of construction materials to supply the rehabilitation works; and (iii) generation and improper disposal of general construction waste. The proposed activities are expected to be of small scale and to be carried out within the existing footprints and are thus expected to have temporary, reversible, and localized impacts although widespread across the rural and urban areas. The overall environmental impacts of this project will be positive by enhancing community resilience to the effects of the ongoing crisis through income generation, maintenance of community productive infrastructure and flood risk management and mitigation.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

Given the FCV context and potential security risks, the social risks are rated as “Substantial”. The other potential social risks/impacts include: (i) possible child labor; (ii) OHS risks for laborers and health and safety risk to communities close to and/or exposed to the rehabilitation works; (iii) SEA/SH risks faced by female project actors and women and girls within the communities; (iv) increased exposure to COVID19 virus to workers working in proximity and communities due to lack of masks, social distancing, low vaccine coverage; and (v) possible risks of excluding poor and vulnerable groups from accessing project benefits. The poor and vulnerable groups include women, persons with disabilities, and internally displaced persons due to political uncertainties in the country. Possible occurrence of conflict (including armed conflict) and/or terrorist attacks are also important contextual risks that may affect safety of the project actors. Overall, the project will have significant positive benefits in the form of wage employment and improvements in the basic infrastructure and amenities such as clean water, sanitation, road graveling and supporting community institutions for long-term resilience and sustainability.

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

B.1. General Assessment



ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

This standard is relevant. The proposed activities will mainly involve rehabilitation of community infrastructure, roads and associated infrastructure, and protection and slope reinforcement through cash for work schemes. The risks and impacts are minor in nature and expected to be temporary, reversible, and site-specific, without the likelihood of impacts beyond the actual footprint of the project. The project interventions may have potential environmental and social risks and impacts such as generation of construction wastes, low to medium noise and dust pollution, possible child labor, forced labor, occupational and community health and safety, and possible risks of excluding poor and vulnerable groups such as poor women, and individuals displaced by the ongoing conflict and security situation in the country.

An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) have been prepared and disclosed by appraisal. The ESCP outlines the commitment of UNOPS, which will be cascaded down to NGOs and contractors, to screen, assess and manage E&S risks and impacts while the SEP embodies the consultation and engagement processes to be undertaken by the project throughout at all stages.

An Environment Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be prepared. The ESMF will include an E&S screening template, a generic ESMP to manage impacts of minor rehabilitation works, a simplified LMP, and measures to manage OHS and CHS risks. The ESMF will have an exclusion list for project activities that will not be supported by the project, monitoring and supervision, reporting requirements, capacity building and training, and cost estimation provision. It will also include a brief description of the UN Security Protocol and any measures necessary to ensure consistency between the Protocol and the ESF requirements. The generic ESMP will be made part of contract for each implementing NGO/contractor. The contractors and/or NGOs will conduct the E&S risk screening of each sub-project and implement site-specific mitigation measures following the ESMP. In addition, UNOPS will prepare an SEA/SH action plan. However, as the Project is being prepared under Paragraph 12 of IPF Policy, for Projects in the situation of urgent need of assistance, the preparation of the ESMF will be deferred to the implementation stage but prior to signing of any contract between UNOPS and NGOs/CSOs/contractor who will be implementing the project activities.

The implementation of E&S instruments will be regularly monitored and reported on by the UNOPS. As part of broader monitoring oversight, a Third Party Monitoring Agent (TPMA) will be engaged for E&S risk management monitoring. The TPMA will provide quarterly reports covering the field level E&S issues.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

UNOPS has prepared an SEP in accordance with ESS10. The overall objective of the SEP is to define a program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation, throughout the implementation period of the Project. The SEP describes the strategy and specific methods of engagement that would facilitate effective participation of the different affected and interested groups. The SEP delineates the roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the SEP, as well as monitoring and reporting mechanism(s).

For this project, the key stakeholders include beneficiaries, poor and ultra-poor households including female-headed ones, women, IDPs, elderly people and People with disabilities (PWD), CDC members, community members and leaders including religious leader (Mullah Imams), NGOs, CSOs and contractors etc. Local stakeholders will be invited



to join the participatory design process during subproject identification and selection stage. The designs will be shared with the communities and their opinions will be taken into account to finalize the design following a public disclosure organized with the CDCs. Specific attention will be provided in the SEP for specific groups including the vulnerable communities to design culturally appropriate processes that are respectful to their traditional mechanisms.

Due to the emergency situation, the SEP has been prepared with limited consultations with UN agencies and NGOs working on the ground. The SEP will be updated and redisclosed during implementation by incorporating the feedback from affected, vulnerable groups and interested parties on how they would like to be engaged during the implementation of the project. UNOPS will continue to identify and engage, through meaningful consultations, with all stakeholders, paying special attention to the inclusion of women, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. The SEP acknowledges the challenges with engaging marginalized and vulnerable social groups such as IDPs, returnees, pastoral nomads, and those living in remote or inaccessible areas and proposes strategies to engage with them.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

ESS2 is relevant. The project will involve direct workers, contracted workers and community workers. The project will be conducted mainly by direct workers such as social mobilizers, employees of implementing partners and the community workers who will be engaged and mobilized for cash-for-work schemes. While the number of workers may not be estimated at the current stage, no large-scale labor influx is expected. As the project will include labor-intensive non-technical work, the main labor risks include OHS risks including increased risks of COVID 19 transmission (although most project activities will be outside), potential use of child and adolescent labor in project activities, disability constraints and special needs of gender and age groups for each of the foreseen activities.

During the project implementation, labor management related risks and OHS issues affecting the workers of the implementing agency, contracted workers and community workers will be monitored and managed. In line with ESS2, a simplified LMP will be prepared as a part of the ESMF, that would include a Code of Conduct and checklist covering key OHS procedures and measure to prevent and respond to SEA/SH. The Project GRM will be consistent with both ESS2 and ESS10 to enable workers to access it. The use of forced labor or the use of child labor for any person under the age of 18 in hazardous work situations is prohibited and will be regularly monitored by UNOPS and TPMA.

UNOPS, implementing NGOs and contractors will apply adequate OHS measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures) in line with the ESMF (e.g. simplified LMP and generic EMP) and the ESCP. The OHS measures as spelled out in the ESMF will consider the World Bank Group's General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs).

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This standard is relevant. The civil works associated with the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure such as roads and bridges are expected to have minor risks, and negative impacts on the existing



natural resources which may include soil disturbance and erosion, air and dust emissions, noise, removal of vegetation, land degradation in the rehabilitation sites, extraction of construction materials, etc. These construction would also risk topsoil/fertile soil and water bodies contamination through uncontrolled spillages, waste generation, and debris. These listed risks are however considered moderate and can be minimized with standard and readily available mitigation measures. The ESMF will include a generic ESMP covering guidance and mitigation measures to address these risks as per the requirements of ESS3. Moreover, the generic ESMP will have particular provisions for sustainable practices for resource efficiency and pollution abatement.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

ESS4 is relevant as the proposed activities can pose community health and safety risks and impacts during Cash-for-Work, and rehabilitation of community infrastructure works during the construction phase. Along with other transfers of communicable diseases, there is also a potential risk of community exposure to COVID-19 infection by the Project workers during the infrastructure works. The pandemic may add to the risks for community health and safety and subsequently households of community workers. The project will exercise appropriate precautions against introducing the infection to local communities.

The ESMF will include basic Life and Fire Safety (L&FS) and Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) checklist to be covered in all project sites as well as applicable COVID 19 restriction measures and protocols to guide safe planning and implementation of construction works. To address the risk of spread of Covid 19 virus, the project will include dissemination of covid 19 safety information at the community level. Adequate safety training (e.g. daily safety awareness talks) and safety gears will be provided for workers by the relevant contractors with whom they will be working with and road safety issues will be addressed through appropriate provisions in works contracts.

The management of security issues particularly in conflict affected areas will be a challenge during implementation of activities in remote areas. The SEP (see ESS10) will describe respective measures, including engagement with communities as well as security personnel, when needed, regarding communication and outreach. In order to manage the contextual security risks, UNOPS will implement and cause the contracted NGOs and contractors to adhere to the UN security protocols and any measures necessary to ensure consistency between the Protocol and the ESF requirements including security risk assessment and any security management measures necessary for the implementation of the Project activities and for the provision of security to Project workers, sites and/or asset. The ESMF will include a brief description of the Protocol and any such measures.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

ESS5 is not relevant. The project is not expected to involve resettlement, land acquisition and/or asset loss as there will be no new construction under the project and all rehabilitation work will be on existing footprint on public and community land. The project will not support any activity that would cause land acquisition or voluntary land donation. An exclusion list including prohibition of such land impacts will be incorporated in the environmental and social screening checklist of the ESMF.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources



ESS6 is not relevant. The project is not foreseen to have impacts on biodiversity or living natural resources. Small scale civil works which are rehabilitation and repair in nature will be carried out in existing infrastructure. The ESMF will include guidance for screening subprojects and apply mitigation hierarchy to avoid or minimize any potential negative impacts on biodiversity and living natural resources.

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

ESS7 is not relevant as there are no IP/SSAHUTLCs in Afghanistan as per standard definition of ESS7.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

ESS 8 is not relevant. None of the project activities are expected to have impacts on tangible and intangible cultural heritage during cash-for-works and rehabilitation and or renovation activities. Nevertheless, the proposed generic ESMP to be included in the project’s ESMF will incorporate “Chance-Finds” procedure to be followed during construction.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

The standard is not relevant because no Financial Intermediaries are involved in the project activities.

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 Borrower Framework is not considered.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

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Public Disclosure



The World Bank

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Implementing Agency(ies)

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VI. APPROVAL

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Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Christophe Crepin Cleared on 18-Mar-2022 at 10:30:50 GMT-04:00
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Pablo Cardinale (SAESSA) Concurred on 21-Mar-2022 at 16:14:32 GMT-04:00

Public Disclosure