

 Early Warning System

WB-P515346

Syria Smallholder Transformation for Agriculture Revitalization Project



Quick Facts

Countries	Syria
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	A
Voting Date	2026-12-15
Borrower	Government of Syria - Ministry of Agriculture
Sectors	Agriculture and Forestry, Industry and Trade, Law and Government
Investment Type(s)	Grant
Investment Amount (USD)	\$ 175.00 million
Project Cost (USD)	\$ 175.00 million



Project Description

According to the Bank's website, the Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase the productive capacity and market participation of smallholder farmers in selected areas.

The proposed Syria Smallholder Transformation for Agriculture Revitalization (STAR) Project will support Syria's post-conflict recovery by restoring and enhancing smallholders' productive capacity and improving their access to markets in selected areas. The operation will combine (i) rapid support to crop and livestock production through improved climate-smart inputs, animal health services, and on-farm water-saving irrigation technologies; (ii) rehabilitation and upgrading of priority value-chain and post-harvest infrastructure and the strengthening of farmer aggregation through cooperatives to improve quality, value addition, and market linkages; and (iii) institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Agriculture to rebuild core services, develop digital agricultural data systems, and advance policy reforms--especially the transition toward more targeted and market-oriented agricultural support.



Early Warning System Project Analysis

The environmental risk is rated **Substantial** at the concept stage due to the nature of project activities, the broad geographic scope, and weak institutional capacity for environmental management in a fragile and conflict-affected context. The project will support rehabilitation of irrigation systems and agricultural infrastructure, as well as increased agricultural production through improved inputs and practices. Key environmental risks include: (i) localized impacts from small to medium scale civil works, such as dust, noise, waste generation, and occupational health and safety risks; (ii) potential soil and water contamination from increased use of fertilizers and pesticides; (iii) increased pressure on scarce water resources, including risks of groundwater over-extraction; (iv) generation of agricultural, veterinary, and laboratory waste, including hazardous and biological waste; and (v) e-waste associated with digital technologies introduced under the project. In addition, the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in rural areas poses contextual risks for land-based activities.

The project's social risk is assessed as **Substantial**, reflecting a combination of contextual, institutional, and project-specific factors. Syria remains a fragile and conflict-affected setting, characterized by weakened institutions, limited field access, population displacement and return, and heightened vulnerability of rural communities. Key social risks include: (i) labor and working conditions risks in agriculture and agri-value chains, including informality and potential child labor; (ii) inequitable access to project benefits, particularly for vulnerable and conflict-affected groups such as smallholder farmers, women, youth, internally displaced persons, and returnees; (iii) community health and safety risks related to agricultural practices, climate-related shocks, and potential exposure to unexploded ordnance in rural areas; (iv) risks associated with digital inclusion, data protection, and potential exclusion linked to the use of digital platforms; (v) challenges in stakeholder engagement and grievance handling in a highly constrained and uneven operating environment; and (vi) limited land-related risks associated with informal tenure, land access disputes, or changes in land use, despite no planned land acquisition.



Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

Total Project Cost: US\$ 175.00 million

IDA Grant: US\$ 175.00 million



Contact Information

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Bank Documents

- [Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary \(ESRS\) - Syria Smallholder Transformation for Agricu](#)
- [Concept Project Information Document \(PID\)](#)
- [Official Documents- Disbursement and Financial Information Letter for Grant E7610-SY.pdf \(English\)](#)
- [Official Documents- Letter Agreement for GFPP Grant E7610-SY.pdf \(English\)](#)