

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
IDENTIFICATION/CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No.: PIDC22972

Project Name	Support to Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture and Capacity Development of Small and Marginal Farmers
Region	AFRICA
Country	Cote d'Ivoire
Sector(s)	Crops (40%), Irrigation and drainage (15%), Animal production (15%), Other social services (30%)
Theme(s)	Other rural development (100%)
Lending Instrument	Lending Instrument
Project ID	P155081
Borrower Name	Ministry of Agriculture
Implementing Agency	Helen Keller International
Environment Category	B - Partial Assessment
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Initiation Note Review Decision	The review did authorize the preparation to continue

I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Agriculture is the leading economic sector in Côte d'Ivoire and remains the main source of income for the rural people. It accounts for roughly 27% of GDP and provides employment to two-third of the working population, with 62% earning less than US\$2 per day. Despite the importance of cash crops such as cocoa, oil palm, rubber, cotton and cashew, subsistence farming accounts for 85% of employment, of which, 90% are women.

The Government recognizes the importance of the agricultural sector and is keen to unleash its potential. The Government's aim is embodied in the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP) which is the agricultural component of the country's National Development Plan (NDP). The NAIP is a US\$4 billion program over five-year period which aim at promoting a diversified mix of strategic cash and food crops for growth and food security. It is organized around six operational programs: (i) crops productivity and competitiveness; (ii) development of agricultural activities; (iii) sector governance; (iv) capacity building, (v) sustainable management of fisheries; and (vi) rehabilitation of forests and wood industry.

According the NAIP, agriculture will remain the main source of growth and poverty alleviation at both national and rural levels for the next 10-15 years. Based on this, food agriculture should be made more competitive and more profitable for producers, while ensuring food security in an "agriculture for nutrition" vision. The NAIP recognizes that increased food production (food availability) and access (regular market supply and increased producers' income), the challenge of

improving food use by people in Côte d'Ivoire requires a particular focus on good dietary, nutritional and hygienic habits.

Food insecurity is an important critical issue in Côte d'Ivoire, a country with almost 22 million inhabitants. In this context, a benchmark study called the In-depth Food Security Survey (IFSS) in rural areas, conducted in June 2009, revealed that 12.6% of households were food insecure. Moreover, Côte d'Ivoire is emerging from a decade of sociopolitical crisis that has contributed to degrading the living conditions of the population. Poverty rate that was 10% in 1985 worsened to 38.4% in 2002 and 48.9% in 2008, with a rate of 62.5% in rural areas. According to the recent Systematic Country Diagnostic (June 2015) the deterioration of living standards has been widespread and lengthy. With the post-election crisis, the poverty incidence increased to an estimated 45 percent in 2011 and then fell back to 2008 levels by 2013 as economic growth rebounded.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Côte d'Ivoire has the necessary resources to achieve sustainable production of food crops that includes favorable natural conditions, suitable land, a favorable climate and a dense hydrographic network. In terms of support services, overall significant achievements have been made in the areas of genetic improvement, farming techniques, plant protection, post-harvest treatment and promotion of food products.

Côte d'Ivoire agriculture is dominated by subsistence farmers that are poorly trained in modern production techniques. As a result, the use of modern inputs (such as fertilizers and improved seeds) are very low. Available data indicate that between 33 and 39% of traditional farmers use improved agricultural inputs. The use of phytosanitary products in traditional farms ranges between 5 and 11%. In addition to low appreciation of modern agricultural inputs, the high cost of these inputs has limited their extensive use by small traditional farmers. Women account for most of the small producers. The management of homestead food crop parcels is usually entrusted to women who represent a large proportion of the labor force (54.3%).

Although in general farmers have limited access to agricultural inputs and innovations, the country has a highly qualified extension structure, with a potential to significantly improve agricultural practices, particularly for rural small farmers. The National Rural Support Agency (Agence Nationale d'Appui du Développement Rural -- ANADER) is involved in provision of improved technical support, however, food production is still dominated and remains traditional. Cropping system is itinerant, extensive, manual, using very little modern agricultural inputs and is land intensive. It is characterized by small-sized farms that employ traditional farming practices. The average area cultivated per household is 3.89 ha, and 42% of farming households have farms of less than one hectare and operate a total of 4.65% of the cultivated area while 24% of households are in the portion of farms of more than 5 ha and operate roughly 74% of acreage.

Recurring rainfall variations also contributes to the observed low productivity. Agriculture sector suffers from significant low level of preservation and food crop processing and limited coverage of supervisory services. Research findings are not always accessible and sufficiently valued. Similarly, agricultural stakeholders have limited access to credit and to regional and international markets.

As in other comparable countries, Côte d'Ivoire is experiencing significant post-harvest losses. Actual food production is estimated at 10,484,485 tons in 2011 with post-harvest losses estimated at 2,925,008 tons. The remaining balance (7,559,477 tons) is not sufficient to cover the population's increasing needs (estimated at 11,059,138 tons in 2012), owing to steady population growth, rapid urbanization and pressure from the sub-region. Thus, in spite of its natural assets, the country is forced to import huge quantities of food products. In addition to unmet demand for crops, there is a huge deficit in vegetable production. Many vegetables and market garden crops are grown all over the country, the most important them being okra, eggplant, pepper, onion, tomato, lettuce, cabbage and carrot. Total production in 2012 was 430,000 tons, versus an estimated demand of more than 800,000 tons.

The agriculture sector in Côte d'Ivoire is experiencing the early impacts of climate change, which included: (i) an observed effective decrease in rainfall in the past three decades and when it rains it is erratic (uneven distribution) with shorter duration; (ii) persistent dry seasons; and (iii) frequent flooding incidents. Irrigation has the potential to reduce the observed negative impacts of climate change through ensuring reliability in water supply for agriculture. An estimated 296 sites covering 32,500 ha are being operated under irrigation agriculture while 66 sites covering 14,949 ha have been abandoned. Irrigation infrastructure suffers from a lack of maintenance due to lack of monitoring by public services and inadequate community involvement in the management of schemes.

Diets in Cote d'Ivoire consist primarily of starches such as cassava and white rice. This is due to limited access to nutrient-rich food. Famers lack the capacity to diversify towards high nutrient content foods. In addition, cost of agricultural input, lack of training and lack of dietary appreciation limits small famers from pursuing the production of this important food items. In Côte d'Ivoire nearly one-third of the children aged under five are affected by chronic malnutrition, while 5% suffer from acute malnutrition. In the northern regions, the most vulnerable areas, the comparable figures are 40% for chronic malnutrition and 7% for acute malnutrition. Micronutrient deficiencies are widespread in the country because nutrient-rich foods are unavailable in some localities, not affordable (too expensive) or are not valued by households. Diets consist primarily of starches such as cassava and white rice. Children, pregnant and lactating women have relatively high nutritional needs and are most affected by micronutrient deficiencies. A recent SMART (Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions)nutritional assessment revealed that Anemia is the main cause of maternal mortality in Côte d'Ivoire.

Thus, this proposed project will have as its key activities the improvement of nutritional status through increased production and improved access to nutrient-rich foods of plant and animal origin, dietary diversification and the promotion of appropriate nutrition practices. Due to the unmet demand for high nutrient food (including vegetables) it is believed that the diversification of production will result in higher household income. The project will attach targeted focus on women farmers, especially in garden and homestead farming.

Relationship to CAS/CPS/CPF

The proposed project is fully consistent with the two cross cutting areas (governance and spatial inequality) and the three pillars of the new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) FY16-19, which includes: (i) sustaining strong private sector-led growth; (ii) building human capital for inclusive growth, social cohesion and youth employment; and (iii) strengthening public financial

management and accountability. More particularly, the project contributes to the objective of improving productivity in agriculture value chains and would support broadly CPF interventions aiming at increasing the consumption of the poorest 40 percent of the population, and protect their assets from depletion through targeted safety nets and employment opportunities. The project would also support the CPF interventions that would build household capabilities and improve their productivity through a higher level of human capital development and increased resilience.

Further, the project will directly contribute to the GFADR's vision of universal access to safe, nutritious and diverse diets. To achieve this, the aim includes increasing the share of agricultural projects with an explicit focus on nutrition.

Consistent with the NIAP's priorities, the Enhanced Homestead Food Production (EHFP) approach will contribute to food security and improving the productivity and competitiveness of agricultural products by: making improved seeds available for diversification and production of improved quality nutrition products; providing training, education and awareness building on improved dietary production and consumption practices; supporting micro-level improvement in access to water for multi-purpose use; ensuring sustainable land management; and improving agricultural advisory services. In particular, the project will promote the NIAP's Program #1 (Improving the productivity and competitiveness of agricultural production) and Program #4 (Capacity building of agriculture development stakeholders), with a special focus on nutrition aspects.

The proposed Grant will complement IDA's project (Cote d'Ivoire: Agriculture Sector Support Project – P119308) and will make use of works, institutions and improved delivery mechanisms supported under the project. This IDA supported Project has activities structured around three main business lines: (i) improving access to markets for small holders with rehabilitation of rural roads, (ii) improving productivity through better access to technology and (iii) strengthening institutions. The Grant financed activities will build on these activities and benefit in the delivery of inputs to the farmers and products to the market, among others.

II. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The objective of this proposed project is to improve access to nutrient-rich food of plant and animal origins by poor households in selected areas in Cote d'Ivoire. The diversification of production will contribute to improved access to nutritious foods by poor households as well as to enhanced household income, while diversification of diet and amelioration of hygiene practices will improve health and nutrition outcomes.

Helen Keller International (HKI) considers Côte d'Ivoire as a fertile ground to implement the Enhanced Homestead Food Production (EHFP) initiative for many reasons, including the fact that the country has a variety of agro-climatic zones, with appropriate infrastructure and marketing opportunities for agricultural production. This new approach provides a set of scaled up integrated nutrition and food security interventions using a programming platform based on agriculture.

Key Results

- At least 60% of targeted beneficiaries report an improved access to nutrient rich food by the EOP
- At least 75% of targeted poor farmers report improved income of at least 4% from diversification of agricultural production
- Reduction of post-harvest loss by at least 5% in project target area
- Malnutrition reduced by at least 10% in beneficiary poor households
- increased volume in the production of nutrient-dense foods (at least 1,000 tons)

The possibility (and cost effectiveness) of measuring the reduction in Vitamin A deficiency and improvement made in nutritional status of infants, young children and their mothers through better access to nutrient-rich foods of plant and animal origin and dietary diversification in the targeted project area as a result of this JSDF supported intervention will be assessed during appraisal.

The main project beneficiaries are small farmers with an average size of two ha living in the four selected districts: Savanes; Zanzan; Vallée du Bandama; and Bas-Sassandra. The Project will improve access to agricultural inputs, production infrastructure (such as access to water for homestead farms) market infrastructure (such as storage facilities and cold chambers).

The project aims to reach an estimated 2,400 households in Cote d'Ivoire and will provide a special focus in supporting women farmers. Extension workers and other public and private sector operators will benefit from the capacity improvement and development in the field of nutrition that the project will support. In addition, with streamlining of nutrition sensitive agriculture into the work of extension agents and Ministry of Agriculture tasks, improvement in-country institutional capacity to carry the work forward will be attained. These results are expected mainly due to the leveraging effect this JSDF proposal will bring about in complimenting the IDA financed ASAP operation.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

The overall aim of this proposed grant is to support the implementation of an EHFP-centered intervention that improves the nutritional status of the beneficiaries of the project through food production and nutrition behavioral change. This grant proposal among others is informed by the HKI pilot project that was implemented in Cote d'Ivoire in 2012 that adapted and developed a standardized conceptual approach used by the organization worldwide, namely the Enhanced Homestead Food Production or EHFP. With its nutritional and health benefits, introducing complementary foods such as vegetables and innovative products (e.g. the orange-fleshed sweet potato is suitable to combat essential micronutrient deficiencies especially vitamin A deficiency and to a lesser extent anemia) will also have an additional contribution in increasing the income of the poor farmers. Further, the design is also informed by the nutrition sensitive agriculture operations that the GFADR is implementing world-wide.

The project will include the promotion of the production, consumption and marketing of bio-fortified crops, mainly Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) to combat Vitamin A Deficiency (VAD). OFSP is ranked among the bio-fortified crops due to its very high levels of essential nutrients. A very small tuber (100-125 grams) of OFSP varieties provides the daily nutritional intake recommended for children under 8 and 200-250 grams for adults' needs). (OFSP is a tuber that is a high source of vitamin A. .

The project will be composed of four components: (i) support to homestead gardens; (ii) capacity

improvement and nutrition education; (iii) improving access to infrastructure; and (iv) M&E and project implementation.

Component 1 -- Support to production of nutrient rich high-value crops: (US\$1.0 Million) The aim of this component is to demonstrate and support small poor farmers to adapt an improved and diversified production system centered at nutrition-rich produce. The project will support the development of such demonstration farms and homestead gardens. The component will adapt the EHFP approach and will support the production of crops that includes: OFSP, fruits, vegetables (eggplant, okra, peppers, beans), leafy vegetables and marketable produce (e.g. tomato, onion, carrot, cabbage, squash, etc.). Animal food will be adapted to local context. This component will leverage the resources of the IDA financed ASAP operation in ensuring agricultural input and micro-irrigation equipment are supplied to sufficiently respond to beneficiary farmers demand and the assessed requirements. This component will be composed to two sub-components:

1.1 Establishing homestead Gardens and demonstration farms

Depending on the spatial concentration of villages (distance between huts), homestead gardens near huts or on the outskirts of villages will be established. Should the group have a community farm, this will be arranged as portions for both the demonstration farm and for each of the women in the group.

Depending on the spatial concentration of villages (distance between huts), the establishment of homestead gardens near huts or on the outskirts of villages will be implemented. Should the group have a community farm, this will be arranged as portions for both the demonstration farm and for women farmers group. Such women group already exist in the project area.

These homestead gardens and demonstration farms will produce orange-fleshed sweet potato, and also serve as space for raising poultry and small livestock year-round. Food production will cover the whole year with crop choices suited to seasonality (rainy season from May/June to October and dry season from November to April). In addition, thanks to the irrigation system that will be implemented in the demonstration farms (drip irrigation using groundwater wells) and household gardens, the productions of off-season crops (such as leafy vegetables) including in the dry season will be supported.

Village demonstration farms will be supplied with good quality seeds and planting materials, agricultural inputs, agricultural tools and equipment. Local crops will be produced in fields cultivated by women's groups (40 women/group). Products from demonstration sites will be shared among women. Each demonstration farm will be given hens and roosters. Depending on the context, groups can also include raising goats. The choice of stock breeding will depend on the nutritional benefits (e.g.: eggs, goats milk, etc.) and marketing opportunities.

The EHFP will include various crops: OFSP, fruits, vegetables (eggplant, okra, peppers, beans), leafy vegetables and marketable garden products (e.g. tomato, onion, carrot, cabbage, squash, etc.). Animal feed will also be supported.

Using HKI established relationship with suppliers of local seed and tools special efforts will be made to ensure that a diversity of crops is grown, including those for sale (such as onion, tomato, etc.) and those intended for home consumption (carrot, OFSP rich in vitamin A, papaya, leafy

vegetables, etc.).

Finally, it is expected that demonstration farms and homestead gardens produce enough to generate marketable surpluses for local markets, and consequently improving food security in the locality while increasing household income of project beneficiaries.

1.2 Technical and hands-on support:

Homestead and demonstration farms will be closely supported by specialized groups that operate in the project area. The project will provide technical and farm inputs (seeds/cuttings, chicks, tools, fertilizers, foods, etc.) support to implementation partners (local active NGOs or other specialized groups) in the targeted districts to enable them to promote the integration of EHFPs in their activities. The staff of these organizations will train farmers, mostly women, on creating demonstration plots that promote the creation of homestead gardens.

All Villages Agriculture Leaders (Agriculteurs Leaders des Villages -- ALVs) will receive a variety of healthy orange-fleshed sweet potato seeds and cuttings. The ALVs will provide assistance to a group of 40 women/mothers in their respective village. Assistance will include monthly training sessions covering gardening techniques and improved use of agricultural inputs. As for the use of the production from their demonstration farms, ALVs are required to provide their groups with part of their surpluses of OFSP seeds and cuttings and livestock. The modality of this support will be discussed with community leaders during project appraisal.

Expected outputs from this component include: number of hectares brought under the production of high nutrient content food (both directly and as a result of demonstration effect), number of home gardens established; area brought under micro-irrigation, number of women involved in production of high nutrient-dense crops and at least 75% of the locally produced food consumed in the community thereby improving the nutrition status of beneficiary households.

Component 2- capacity improvement and nutrition education (US\$0.5 million): The aim of this component is to effect change in nutrition behavior and to improve the technical capacity of extension agents to enable them provide current and relevant advice to farmers in diversification of their agricultural output. The component will support hands-on training to extension agents and nutrition education to beneficiaries to enhance their appreciation of product diversification and improved diet.

2.1. Nutrition Education

The EHFP program will serve as a platform where nutrition behavior change will be firmly grounded such that micronutrient-rich foods produced are optimally consumed by young children and their mothers. The Essential Nutrition Actions (ENAs) framework has been extensively tested by the USAID and its partners. It has shown positive effects on nutrition behaviors and maternal and child health. In addition to ALVs, the program will identify and train key Community "levers", such as Community Health Workers (CHWs), health and development workers who will disseminate key messages on the seven Essential Nutrition Actions (ENAs) modules. ALVs, community "levers" and CHWs (a total of four people per village) will be extensively trained on the use of advanced systems for behavior change communication (BCC), techniques putting the emphasis on interpersonal counseling and negotiation. Such training will also include food processing techniques.

ALVs will hold monthly meetings with the 40 farming mothers affiliated to their demonstration

farm to cover the ENAs topics and encourage the whole village community to attend nutrition education and discussion sessions. These mothers, in turn, will be encouraged to reach out to other mothers in their communities to promote the key messages and share knowledge. Existing recent formative research has been used by HKI to develop a culturally appropriate strategy suitable for behavior change in the country. The BCC national policy was approved by the Ministry of Health and Fight against AIDS in 2011. That strategy has identified key messages and approaches needed to achieve the adoption of health and optimal nutrition behaviors.

The communication strategy will also reach men whose understanding and support is vital to the desired behavior change. The nutrition education will include cooking demonstrations to promote the consumption of micronutrient-rich foods. Due to the need for livestock rearing and improvement of bioavailability of micronutrients in foods of animal origin, messages will concern the increase in consumption of said foods by the target population. Farmers will be encouraged to sell only surplus production once the nutritional needs of the household members have been met.

Nutritional education will also support food processing to make culinary dishes with local products (porridge and “Kabato” made with maize flour, soya and OFSP, etc.). Partnership with universities that have laboratory facilities will be pursued to support and contribute to making culinary dishes adapted to local contexts (most importantly with OFSP).

2.2 Capacity improvement

Under this sub-component, the project will provide capacity improvement support to extension agents to enable them provide current and relevant advice to farmers in the production of selected crops, in use of agricultural inputs, in post-harvest handling and marketing. Further, local agents will be trained in effective management of water for agriculture, operation and maintenance of the micro-irrigation systems and gender sensitivity. Further, extension agents capacity in cultivation techniques (soil preparation, nurseries/seeding, fertilization, crops maintenance or management) as it applies to crops supported under this grant will be supported. The activities under this sub-component will allow not only improving the quality of advice farmers receive but also agricultural extension service coverage that is also tailored to women needs.

As part of its partnership with the IDA supported ASAP operation, this JSDF grant will partner with the National Rural Support Agency (ANADER) which is responsible for contributing to the improvement of the living conditions in rural areas, among others, by designing and implementing appropriate agricultural extension tools and programs to ensure outcome sustainability and its dissemination to new non-project areas. The Grant will create and strengthen the extension system's capacity in implementing the EHFP approach. The partnership with other agricultural extension services will be based on their capacity and comparative advantages both at technical and operational level, in order to ensure effective communities' capacity building in demonstration farm management, and Behavior Change Communication (BCC).

Outputs under this component will include : nutritional guidelines produced (if possible in local language) communication materials produce, awareness building and sensitization events conducted, and technical manuals prepared for use by extension agents covering crops supported under this grant.

Component three: Improving access to infrastructure: (US\$0.74 million) The aim of this component is to support a year-round production and reduce post-harvest loss and thus improve the handling of improved nutrient rich products. The component is composed of two sub-components : This component will also leverage the resources and infrastructure supported under the IDA

supported ASAP project in improving access to infrastructure.

3.1 improve access to water at farm level:

Under this sub-component, targeted communities will receive support for water resource management and assistance in the use of water for garden planting and micro level farming. The program will focus in villages and settlements with reasonable access to water or in those areas where the IDA supported ASAP project has provided the potential access. In drier areas, the grant will focus in areas served with ground water and will introduce drip irrigation that will maximize the efficient utilization of the scarce water resources in such regions. The technology increases yield and reduces the needs for irrigation by three-quarters, thus freeing women from the arduous task of fetching water for garden. Moreover, as water is channeled straight to the plants' roots, there is less loss due to evaporation and less weeds produced, so that the workload decreases. This technique will be provided to all ALVs who will show its usefulness to the other women targeted in the village.

3.2 : support to post-harvest handling :

The project will also support improving access to warehouses in areas wherein communities showed interest and expressed demand for reducing post-harvest loss. While the modalities for such support will be determined during appraisal, the project will have a small grant-window to help access to storage facilities and the project will seek the partnership with the private sector in the establishment and maintenance of the system.

Under this sub-component, farmers will be trained in harvesting, packaging and storage and by partnering with the IDA financed ASAP operation, small equipment will be provided to support the handling, processing and packaging of marketable products.

Outputs under this component will include number of hectares brought under micro-irrigation, % of beneficiary farmers that report improved access to water, at least 75% of beneficiary farmers reporting production of two-times a year; number of farmers who are trained in post-harvest handling; % of production processed and packaged at farm level and % of farmers reporting in improving their post-harvest handling knowledge

Component four: M&E and Project management and coordination –(US\$0.4 million)

The aim of this component is to help the efficient management and coordination, monitoring and evaluation of implementation and dissemination of the project outcome for replicability into other areas.

3.1 Project management and coordination:

The project will be implemented by HKI. This international NGO will be responsible for the overall coordination, procurement, financial management, M&E, preparing and providing periodic reports, hiring relevant consultants for provision of services identified under the project, etc. HKI will hire supervisors who will coordinate project implementation in the selected project areas. The HKI country team at central level, supported by decentralized structures at regional level, will provide technical support and monitoring and evaluation throughout the project duration. ANADER and other local NGOs will be partners in the implementation of the project, especially in activities executed at local level.

This JSDF financed project will fit into the existing institutional set up of the IDA financed Agriculture Sector Support Project. The overall coordination will be done by the Steering Committee (SC). The SC will review policy alignment, strategic directions, annual plans and the overall monitoring set up for this JSDF financed project execution. HKI will be included in the Steering Committee to review the particular aspects of alignment with food security and nutrition related to food production.

At Regional Divisions (DR) in administrative regions, Departmental Divisions (DD) in the regional administrative centers, as well as specialized structures (case of the MSFFE) will be involved in the decentralized structure of project implementation. By design, the project operational monitoring framework has a decentralized coordination architecture, with strong links between the central and the regional branches called Project “Regional Monitoring Groups” (GRS). These groups provide strategic directions for project implementation on the ground. GRS are chaired by regional prefects, technical coordination being carried out by the Regional Divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture, with support from HKI supervisors based in each of the areas of intervention. Apart from the periodic technical meetings, the GRS will hold two regular meetings each year, chaired by prefects. It is believed that the decentralization policy implementation and the efficient inclusion of local communities in the execution of the project, makes local authorities more accountable and thus help in achieving a good pace of project implementation.

3.2. Monitoring and Evaluation

An M&E system to monitor nutritional outcome will be established under the Ministry of Agriculture and the project will support the deployment of such system. Initially and up to project completion, the system will have an interface with HKI. However, before project closes, MOA will fully absorb the system into the Ministry. HKI will contract an M&E specialist who will be responsible to coordinate M&E tasks, consolidate reports and conduct the day-to-day M&E tasks. M&E expert who will also be responsible for providing training and facilitating participatory monitoring by beneficiaries and will work closely with Ministry of Agriculture ASAP coordination unit under Ministry of Agriculture. During appraisal the modality of reporting, adaption of participatory monitoring module, frequency of reporting by participating institutions and the framework of the system to be deployed within Ministry of Agriculture will be defined. Specific to this grant, a baseline, mid-term and final evaluation will be conducted by independent consultant. This grant will build on the existing ASAP IDA-supported project’s M&E framework. The M&E system will be the backbone of monitoring project implementation advance, providing periodic reports, supporting World Bank supervision project status update. During the first-six month of project implementation, a baseline assessment will be conducted to allow the measurement of project outcome by the end of the operation.

B. Implementing Agency Information

HKI is an international NGO with rich experience in the area of nutrition improvement support. Since 1988, HKI’s EHFP program has helped communities in Asia and Africa develop local food production systems, technically improved by the creation of homestead gardens with micronutrient-rich year-round productions, supplemented with small livestock (poultry, etc.). HKI-Côte d’Ivoire has worked with a limited number of villages in the north of the country. Encouraging results were reported from this experience.

HKI is also a partner in a program to promote fortification and industrially processed dietary

supplements in Abidjan and in the major development centers. Through this program, HKI has undertaken considerable formative research on the feeding practices for infants and young children and developed the promotion of ENAs modules. This will provide a solid foundation for the ENAs promotion component in the EHFP project, in terms of behavior change. HKI has also developed proposals to incorporate specific approaches that will improve women's position in their communities through economic activities such as the production and marketing of orange-fleshed sweet potato. In parallel, the EHFP project will improve the coverage of the needs for agricultural extension through services tailored to women. Thus, technically, HKI is capable of coordinating, implementing and delivering the required result under this project.

Financial and procurement assessment will be conducted during project appraisal. From technical perspective, this proposed JSDF project will partner and establish collaboration with the International Potato Centre (Centro Internacional de la Papa -- CIP) and HarvestPlus (a collaboration of several centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research -- CGIAR), which aims at reproducing staple crops for improved nutrition through biofortification.

C. Project Stakeholder Information

The project by design is inclusive of all relevant stakeholders. The project will utilize available local capacity and will provide its own support to ensure stakeholders participation is based on technical understanding.

The JSDF funding is a grant provided by the Government of Japan. In addition to approving the grant and any changes during implementation, HKI will seek the participation of the Japanese Embassy in Cote d'Ivoire in important public events related to the project.

As an international NGO, HKI has a good standing in the NGO community operating in the country and other stakeholders and as such no measure issues are identified in this area. Overall, the nutrition aspect in Cote d'Ivoire is coordinated at the Steering Group level of the PSAC project. In addition, the project is designed to involve stakeholders at all levels. Government, NGO, farmer organizations, private sector operators and women groups.

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	x		
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		x	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		x	
Pest Management OP 4.09	x		
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		x	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		x	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12			x
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		x	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		x	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		x	

V. Financing (*in USD Million*)

Total Project Cost:	2.97	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0
Japan Social Development Fund			2.97

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