



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Upon request from the Government of Afghanistan, represented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) will provide technical assistance for the following Project:

Project Title:	Household Food and Livelihood Security (HFLS)
Project Symbol:	GCP /AFG/107/GAF

Upon signature of this project document by the duly authorized representatives of both parties, the project will be implemented in accordance with the background, rationale and management arrangements described herein.

On behalf of:	On behalf of:
The Government of <u>Afghanistan</u>	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Name:	Name:
Title:	Title:
Date:	Date:

Project Title:	Household Food and Livelihood Security (HFLS) Project
Project symbol:	GCP /AFG/107/GAF
Recipient Country(ies):	The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Government(s)/other counterpart(s):	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)
Expected EOD (Starting Date):	1 September 2021
Expected NTE (End Date):	31 August 2026
Contribution to FAO's Strategic Framework: (Indicate as appropriate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Objective 3, Organizational Outcome 3.1 • Country Outcome(s): The Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF, 2017–2021), National Comprehensive Agriculture Development Priority Program (NCADPP 2016–2021) and Comprehensive Agriculture Development National Priority Program Inter-ministerial Implementation Plan (CADNPP, 2019–2023) • Country Programming Framework(s) Output(s): Priority Area No 1: Better governance through improved capacity for policy planning, land reform, decentralization, management of common natural resources. Priority Area No 4: Supporting vulnerable farmers for improved food security and resilience to natural and man-made disasters and climate change. • Regional Initiative/Priority Area: Zero Hunger Initiative.
Environmental and Social Risk Classification	low risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moderate risk <input type="checkbox"/> high risk <input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Marker	G0 <input type="checkbox"/> G1 <input type="checkbox"/> G2a <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G2b <input type="checkbox"/>
Total Budget:	USD 3 000 000 (TA component of a GAFSP financed project USD 15 Million)
Executive Summary	
<p>The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) successfully applied for financing under a Special Call for Proposals for Fragile and Conflict Affected Countries under the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), which was launched on 13 March 2019. The GoIRA selected FAO as the Technical Supervising Entity (TSE) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as the Investment Supervising Entity (ISE). Subsequently, FAO and ADB supported the GoIRA to develop and submit a proposal for financing, which was considered successful and allocated financing under the public sector window in late 2019. This project document only covers FAO's obligations in its capacity as the TSE and taking on additional tasks where the GoIRA is less able to perform.</p> <p>The HFLS project is intended to be implemented over five years and focusses on developing market-driven sustainable livelihoods for both men and women in rural areas. The project also intends to rehabilitate traditional gravitational water management systems (Karez), which is usually the only source of water for communities. The water management component of the project also includes rainwater harvesting, flood control and on-farm water use efficiency. The agriculture-based livelihood development component of the project includes key activities for crop diversification, climate smart</p>	

agriculture, good agriculture practices (GAP), value addition and organising smallholder family farms into common interest groups (CIGs) to build economies of scale. Furthermore, the project intends to address severe malnutrition in the project areas through nutrition education, sanitation, child-care as well as literacy and numeracy training with a particular focus on women in rural areas.

The development objective of the project is to improve food security and resilience among some of the poorest households in selected districts of rural Afghanistan. The project is expected to target the socially and economically disadvantaged groups, in particular women, disabled and other households at the bottom of the national poverty scale, defined as the hard-core poor.

The project specific objectives include:

- (i) Facilitate improved and sustainable water management in selected micro-watersheds by rehabilitating and improving the efficiency of traditional water management systems such as Kareez water supply systems, community flood management and on-farm water use efficiency;
- (ii) Promote and enhance sustainable and resilient livelihoods and nutrition among the most food insecure and vulnerable households in selected areas of rural Afghanistan.

FAO, under this TA component shall provide technical and operational oversight as well as coordinate the activities of the two executing entities, MAIL and MRRD. Furthermore, FAO will serve as the secretariat for the Steering Committee (SC) and support annual implementation planning and monitoring the project. As part of its technical oversight, FAO will focus much of its activities on capacity development for the Extension Department of MAIL at provincial and district levels and will provide technical specifications for any procurement by either MAIL or FAO.

The project is in direct support of the National Peace and Development Framework (NPDF), which is an umbrella strategic document guiding peace building, rehabilitation and development efforts in the country. Furthermore, the HFLS project is in support of the FAO Country Programme Framework (CPF), SDG 1 and 2 among others.

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ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ANDMA	Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority
ANPDF	Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework
CADNPP	Comprehensive Agriculture Development National Priority Program Implementation Plan
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CCP	Citizen Charter Programme
CDC	Community Development Committee
CIG	Common Interest Groups
CPF	Country Programming Framework
DDC	District Development Committee
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAO-RAP	FAO-Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
FFS	Farmer Field School
FLRC	Farmer Learning and Resource Centre
FPMIS	Field Programme Management Information System
FtF	Farmer-to-Farmer
GAFSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program
GAP	Good Agriculture Practices
GoIRA	Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
HFLS	Household Food and Livelihoods Security
IPSM	Integrated Pest and Soil Management
IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification
ISE	Investment Supervising Entity
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
MEW	Ministry of Energy and Water
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
NCADPP	National Comprehensive Agriculture Development Priority Program
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PAIL	Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
PDC	Provincial Development Committee
PMU	Project Management Unit
PRRD	Provincial Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RBM	Results-based Management (RBM)
SC	Steering Committee
SDC	Swiss Development Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
TA	Technical Assistance
TOR	Terms of reference
TOT	Training of Trainer
TSE	Technical Supervising Entity
WB	World Bank
WFP	World Food Programme
WRDSP	Water Resources Development Sector Project

SECTION 1 – RELEVANCE

1.1 Alignment and Strategic Fit

The project is fully in line with FAO's strategic vision for the country as stipulated in the country programming framework (CPF) and the FAO's strategic framework. More importantly, the HFLS project directly contributes to national outcomes and priorities as indicated in two key strategic documents: (i) The Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) 2017-2021 and (ii) The National Comprehensive Agricultural Development Priority Program (NCADPP) -2016-20.

1.1.1. Alignment to FAO's Strategic Framework

The HFLS is expected to contribute to FAO Strategic Objective 3 "Reduce Rural Poverty", and in particular 3.1 "The rural poor have enhanced and equitable access to productive resources, services, organizations and markets, and can manage their resources more sustainably." The project also contributes to Strategic Objective 1 – "Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition".

1.1.1.2. Alignment and Contribution to Country Programming Framework (CPF)

The Project is in direct support of the CPF and relevant to all three major areas, namely:

- Priority Area A: Agricultural Productivity, Processing and Market Development;
- Priority Area B: Food Security, Nutrition and Food Safety;
- Priority Area C: Disaster Risk Reduction, Resilience and Climate Change.

In addition, the HFLS is expected to contribute to institution building in the rural and agriculture sector. It envisages capacity development of extension workers, rolling out a demand driven extension system and promoting mechanisms for coordination among different institutions at district and provincial level, with more emphasis on capacity development to key service providers.

1.1.2. Contribution to Country Outcome

The project directly contributes to key government priorities and outcomes as stipulated in two key documents: the ANPDF and the NCADPP as well as the CADNPP Inter-ministerial Implementation Plan– 2019-2023.

The Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF) 2017-2021: This framework was developed through consultations among public institutions and partners, including civil society, private sector, and international partners. Improved governance, anti-corruption, and organizational reforms are woven into every section of this document. This is expected to increase accountability and ensure inclusive economic growth. Support to roll out a demand-driven and highly responsive extension system as well as to provide livelihood opportunities to households in the rural areas is directly linked to the ANPDF. The ANPDF is currently under revision and most of its aspirations and expected outcomes have been retained and further emphasised to cover the period 2021-2025.

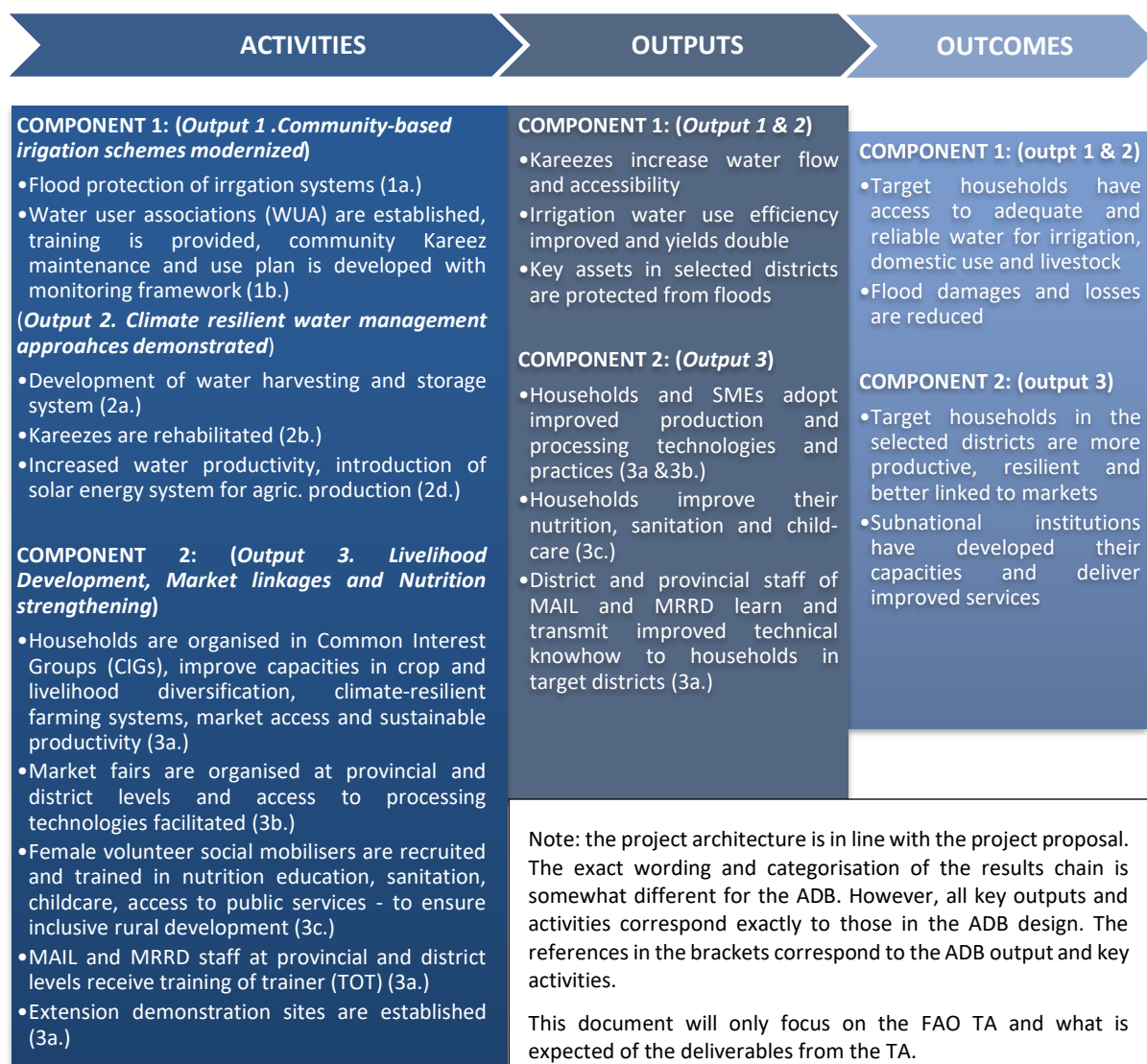
The National Comprehensive Agricultural Development Priority Programme and Plan of Action 2019-23: The NCADPP is a strategic document guiding MAIL policies, programs and initiatives over, at least, the next four years. The NCADPP includes seven priority areas, namely: (i) improving water efficiency and irrigation systems; (ii) increasing wheat production; (iii) horticulture value chain development; (iv) sustainable and environmentally friendly livestock development; (v) Climate sensitive natural resource management; (vi) food and nutrition security and resilience building; and (vii) institutional reform. The proposed project directly contributes to priority area i, iii, v, vi and vii. In effect MAIL considers the HFLS approach as one of the main vehicles for implementing the NCADPP and has adopted the policy to upscale the approach at national level.

1.1.3 Expected Results

The overall project theory of change is summarised in figure 1. The FAO is only providing technical assistance (TA) to facilitate implementation, technical oversight (focussed on Component 2), monitoring and coordination among central and decentralised units of the two key national

stakeholders, namely, the Ministry Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL).

Figure 1: The Overall Project Theory of Change



1.1.3.1. Impact

At least 15 percent of the poorest households in selected districts improve their food security and livelihood resilience.

1.1.3.2. Outcome

The project (FAO-A) intends to contribute to two inter-related outcomes, these are:

- (i) Target households in selected districts are more productive, resilient and better linked to markets;
- (ii) Subnational institutions have developed their capacities and deliver improved services in the target districts.

1.1.3.3. Outputs

The outputs refer mainly to FAO TA unless otherwise specified.

1. **Livelihood development:** This output intends to enhance the productivity, efficacy and market linkages of agriculture-based livelihoods among the poorest farmers in 8 most vulnerable and food insecure rural districts. Key activities under this sub-component include:

(i) Establishment of livelihood common interest groups (CIGs) - small-scale and landless farmers interested in the same type of activity (e.g. vegetable, potato, mushroom, fruit production...) are encouraged to form a group. The CIG selection and numbers are based on the assessment of potential for sustainable production, marketing and profitability. Each CIG consists of about 20 members. Separate CIGs are organised for women to ensure effective participation and to target livelihoods that are of direct interest to women in rural areas. At least 30 percent of the CIGs will be women.

(ii) Capacity development - specific trainings are developed for each of the CIG types (orchards, vegetables, livestock and others). The training is not only limited to technical issues related to sustainable production and resilient farming systems but also group management, business planning and marketing. Providing training to each CIG is a key part of the project and is conducted using FFS and FtF methodologies throughout the cropping cycle. Each CIG receives at least 5-6 training sessions during the cropping seasons and additional trainings are provided on demand. The district extension officers receive intensive training in farmer field school (FFS) and farmer-to-farmer (FtF) methods. The extension workers then organise a number of FFS and FtF throughout the cropping season and over at least 2-3 years during the life of the project. Key trainings include adapting farming systems to current and emerging climate realities, crop diversification, improved and sustainable productivity, integrated pest, soil and water management, on-farm basic processing, marketing and market linkages.

(iii) Input provision and asset building - each CIG is provided with critical inputs, which farmers would otherwise not be able to purchase. The key purpose of input provision is to facilitate the adaptation of farming system to climate realities, crop diversification and improved farm productivity. The value of the inputs provided are then collected from each member, deposited in the CIG bank account and used by members for subsequent cropping season. The CIG bank account is a key aspect of creating group asset and facilitating access to formal financial services by some of the poorest rural households. Each group elects a leader and a finance officer and each member's rights and obligations are clearly defined without interference from any other parties. This key activity is a major cost component and will be supported under the financial management of ADB, implemented by MAIL with FAO technical oversight.

2. **Food processing and marketing:** This output intends to improve the capacity and access of households and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to technology in food processing. The project will support the provision of training in improved and healthy food conservation and processing for both domestic consumption and the local market. The FAO-MAIL guidelines and training materials that have already been developed and rolled out in a number of provinces with promising results will be used for the training. This key activity will be limited in terms of costs as no major equipment is envisaged with heavy focus on capacity development using basic but improved technologies.

Many of the newly established food processing SMEs do not have access to improved technologies and technical knowhow. As a result, the waste and loss in food processing and conservation is significantly high and returns on investment very low. The project intends to provide training and information on improved technical knowhow for the food processing SMEs and their cooperatives. Access to improved technology and technical knowhow also involve exposure visits to regional countries, in particular India and Turkey where food processing methods are relatively advanced. The SMEs will be able to learn about the types of technology used, how to access them and the processes involved in food processing, conservation and marketing. This will be a low cost initiative as the costs of exposure visits and information on technical knowhow would be shared with the SMEs and their cooperatives.

3. **Household nutrition education and sanitation:** This sub-component intends to recruit and train 40 community mobilisers to provide nutrition education, sanitation, child care and information on

public services available to women. The social mobilisers are all educated women from the project area. Prior to working with women in the villages, the social mobilisers will be provided with intensive training on nutrition, sanitation, availability and access to public sector services. The social mobilisers will also be linked to CDC and DDC structures to coordinate with other public sector service providers, to raise women's concerns and demands for additional services that fall outside the scope of the project. Experiences from past HFLS projects suggest that these services usually include literacy courses, healthcare, land rights, legal support and women rights.

The social mobilisers shall be trained on the FAO-MAIL guidelines on preparing nutritious foods as well as a series of guidelines prepared by UNICEF and other national and international partners. Furthermore, MAIL, the Ministry of Education and MOPH have developed additional guidelines and training materials on nutrition, sanitation and child care. The female social mobilisers in the villages have had significant impact not only on food utilisation aspects of food security but also on other services such as access to adult literacy, healthcare, access to productive activities, legal aid, social network and sense of community among women in the villages.

4. **Capacities of district extension units developed to deliver improved services:** This output focusses on building the capacity of public sector service providers from MAIL at the district and province levels to deliver improved and effective services to rural households, in particular farmers. Training of Trainer (TOT) courses in crop production, protection, processing and marketing are provided to the district and provincial extension workers. Farming systems, crop diversification, integrated soil, pest and crop management, irrigation and good agriculture practices (GAP) are of specific focus. This is to improve farming system resilience and production adaptation to current and emerging environmental and climate conditions. In addition, the target service providers shall also be trained in FFS and FtF methodologies and approaches as well as group formation, marketing and related areas of work. The service providers receive educational, office and mobility facilities/equipment to ensure they are able to reach farmers on a regular basis and provide the required services. The trained and equipped service providers at the district level are expected to provide training to project beneficiaries using FFS and FtF methods. Men and women FFS and FtF are organised separately to ensure participation from both groups.

1.1.3.4. Activities

The following key activities have been envisaged under the FAO TA.

Agriculture and livestock-based livelihood development (3a):

- 4.1 At least 630 CIGs are established of which at least 220 are women CIGs in 8 districts. FAO with participation from MAIL.
- 4.2 Capacity development of CIGs: CIGs are trained in improved farming systems integrated soil, water, crop and pest management, good agriculture practices (GAP) and small-scale livestock management.
- 4.3 Trained CIGs are provided with a one-off basic agricultural input packages to facilitate farming system adaptation, crop diversification and on-farm basic processing as well as inputs for non-land based livelihoods. ADB and MAIL shall procure and distribute the specified inputs under the FAO technical oversight. The latter includes, technical specifications, schedule for distribution and monitoring beneficiaries.

Food processing and marketing support (3b):

- 5.1 Training and basic equipment are provided to at least 300 households in food processing for local consumption and marketing. FAO to provide training and technical specifications of equipment. MAIL to procure and distribute the equipment and facilitate training logistics.

- 5.2 Training and access to technical knowhow are provided to at least 20 SMEs to improve food processing and marketing – the training may also include exposure visits to a regional country. FAO.
- 5.3 At least 10 seasonal market fairs at the province and district levels are organised to exchange information on CIGs, traders, products and markets as well as to facilitate contract farming where feasible.

Household nutrition education and sanitation (3c):

- 6.1 40 female community mobilisers are recruited and trained in nutrition education, sanitation, access to public services and literacy courses. FAO.
- 6.2 Training is provided to 1200 women on the FAO-MAIL prepared guidelines on local nutritious food recipes, healthy food conservation, sanitation, literacy courses and access to public services. FAO

Capacity Development for Extension Units (3a):

- 7.1 Training is provided to 50 extension workers at the district and provincial levels, using TOT methods.
- 7.2 Basic office equipment and motorcycles for mobility to reach farmers are provided to, the targeted district extension units.

1.2. FAO's Comparative Advantages

FAO's mandate includes contributing to "a world without hunger" through partnerships, capacity development support in policies, institutions, technical knowhow and facilitating investment in food, agriculture and related sectors. FAO is unique, not only as a repository of international norms and standards, but also as a knowledge institution with relevant capacities in supporting national and international efforts to ensure sustainable eradication of hunger, malnutrition, food insecurity and deprivation. FAO's accumulated experience in food security, integrated rural development and institution building places it in a unique position to provide the most relevant support to member countries in addressing food security and institution development.

FAO has established significant operational capacity in the country, which facilitates the implementation and oversight for a large number of complex projects and programmes. The technical expertise available at the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP) and at FAO headquarters is represented in-country through a broad range of projects implemented by FAO for a number of years. These projects have been implemented in close collaboration with the Afghan Government, namely MAIL, Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), MRRD and others. Some of the key areas in which FAO has been supporting the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan include, irrigation infrastructure rehabilitation, on-farm water management dairy sector development, poultry production, seed production, integrated pest and disease management, animal disease surveillance, crop production surveillance, irrigation, nutrition, food processing, storage, biodiversity conservation, forest management, rangeland management, food security, information systems. More specifically, component 1 of this project is based on irrigation and water management projects implemented by FAO over the past 17 years, mostly funded by the World Bank (WB), the Government of Japan, the European Union (EU) and others. The overall design of the project and component 2 in particular is based on a highly successful approach, which has given its name to this project as well - HFLS. FAO has facilitated the implementation of HFLS projects over the past 14 years. The Government of Luxembourg, the Italian Cooperation, the Federal Government of Germany and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) among others have funded the HFLS projects. MAIL has adopted the HFLS approach to a number of large-scale projects over the recent past. Lessons learned from past projects, in particular the HFLS, irrigation rehabilitation and on-farm water resource management projects have directly informed the design and formulation of this project.

1.2.1. Mandate to Act

FAO is a United Nations Agency specialized in Food and Agriculture, with a comprehensive mandate supported by its member nations to work on all aspects of food security, nutrition and agriculture. One of the strategic objectives of FAO is to contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. FAO has been providing capacity development support to governments and stakeholders to develop sectoral and cross-sectoral policy frameworks, investment plans and programmes to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). FAO's mandate consists of four functions: information gathering and dissemination, formulation of policy recommendations, provision of technical assistance, and advice to governments with FAO-related obligations. FAO's mandate is consistent with the initiatives specified in this project document.

1.2.2. Capacity to Act

As a knowledge institution, FAO is a leading agency in providing technical cross-disciplinary expertise and experience in nutrition sensitive investment programming, agriculture-nutrition linkages, nutrition education, good agriculture practices (GAP), integrated pest and soil management (IPSM), and water use efficiency through farmer field schools (FFS). FAO has been at the forefront of institutional development efforts among farmers and public institutions, in particular extension services. Under the HFLS projects, FAO has been providing very similar support to the agriculture sector and nutrition over the past 10 years. Moreover, FAO has expertise at international, regional and national levels that can help bring and exchange international best practices from other countries and regions.

FAO will take responsibility for the quality of the results in the areas of its responsibility, in particular capacity and institutional development in agriculture and nutrition education. FAO will undertake appropriate budget management and allocate resources efficiently to achieve the expected results and quality products. The project activities will be coordinated with all project partners and information will be shared on beneficiaries, results, outcomes of capacity needs assessment and analyses.

FAO has a long history of supporting member countries regarding food security and nutrition, food safety, consumer protection, animal production and health, sustainable rural livelihoods, equitable access to resources, as well as promoting multi-disciplinary and ecosystem-based approaches to sustainable agriculture and rural development. It is therefore an institutional home for the support to be provided under this project. FAO provides support through a wide range of modalities including: (i) complementary technologies and approaches; (ii) assessments, equipment and tools; (iii) geospatial and remote sensing facilities catered to global, regional, national and local agricultural resources and monitoring systems; (iv) training; (v) information; (vi) communication; (vii) advisory services for institutional strengthening; (viii) policy reforms; (ix) institutional innovation; (x) climate-resilient agriculture; and (ix) national programming.

1.2.3. Position to Act

FAO is a well-established institution with excellent record of accomplishment in providing support to the public sector with regard to agricultural and rural development, food and nutrition security, climate adaptation and mitigation and institutional development. FAO is the world's leading agricultural knowledge agency for policy support, integrated capacity development and technical cooperation. As a global organization with a long history of delivering technical cooperation programs in Afghanistan, FAO has considerable credibility with the government. FAO is also viewed as a technical agency that provides valuable agricultural information as well as technical and policy guidance as a trusted advisor to the government. This enables a close alignment of mutual priorities between FAO, MAIL and MRRD while helping FAO to play an important role in informing and influencing policy-making at the national level.

1.3. Context Analysis

Afghanistan is considered one of the most fragile countries in the world. Key drivers of fragility and the horrific statistics on extreme poverty and deprivation are considered to be conflict and climate related disasters. A devastating conflict has been raging for more than four decades, which has turned Afghanistan into one of the poorest countries in the world. Nearly 55% of the 32.2 million population live below the national poverty line. Poverty is mostly rural with 59% of the population in rural areas living below the poverty line compared with 42% in urban areas. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) indicate that over 11.15 million or 36% of the population face severe and acute food insecurity requiring emergency assistance. Over 41% of children under five years old are stunted, 14% wasted and 25% of the same age group are severely or moderately underweight.

The frequency and severity of climate-related disasters, in particular floods, drought and extreme temperatures, have significantly increased over the recent past. Latest climate projections forecast more severe weather conditions and disasters. In 2018 alone, 10.6 million people in 20 provinces out of 34 were affected by drought, of which 3.9 million required emergency food assistance. The drought in 2018 was followed, in spring 2019, by the most severe floods in a decade affecting some 250,000 people across 16 provinces. Latest estimates suggest that over 2.6 million people have been internally displaced and over four million live in neighbouring countries as refugees due to conflict, drought and floods. WFP estimates (August 2020) that 16 million people in Afghanistan requires emergency food assistance, 4 million of which have recently been added due to COVID-19 outbreak in the country.

Extreme poverty and food insecurity in the selected project districts are above average compared with the rest of the country. Furthermore, the extension department of MAIL and the relevant district authorities have also indicated that they are able to work with male and female farmers in the selected districts. The ability to reach male and female members of households is necessary to ensure social inclusion and closely monitor project activities.

COVID-19:

COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on Afghan population amidst myriad of pre-existing vulnerabilities. An influx of returnees from Iran and Pakistan totalling 806,300 persons from Iran and Pakistan between January and November 2020 (OIM weekly situation report 5 December 2020) seems to have helped accelerate the number of infected cases but have also stretched the medical and economic resources to their limits. The officially recorded number of COVID-19 cases have reached 47,258 with 1,841 deaths and 37,302 recovered (3 December 2020). On 19 November 2020 the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) reported that the country in a second wave of COVID-19 pandemic. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) estimates that 40% of the tests are positive, which is one of the highest in the world. However, this may not represent the full picture as testing capacities are limited and there is no systematic or representative sample testing. Several indications suggest that the infected population and number of mortality may be much higher than reported.

The health sector in Afghanistan has significantly improved over the recent past but the system remains critically unprepared for a systematic, prompt and functional response to the pandemic of this scale. A number of facilities, including university dormitories, a palace and even schools have been converted to COVID-19 isolation centres with a total capacity of just over 1,000 beds. The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has issued a statement suggesting that all available beds are about to be exhausted. The Lancet (1 June 2020) reports that Afghanistan has a centrally located diagnostic testing with a total capacity of 50 tests per day. Lack of decentralised testing facilities makes it nearly impossible to isolate and treat infected persons. WHO suggests that 22.8 skilled health workers per 10,000 people are necessary to provide all essential health services under normal circumstances. Afghanistan has 7.2 physicians in urban areas and as low as 0.6 in rural areas per 10,000 people, which is dangerously below the required standards even without the pandemic.

A recent FAO/MAIL Rapid COVID-19 Assessment (July 2020) finds that more than 20 percent of farmers indicated that they will not be able to plant the next crop due to lack of agricultural inputs. Agriculture marketing and retailing, providing employment to a large number of self-employed small businesses have lost their only source of income due to the pandemic restrictions. Over 30% of the pastoralists (Kuchis) indicated that they cannot access their traditional pastures due to COVID restrictions. The pandemic has also affected the nascent agricultural processing sector, international trade, poultry and livestock farmers, which are key sources of employment for both male and female farmers in Afghanistan.

1.3.1. Stakeholder Engagement

1.3.1.1. Stakeholder Engagement

Annex II.1 provides details of the stakeholder consultation and its key results. The COVID-19 restrictions and associated risks did not allow a planned multi-skilled formulation mission and hence direct engagement of the FAO and ADB international staff and consultants with key stakeholders. The circumstances imposed by COVID-19 could only allow for the second best option of holding several online consultations through videoconferences. Consultations with farmers, farmer organisations, retailers, processors and other community groups had to rely on in-person meetings either individually or in small groups in accordance with the Ministry of Health and WHO regulations.

The formulation mission comprising of FAO technical staff based in the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO/RAP) in Bangkok held several video conferences with staff from MAIL and MRRD. The consultations with MAIL staff included the Department of Extension, Department of Policy and Planning, Department of Plant Production and Protection as well as the Deputy Minister for Technology and Deputy Minister for Water and Natural Resources. Separate meetings with staff from MRRD, including the Directorate of Regional Programmes (DRP), Kareez Rehabilitation Directorate, Directorate of Water Management and Projects. These discussions were conducted over a period of three weeks between July and August to accommodate everyone's schedule.

A five-member FAO national staff and consultants (national formulation team) in the country were tasked to consult with key stakeholders at the province and district levels. At the provincial level the national formulation team held extensive discussions with the Provincial Department of Agriculture (PAIL) and the provincial office of MRRD. Furthermore, the team held discussions with relevant members of Provincial Development Committee (PDC), which includes local government authorities, NGOs and other civil society organisations that are active in the province. Subsequently, the national formulation team held consultations with the District agriculture unit (DAIL), farmer organisations, Community Development Committee (CDC) and a number of farmers in the selected districts. Female members of the national formulation team held extensive discussions with the women in each district with a view to ensure women's active participation throughout the process. Prior to consultations, the national team were trained in conducting effective consultations at different levels. The FAO-RAP staff and the formulation team leader provided the training.

The national formulation team under the guidance of the formulation team leader in FAO-RAP, also held consultations with key staff in MAIL and MRRD. A joint meeting among key stakeholders was organised in Kabul with participation from MAIL and MRRD staff as well as the formulation team from both FAO-Kabul and FAO-RAP. The latter participated via a video-link.

1.3.1.2. Grievance Mechanism

Details of grievance mechanism and process are presented in Annex II.2. The district and provincial project committee are the first port of call for the community level grievances. FAO National Project Staff are members of the Provincial Project Committee and all grievances are transmitted to FAO simultaneously. If an issue cannot be satisfactorily resolved at the provincial level, the National PSC,

co-led by MAIL and MRRD with participation from ADB, FAO and relevant departments in MAIL and MRRD, shall address the issue. Furthermore, project beneficiaries are members of CDC in their area of residence and are able to report any grievances through the CDC structure. In case the project staff are unable to address any pending issues, the CDCs report grievances to the district authorities and the Provincial Development Committee (PDC). The Provincial department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (PAIL) and the Provincial department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (PRRD) are members of the PDC, where grievances are addressed and communicated to the relevant CDC.

During the stakeholder engagement farmers (male and female), members of CDCs, district authorities, MRRD and MAIL personnel at district and provincials levels as well as PDC members were briefed about the grievance mechanism and how to report any grievances throughout the project design and implementation process. Furthermore, at the project inception, project beneficiaries, relevant CDCs, CIGs and relevant district and provincial authorities will be appraised of the grievance mechanism and their participation. The CDC and PDC structure is particularly effective as they function for all grievances with direct participation from communities.

Experience from similar projects, in particular the several HFLS projects have indicated that almost all grievances have been satisfactorily resolved at the district level. All grievances have usually been addressed at the village level in consultation and with the full agreement of the community elders and CDC representatives. Relevant communities and project beneficiaries are regularly informed of the processes and options available to them for communicating their concerns and grievances. The MAIL, MRRD and FAO staff regularly monitor the process and ensure that communities and partners concerns are fully addressed.

1.3.2. Problems to be addressed

The overall project intends to address the following key problems and impediments to household food security and development. The FAO TA is focussed on items iv-vii, other problems, though not covered under the FAO-TA, have been mentioned to highlight the overall project coherence.

(i) Water shortages and severe environmental degradation due to damaged Kareez systems (output 1).

The Kareez dysfunction and lack of water have forced communities to resort to desperate measures, such as abandoning villages, pumping underground water and selling productive assets. These have caused significant environmental degradation as the receding underground water has reduced the vegetation cover and led to a high reduction in trees and orchards. The socio-economic impact of damaged Kareezes over the years have been extremely damaging to communities, as they have struggled to make a new life as internally displaced, and have sold their productive assets. Experience from Kareez rehabilitation efforts over the past few years suggests that most households return to their villages and commence agriculture activities and a normal life as soon as a Kareez is rehabilitated. The ground water levels slowly increase, vegetation cover and trees are revived, hence improving the environment and environmental services.

(ii) Scarce water resources are inefficiently used with high levels of loss (output 2)

Increased population, high demand for water in sectors other than agriculture, erratic precipitation and high temperatures are keeping high pressure on water availability, which is dwindling and unpredictable. Irrigation continues to be the main source of water use and water use efficiency. Saving water has increasingly become a necessity rather than an option. FAO and MAIL introduction of solar-powered rain gun irrigation using surface water in some areas have resulted in about 50% water saving compared with traditional flood irrigation. The available water from Kareez and river streams can cover twice the irrigated land area and ensure crop production throughout the year with the proposed technology. The technology is perhaps new to the project area but not in the country, which has been tested and rolled out with promising results. The demonstration effects of the technology have been

significant, as many farmers have adopted the technology after observing its impact on neighbouring farms. The improved irrigation system and the resulting cropping patterns are highly likely to improve food availability for consumption and market in the project area.

The WB Sector Review, 2014 considers this intervention as the “first mover” in agriculture transformation and development. Irrigation modernisation and water use efficiency is an integral part of the NCADPP. Improved irrigation technology is likely to increase the role of women in agriculture as traditional irrigation is labour intensive and usually done by men.

(iii) Significant damages from frequent and more severe floods to high value assets (output 3)

The frequency and severity of floods have significantly increased over the recent past and floods usually cause significant damages to public and private property in many parts of Afghanistan. In addition, many years of neglect and disrepair of infrastructure as well as excessive deforestation and lack of trees outside forests have made many seasonal waterways highly vulnerable to damages. Experiences in MRRD and MEW with flood protection investments suggest that small protective measures can save significant costs. Rehabilitation costs after flood damages are significantly higher than taking simple preventive measures. Under MRRD and MEW guidelines, communities are key stakeholders in prioritising areas to be protected, contributing to 10% of the total costs and also committing to the maintenance of the structures. The CDCs take active role in the design, implementation and maintenance of the structures. Similarly, communities are key to the planting and upkeep of trees and other biological measures for flood control in each of the districts.

Flood control measures is a key priority for MRRD as it has been heavily emphasised in the MRRD Strategic Plan, 2017-2021. In addition, flood control and maintenance of infrastructure have been emphasised in the Citizen Charter National Priority Programme (CCNPP)¹ and the Regional Programs (RP)². The project will bridge critical gaps in the financing of flood control measures in selected project area.

(iv) Lack of agriculture and non-agriculture based livelihoods for both men and women (output 4)

Smallholder family farmers are caught in a vicious circle of poverty, with low input-low output traditional farming systems, unable to diversify into more profitable farming activities and too small to access markets. Agriculture and related livelihoods are the mainstay of rural economy, there is little alternative sources of livelihoods. Targeting the poorest and vulnerable households, mostly defined as smallholders and landless farmers in rural areas, improving their productivity and the use of their meagre resources is key to addressing extreme poverty and food insecurity. The project intends to facilitate crop and livelihood diversification, increase productivity and access to markets among the poorest farming households. Market inaccessibility, low bargaining power and inability to diversify production systems in accordance to market and climate signals are considered key impediments to breaking out of the poverty vicious circle among the smallholders.

The project intends to build economies of scale in production and marketing by grouping interested smallholder farmers into CIGs. The CIGs plan together to ensure the production of a marketable surplus and the group band together to access input and output markets. The CIGs provide an address for input demand and specified quantities of outputs, which are of significant interest to traders. In addition, farmers are also able to strike a bargain on bulk inputs and outputs. The size of the CIG is not accidental but has been tested over a number of years. Around 20 CIG members is a manageable class for training purposes using FFS and FtF methodologies. In addition, a lower number of members do not create effective economies of scale while a higher size is difficult to manage. It is necessary to

¹ <http://www.ccnpp.org/Default.aspx>

² <https://mrrd.gov.af/node/404>

create separate CIGs for men and women. Culturally women are less likely to express their views and needs in the presence of men. In addition, the division of labour among men and women in rural Afghanistan justify a focus on gender-disaggregated livelihoods and hence the need for separate CIGs for men and women.

Farmers neither have the required skills nor the financial means to diversify their livelihoods and opt for more profitable and sustainable production systems capable of building resilience and adapting to the current and emerging climatic conditions. The project intends to focus on livelihoods that have higher potential for income generation, sustainable production and resilience with higher degrees of adaptive capacity. Capacity building in good agriculture practices (GAP), more resilient farming systems (crop rotation, timing of cultivation, choice of crops and use of more drought and frost tolerant varieties among others), primary packaging and sorting, as well as access to markets are provided to CIGs. In addition, training are also provided in financial management, annual planning and farm business management. Crop and farm diversification require inputs that are beyond the financial means of smallholder farmers. The project intends to provide a one-time support for critical inputs to enable farmers to diversify their livelihoods and breakout of the poverty vicious circle.

Gender inequality is rampant and a major contributor to underdevelopment in the country. The Project intends to target rural livelihoods that are specifically suited to women, therefore positively contributing to gender balance in the selected project areas. In this regard, women extension workers shall be provided with specific training and facilities to provide the needed extension services to women groups. Furthermore, women-headed households will be given priority while targeting households.

(v) Food Processing and Marketing capacities are inadequate resulting in low value addition, high losses and lack of access to markets (output 5)

The great majority of poor households in rural areas process and conserve food during the harvest for consumption during the lean season. Food waste and loss are significantly high, due mainly to poor techniques and methods for food processing and conservation. In addition, a large number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have evolved over the recent years, which have proved highly beneficial to farmers as well as employment in the sector. The farmers are able to sell their fresh vegetables and other produce to processors during the harvest, which has a stabilising effect on market prices. The sector is nascent and has the highest potential for creating the much-needed off-farm employment. Furthermore, the sector helps consumers by making food available throughout the year at reasonable prices. The Afghanistan Zero Hunger Strategic Review, WFP 2017, suggests that 73% of the rural and 97% of urban households rely on markets for their food consumption. Improved and increased food processing and conservation is likely to significantly cushion food consumption and hence improve food security and nutrition.

Most of the poor households usually conserve food immediately after the harvest for consumption during the off-season. Sun-drying vegetables is the most popular but other forms of food conservation and processing are also common. The quality of home-processed food is very low, waste and loss are very high. Home processed food almost never makes it to the market and is usually consumed at home as the last resort when fresh food is not affordable or available. The project aims to improve the quality and reduce waste and loss of food processing by introducing basic but improved technical knowhow for processing and conservation. This will not only improve food security and the nutrition content and taste of the food for home consumption but will also enable households to sell processed/conserved food in the market.

(vi) Household nutrition and sanitation (output 6)

The dire statistics on nutrition and sanitation partly owe to malpractices in food preparation, feeding habits and sanitation. Traditional practices, common beliefs and superstition have a highly damaging

role in food preparation and feeding practices in particular for pregnant and lactating women as well as for children under-five years. Both groups are severely malnourished. Furthermore, sanitation practices among rural households are contributing to sanitation and waterborne diseases among vulnerable members of households, in particular children and the elderly.

Sanitation and malpractices in feeding are certainly not the only causes of malnutrition but measures to address these issues can go a long way to address malnutrition and preventable diseases. The project activities under this output includes nutrition education, improved recipes, improved sanitation practices, feeding habits in particular targeting children under-five, pregnant and lactating women. The sanitation education will include many best practices developed by UNICEF, WHO and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). Women as the key caregivers at the household level are the main target for these activities. Female social mobilisers from the same cluster of villages will be recruited and trained to deliver this output at the household level among women.

(vii) District extension units do not have sufficient capacity and mobility to deliver extension services to farmers (output 7)

MAIL Extension workers usually do not have the required and up-to-date technical knowhow to provide appropriate technical advice to farmers. In addition, the extension workers usually do not have the means to visit farmers and organise FFS where and when necessary. The proposed capacity development under this sub-component will enable extension workers in the districts to provide effective and technical services to farmers. Adapting farming systems, cropping patterns and choice of crops to current and emerging climatic conditions is a necessity. MAIL has already initiated a series of efforts to build the resilience of farms and farming systems, and has started the implementation of the “Extension Strategy”. The proposed output is in direct support of the MAIL extension strategy and the objective to promote sustainable agriculture system capable of adapting to the changing climate.

MRRD and MAIL both have the mandate to improve irrigation systems in the country with some division of labour, the latter focussing on on-farm irrigation and the former on irrigation infrastructure at higher level of water diversion and management. Both ministries shall work together to improve Kareez management, on-farm water use efficiency and flood control infrastructure. This component is expected to train relevant technicians and extension workers in improved techniques and technologies. The TOTs shall be provided to both groups of men and women in the project area. Institutional capacity development is a key part of the NCADPP and the Strategic Plan of MRRD.

1.3.4. Knowledge Management and Communication

1.3.4.1. Knowledge Sharing

The project is expected to develop a series of extension products in local languages, which will form part of the extension material in MAIL. A number of videos on soil, crop and water management as well as food processing and marketing will be developed and shared with relevant stakeholders through the MAIL extension system. A repository of these material will also be made available through the FAO country office. Some of this material may be useful for other countries in the region, in particular Central Asia.

The HFLS approach, targeting sustainable agriculture-based livelihoods in a rather comprehensive manner, will be documented and shared through the FAO country and regional offices within and outside the region. The approach does not only focus on a sustainable agriculture production but also on developing farmer organisations, facilitating capacities and access to financial services as well as developing a demand-driven extension system. More importantly, the project ensure inclusion of women by targeting specific livelihoods that are directly relevant to women in the project area. Furthermore, the approach envisages support to households in nutrition education and sanitation with the key aim of changing age-old habits that are inhibiting food security achievements at the household level.

Documented experiences from the project are expected to inform the design of other projects by making the results of the project available through the FAO-country and regional offices. The project task force is expected to share the experiences and lessons learned through the FAOR network and ensure relevant lessons learned are incorporated in the subsequent project design.

1.3.4.2. Lessons Learned

The HFLS is entirely based on lessons learned from the four similarly named projects, including the GCP/AFG/093/SDC, GCP/AFG/061/LUX, GCP/AFG/072/LUX and UTF/AFG/083/AFG. The project approach has been implemented in a number of districts of several provinces in seven agro-ecological zones. Lessons learned from the implementation of these projects over the past decade have been fully reflected in the design and implementation plan of the HFLS.

Furthermore, the project design also benefited from a number of irrigation rehabilitation and water management projects, which FAO has been implementing over the past 17 years. Lessons learned from a series of projects under the banner “*the Irrigation Restoration and Development Project*” (IRDP) financed by the WB over the past decade have informed the project design and activities related to project management. The nationally financed projects with support from international partners dedicated to ‘*Karez rehabilitation*’ over the recent past have also informed the project design. Lessons learned from a number of other recently completed projects have also informed the design of this project. These include: *Support to Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock to Contribute to Strengthen the Planting Material and Horticulture Industry (PHDP I & II)* financed by the European Union (EU); *Afghanistan Agriculture Inputs Project (AAIP)* financed by the WB/ARTE; and *Support to national Priority Programme Phase I and II (SNAPP)* financed by IFAD among others.

1.3.4.3. Communication

The project intends to organise seasonal market fairs at the district and provincial levels, covering at least two main cropping seasons, summer and winter. In addition to facilitating marketing and potential contract farming among farmers and traders, the market fairs provide a good opportunity to publicise the project activities and achievements. The project also intends to participate in the annual agriculture fair (national farmers’ day) where a stall is allocated to the project to allow project beneficiaries to exhibit and sell their produce and also publicise the project’s activities.

The project plans to develop a series of brochures, videos and pamphlets for specific topics related to project activities – sustainable management of target crops, value chain, extension services, group management, literacy and nutrition education. These will be distributed to key stakeholders – government employees, beneficiaries, relevant partners and others in the project districts but also in other areas through the MAIL extension network.

All relevant communication activities have been fully budgeted. The project monitoring and implementation reports will highlight if further budget is required, which will form the basis for any budget revision by the PSC in consultation with the donor. Communication actions will be aligned with FAO’s corporate communication strategy and benefit from the existing expertise of the Organization’s Office for Corporate Communication (OCC).

The main communication and visibility plan activities are the following:

- (i) Preparation and dissemination of relevant communication materials on various aspects of the Project design, implementation and M&E;
- (ii) Project launching and other national visibility events in collaboration with Government Counterparts;
- (iii) Sensitization campaigns for raising awareness within Government Counterparts, partners and relevant stakeholders;
- (iv) Field visits and impact coverage from beneficiaries’ perspective;

- (v) Production of visibility items such as t-shirts, caps and signposts;
- (vi) Press visits, videos, social media campaigns.

SECTION 2 – FEASIBILITY

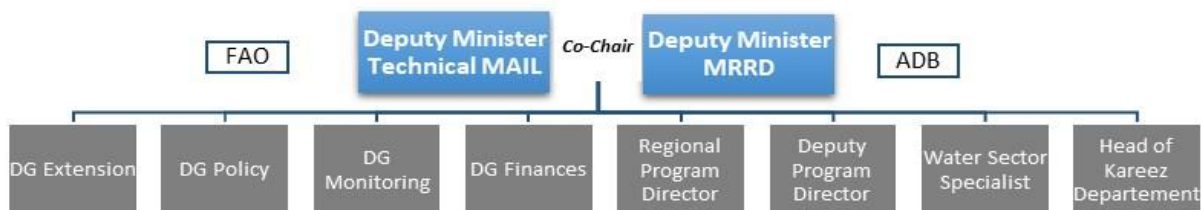
2.1 Implementation Arrangements

2.1.1 Institutional Framework and Coordination

MAIL and MRRD are the main implementing ministries. Overall the project implementation will be guided and monitored by a steering committee (SC) that will be established during the project inception. The steering committee shall comprise key staff from MAIL and MRRD at central level, supported by FAO and ADB. The tasks include provision of policy direction, guidance for project implementation and ensure coordination among the project partners at national, provincial and district levels. The steering committee will also leverage and engage government resources that are necessary for project implementation. Since the project components are based on national strategies, and draw on experiences from past and on-going projects, contractual arrangements and other implementation issues will be based on successful past experiences.

Figure 2 depicts the structure of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and indicates members of the PSC, suggested by both ministries, MAIL and MRRD. The Project Management Unit (PMU), under the FAO-TA, will serve as the secretariat for the PSC. The PSC is to be co-chaired by the respective deputy ministers in each Ministry or their designated replacements and members will represent each of the mentioned departments in Figure 2. It is important to emphasise that the PSC will not be involved operational aspects of the project implementation.

Figure 2: Project Steering Committee (PSC)

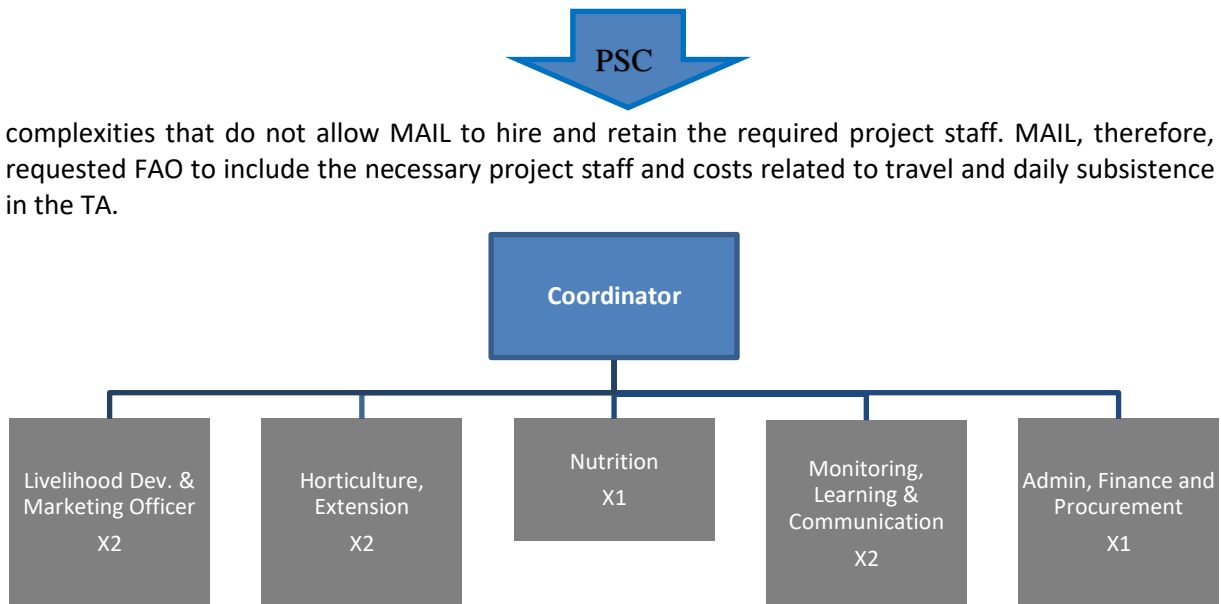


MRRD has developed detailed district profiles and has established mechanisms for engagement with communities under the Citizen Charter Programme (CCP) and its predecessor the National Solidarity Programme (NSP). The CCP supports decentralised planning and engagement with communities, civil society and public institutions through Community Development Council (CDC), DDC and PDC. The proposed project will adopt the CCP approach to design, prioritize needs, implement and monitor project activities in addition to banking on past and on-going project experiences from MAIL and FAO. MRRD, as one of the project stakeholders, shall play a significant role in building synergies with the CCP at local level, mobilising communities through the CDCs and sharing its community-based experiences in support of the project implementation.

Figure 3 shows the structure of PMU, which would be established at the national level to oversee technical, administrative and operational aspects of the project. The PMU focuses on coordination between the two ministries and joint planning at the district level. The ADB and FAO teams in consultation with MAIL and MRRD decided to build close synergies with the Water Resources Development Sector Project (WRDSP), which is currently under joint formulated with the GAFSP

project. All the staffing requirements related to outputs 1-3 (water resources management) are covered under the WRDSP and hence no allocation has been made under the PMU. All staffing and social mobilisers in support of implementing outputs 4-7 will be part of the PMU and managed under the FAO Technical Assistance (TA). The reason for this is the administrative and bureaucratic

Figure 3: Project Management Unit (PMU)



complexities that do not allow MAIL to hire and retain the required project staff. MAIL, therefore, requested FAO to include the necessary project staff and costs related to travel and daily subsistence in the TA.

The PMU will be responsible for stakeholder engagement and coordination, organising the PSC meetings and related follow-up actions, project implementation planning, facilitation of procurement of equipment and materials, management of field activities and M&E. Furthermore, the PMU will also be responsible for preparing progress, monitoring and annual reports. At the local level, activities will be coordinated in collaboration with district-level directorates, traditional councils, CDCs and other NGOs/community-based organisations (CBOs). The PMU will be based in MAIL and closely work with the Department of Extension as well as the Department of Policy and Planning. Relevant MAIL technical departments will carry out the envisaged project activities facilitated by the PMU, which is a necessary arrangement for sustainability.

MAIL, as one of the project implementing agencies/stakeholders, has sufficient capacities at all levels to successfully implement the proposed project. In addition to its own technical and operational capacities, MAIL shall also build synergies with key stakeholders to facilitate a coordinated support for household food security. These include the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW), Ministry of Education (MOE), Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA) and the General Directorate of Local Governance among others.

The extension department of MAIL shall have a prominent role in the project implementation, in particular in implementing outputs 4-7. The project design has adopted successful experiences with institutional outreach and farmer organisations. The CIGs, FFS and the Farmer Learning and Resource Centre (FLRC) supported through the district extension units have proven record of accomplishment. Each CIG is a group of 20-25 farmers who have one or two common focus areas in agriculture, horticulture, fruit, agro-forestry or other livelihoods. The CIGs are of appropriate size for FFS and focused capacity development in specific areas of their interest. In addition, the CIGs have shared assets such as irrigation infrastructure, machinery or other productive assets, which encourages collaboration in production and marketing. Farmer’s collaboration is critical for sustainable water management, choice of crops and adopting resilient farming systems.

The FLRCs and extension services are important elements in developing farmer's capacities and providing information on sustainable water management, crop production and farming systems in the target watersheds. The FLRCs will also function as a repository of climate-resilient agriculture technologies, which would be available for dissemination to all farmers beyond the life of the project and hence will be an important element of post project sustainability. Capacity building shall adopt TOT for district extension workers and other relevant local institutions using technical capacities within MAIL and MRRD as well as national universities and local expertise under the technical oversight of FAO. Where necessary, FAO will provide international expertise for capacity development and introduce international best practices through TOT. Regular visits and technical support from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) is also envisaged to ensure adequate technical oversight. The trained personnel shall provide capacity development to farmers by organising FFS and demonstrate some technologies in the FLRC.

About 40 female social mobilisers shall be recruited from the project target area to provide nutrition and sanitation education as well as access to public services. The social mobilisers are provided with intensive training in nutrition education, sanitation, healthy local food recipes as well as care for the elderly and children. The social mobilisers are expected to organise groups of women in the villages and provide the necessary training and awareness raising. In addition, the social mobilisers would share concerns and demands of women for public services through the DDC and PDC structures. In the past key demands from women in the villages have been maternity and childcare support, literacy courses, access to legal support, access to water and livelihood skill development. The use of social mobilisers to support women in the villages has been considered one of the most successful in the country.

Institutional capacity building, in particular of MAIL and MRRD staff at the district and provincial levels, is key to the implementation of the project. Initially the focus is on direct service providers, mainly district level MAIL extension workers and MRRD staff, who do not only receive technical training and methods on improved service delivery but also the means to deliver the required services to households in the villages. The approach ensures institutional capacity building and the continuation of project activities beyond the life of the project.

At the project inception, FAO as the technical supervising entity, shall support the development of a detailed project implementation manual to ensure unhindered implementation and provide international best practices in project implementation. The project implementation manual will also include terms of references (TORs) for various PMU staff, the project steering committee, technical institutions and community level planning and implementation processes.

The ADB, as the investment supervising entity, shall provide financial management support to the project and shall provide financial and operational fiduciary support in accordance with the GAFSP guidelines. Project funds shall be channelled to the district level using the established mechanisms, regulations and standards used by all international financial institutions and other partners.

2.1.2 Government Inputs

The Government shall continue to provide office space and utilities for the project staff based in the Department of Extension, MAIL and the relevant PAIL offices. Similarly, MRRD shall provide leadership, office space and other necessary arrangements for outputs 1-3. The project implementation strategy is based on MAIL and MRRD's direct participation and leadership. It is expected that relevant technical departments in MAIL and MRRD will continue to provide the needed support throughout the project's life and absorb most of the project activities in the relevant departments. MAIL is also responsible for registering the CIGs and MRRD the Water User Associations (WUA) into legal entities under the laws of Afghanistan, ensuring that farmers are not exposed to unnecessary taxation brackets.

The extension officers and the MRRD provincial and district staff are the main implementing partners as social mobilizers and technical support. However, district level staff from both MAIL and MRRD will have to be prepared to fully participate in the TOT courses organized at the provincial level and to dedicate at least 60 percent of their time to project activities. Following the initial investment in extension worker mobility and maintenance, PAIL is responsible for ensuring the extension workers are equipped with the necessary facilities to conduct their activities. MAIL will make its relevant storage and distribution facilities at central and provincial levels as and when needed.

The target CIGs are expected to participate in FFS, which includes not only technical training courses in the identified livelihoods but also literacy, numeracy, nutrition and sanitation education. In addition, the CIGs are expected to open and maintain a bank account and ensure that the asset fund is not depleted and is used for productive activities beyond the life of the project.

2.1.3 Resource Partner Inputs

MAIL and MRRD shall provide in-kind contribution in terms of staff time, office space and other relevant facilities at HQ, provincial and district levels. Both ministries shall also coordinate project activities with other national and international institutions at provincial and district levels with support from the PMU.

The Resource Partner would sign a funding agreement for a total of USD 3 million with FAO for the technical assistance component of the project, including the PMU. The Project would be carried out over a period of five years (60 months) from the date specified in the Agreement between FAO and the Resource Partner. Similarly, the total sum of USD 12 million will be channelled from the resource partner to MAIL and MRRD through the financial supervising entity, ADB using established financial management and protocol processes.

The summary of the budget is given hereunder and detail budget as well as ToRs of key staff and consultants are given in the Annex IV and VI, respectively.

Summary of the resource partner inputs:

Accounts	Description	Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Year-4	Year-5	Total	Budget in %
5011	Salaries Professional Staff	47,220	70,830	62,114	70,830	116,948	367,942	12%
5013	Consultants	67,574	146,392	151,419	148,919	154,862	669,166	22%
5020	Locally Contracted Labor/Social Mobilizers	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	480,000	16%
5021	Travel	16,764	50,040	50,040	48,596	15,276	180,716	6%
5023	Training	71,556	61,707	67,891	61,707	61,707	324,568	11%
5024	Expendable Equipment	66,288	19,888	5,400	5,488	5,488	102,552	3%
5025	Non Expendable Equipment	63,592	0	0	0	0	63,592	2%
5027	Technical Support Services	16,932	16,932	27,932	16,932	34,932	113,660	4%
5028	General Operating Expenses	71,635	89,135	88,462	87,435	87,871	424,537	14%
5050	GOE Common Services- (Other Central Support Services)	31,110	11,234	11,234	11,371	12,056	77,005	3%
	SUB-TOTAL	548,671	562,158	560,492	547,278	585,140	2,803,738	
5029	Support Cost (7%)	38,407	39,351	39,234	38,309	40,960	196,262	7%
	TOTAL	587,078	601,509	599,727	585,587	626,100	3,000,000	100%

2.1.4 Strategy/Methodology

The project strategy is based on the premise that direct targeting of food insecure and vulnerable household is necessary but insufficient to address wider poverty and deprivation issues. The project is

therefore, addressing a number of issues including institution building, service delivery and establishes livelihood groups to improve economies of scale in accessing markets for outputs, inputs, credit and other services. In addition, support is also provided in developing the skill sets of households in specific livelihoods together with efforts to build productive assets as a revolving fund for livelihood groups. Literacy, nutrition education and sanitation are considered an integral part of food security and the project intends to address these issues as well. By targeting the poorest, the project is directly contributing to the SDG 1 and 2 with the principle of *leaving no one behind*.

Coordination among various national and international partners is promoted to contribute to common objectives at district and provincial levels. The project also addresses the information base for decision-making by generating and sharing detailed district data on demographics, livelihoods, natural resources and infrastructures. The project in partnership with the Ministries of Education and Public Health also promotes literacy and numeracy education to communities with a view to promote modern agriculture and access to information. The CIG capacity development is promoted using the highly effective FFS and Farmer-to-Farmer (FtF) approaches.

The HFLS is in direct support of the MAIL policy to integrate disjointed initiatives in support of common objectives, in this case food security and building livelihood resilience. In addition, the project facilitates the rolling out of the national extension strategy in the country. The Project is providing technical oversight, coordination, monitoring and framework support to an integrated approach for food security and institution building. The FAO TA component of the overall project will also play a major coordination role between the two key ministries, MAIL and MRRD. FAO will also manage the project steering committee meetings and the necessary follow up with relevant stakeholders.

Given the security and weather-based disasters and risks, the project is highly flexible allowing for decentralized planning and implementation suiting local conditions. Detailed planning is done at the district level together with communities and extension workers during the implementation. Experience from the last five HFLS projects indicate that such flexibility allows for effective risk management and location-specific planning and implementation. This is essential in a highly volatile situation like Afghanistan. COVID-19 has introduced additional risks and impediments to scheduled implementation. Therefore, additional flexibility will be needed to ensure movement restrictions when imposed are taken into account during implementation.

2.1.5 Technical Oversight and Support Arrangements

The project implementation strategy envisages an inception workshop, where a technical mission from RAP is expected to provide technical oversight ensuring high standards. In addition, at least two technical backstopping missions per year has been considered over the life of the project. Given that the project does not have an international Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) for cost efficiency and effective implementation purposes, technical management and reporting support shall also be provided on timely basis from RAP. This particularly relates to monitoring, progress reports and other coordination and strategic issues. Technical expertise for specific areas shall be provided from FAO's international stock of expertise if such expertise cannot be found in the country.

The project shall be linked to other FAO supported ongoing and planned projects. These may include: (i) the technical assistance to the implementation of the *Food and Nutrition Security Strategy* in Afghanistan project (GCP/AFG/091/GER), (ii) *HFLS* financed by a number of international partners (SDC, Italian Cooperation and the Luxembourg Government) (iii) *Enhancing Agriculture Production Through Irrigation System and Strengthening Institutional Capacity* (OSRO/AFG/502/JCA), the *National Horticulture Development Project* (NHLP) and others.

2.1.6 Management and Operational Support Arrangements

The project management team, all nationally recruited, will be embedded in the General Directorate of Extension (GDE), MAIL. Some of the support staff shall also assist the implementation of this and other HFLS projects on a cost sharing basis. The project team and the GDE officers will jointly plan and implement the project activities. This is mainly to ensure ownership, contribution from relevant MAIL departments and institutionalization of project activities. In addition to the project staff both at central and provincial levels, direct technical oversight and implementation support is also provided by the FAO Country Office as well as RAP.

A PSC shall be established under the joint chairmanship of senior officers from MAIL and MRRD. Members of the steering committee shall comprise relevant MAIL and MRRD departments and the project staff (see section 2.1.1 for more details on the PSC). The PSC shall be the main decision making body for major aspects of the project implementation and ensure high-level support for coordination and implementation of the project among partner projects and institutions.

PAIL, DAIL and the relevant provincial authorities from MRRD will facilitate implementation at provincial and district levels, respectively. Two project staff, provincial coordinators, shall be placed in two provinces to provide close and constant implementation support at provincial level. The extension workers in DAIL are the main facilitators and interface with communities. The provincial authorities in particular PAIL shall regularly communicate with the PMU and ensure that all implementation and monitoring issues are resolved within the shortest possible time. PAIL and Provincial authorities of MRRD would also be responsible for policy implementation following decisions from the PSC.

2.1.7 Other partners

The Ministries of Education and Public Health shall partner with the project in providing support to literacy, numeracy, and nutrition and sanitation education to CIGs. Most of the coordination shall take place at provincial and district level but some issues may also be discussed between the PSC and the relevant ministries at central level when necessary.

The planning and programme coordination, and agriculture extension departments of MAIL will be involved in monitoring the project implementation together with the project management team. A number of other projects implemented by national and international institutions are active in the project areas. The project shall make every effort to liaise, coordinate and build synergies with these initiatives where feasible.

2.2 Operational Modalities

FAO will be responsible for the implementation of the technical assistance component of the project but will also provide technical oversight, coordination, monitoring and implementation planning for the overall project. FAO will also serve as the secretariat for the project steering committee (PSC). MRRD and MAIL will be the key implementing entities. Operational responsibilities of both MAIL and MRRD are explained in more detail in the overall project document, which is separately developed by FAO and ADB.

2.3 Statistics

The project envisages collecting information to develop detailed district profiles and establish baselines for monitoring and impact assessment purposes. The information collected will be part of the MAIL database as well as inform project planning and monitoring. MAIL has already been collecting similar data from other districts where household food security projects are being implemented. Some refresher training will be necessary to conduct the required survey and populate the database for planning and other purposes in MAIL, MRRD and other stakeholder institutions.

2.4 Risk Management

2.4.1 Potential risks to the project

Annex V presents key risks to the project and risk management measures. The risk management matrix is the result of a series of consultations during the proposal preparation and subsequently during the project preparation phase with a number of stakeholders. During the project proposal preparation phase two workshops were held with key staff from MAIL and MRRD as well as a number of participants from the Kabul University, GIZ and project staff from FAO, WB and IFAD among others. Both workshops discussed risks and mitigation measures based on experiences from other projects in the project area, which enriched the discussions and focused on key issues. The discussions in workshop was not only for risk assessment and mitigation but also included discussions on the overall design, implementation arrangements, budget, area selection, gender and social inclusion as well as monitoring and learning. The second workshop, in August 2019, reviewed the identified risks and mitigation measures and a final summary list was agreed among participants.

Subsequently, a series of on-line consultations reviewed and further refined the risk matrix during the formulation phase. In-person workshops and consultations were not feasible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project preparation team had to rely on on-line consultations. Key risks to the project are security and climate related disasters, which are relevant for all projects in Afghanistan. The risk management measures are based on past experiences from a number of institutions who participated in the discussions and risk assessment exercise during the project proposal and formulation phases.

2.4.2 Environmental and social risks from the project

Based on a review of the project activities and an assessment of potential risk when applying the FAO ESM guidelines and undertaken during the project formulation process, the project can be classified as **low risk**, meaning there is minimal or no negative environmental and social impact. The project will not be controversial in terms of interests of project stakeholders. By design, the project will contribute to environmental protection resulting from adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), including Integrated Soil, Crop and Pest Management (ISCPM) and pesticide risk reduction. The project also intends to adopt a combination of biological (tree and shrub planting) and engineering measures for flood control, surface water harvesting, improving water table, rehabilitation of the traditional Kareez systems, and irrigation system efficiency along with sustainable water management practices through communities. Communities are expected to commit to preventing the use of deep tube-wells for water extraction, necessary for Kareez rehabilitation, which has been considered the most environmentally friendly water management system.

Similarly, the Farmers Field School (FFS) approach to be applied for capacity building of smallholder farmers is socially inclusive, participatory, empowering, and minimizing risk that vulnerable community members are excluded from taking part in project interventions. The project has considered separate and targeted FFS for women to ensure their participation and benefits from the project. The FFS is also a well-recognized and effective capacity building approach, allowing farmers to learn about and develop essential ecosystem-literacy skills needed for effective application of knowledge-intensive good agricultural practices and management systems, such as Integrated Pest Management and Soil Health Management. Special attention will be paid in all project interventions, including the curriculum development and FFS training, to promote nutrition-sensitive interventions through diversification of farming systems, and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources, including agrobiodiversity, which is vital for rural household local food and nutrition security.

2.5 Monitoring, Performance Assessment and Reporting

2.5.1 Monitoring Arrangements

The project will adopt the revised *GAFSP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (2017)* for monitoring the project progress and result chain. In this regard, the project monitoring framework will adopt the

GAFSP **tier 1** indicators (impact goals – income, food security etc.) and **tier 2** indicators (core project results indicators contributing to tier 1 indicators). In addition, the project monitoring framework will also envisage activity level indicators to facilitate project implementation and risk management efforts. In line with the GAFSP monitoring framework and FAO guidelines, the project monitoring framework will be strictly results-based. The project implementation team, MAIL and MRRD designated staff, under the technical and operational oversight of FAO project team will regularly collect information on activity level indicators on a pre-defined template and schedule. The provincial district level staff will be trained in collecting and reporting information on project monitoring on the basis of a pre-defined schedule. Annex VII presents the project monitoring framework, which is based on the LogFrame and specifies responsibility and schedule of actions. A more detailed monitoring framework based on the GAFSP latest guidelines, shall be prepared under the investment component of the project under the ADB guidance for the whole project. FAO shall support with the project monitoring and reporting as part of its TA.

The project team under the leadership of FAO will conduct a baseline survey covering both beneficiary and non-beneficiary households. The HFLS approach has already developed a sample and a census survey forms with database used for project and other planning and analysis purposes. These pre-defined questionnaires will be augmented with additional questions to collect data directly relevant to the GAFSP monitoring framework. The FAO project team with technical guidance from the FAO-RAP will assess and prepare the required monitoring reports. The six-monthly monitoring reports will be informed by the information collected from the field using the pre-defined GAFSP monitoring template. The Interim and Final Project Completion Reports will also benefit from the monitoring database with additional data collected from the field.

The monitoring framework will also inform the project risk assessment with a view to effectively manage the identified and emerging risks to the project. FAO will compile and assess risks and present its findings to the PSC on a regular basis or when necessary. Furthermore, beneficiary and community perceptions and assessments will also be included in the monitoring framework, which will assess beneficiary/community satisfaction with project performance.

2.5.2 Performance Assessment

The project management team led by FAO will be responsible for compiling, assessing and preparing the monitoring reports of the project in the required GAFSP format. The MAIL and MRRD field staff supported by FAO project team will collect and compile monitoring data from the field on a pre-defined schedule in support of the project reporting schedule. In view of the volatile and precarious situation in Afghanistan, a mid-term review is envisaged at the beginning of the 3rd project year. The mid-term review will assess implementation difficulties and performance issues, which should inform the necessary changes to facilitate improved efficacy.

A participatory assessment of project interventions will also be conducted to assess the efficacy of the interventions. These may include community and beneficiary participation in assessing satisfaction and efficacy in water resource management, FFS, livelihood development, community participation in key project activities such as flood control infrastructure, water harvesting and water user associations. Separate questionnaires will be developed for female project participants in terms of livelihood development, marketing, processing and nutrition education among others.

2.5.3 Reporting

The GAFSP monitoring framework envisages six monthly project progress reports. FAO project team with support from FAO/RAP will compile and assess monitoring information and prepare the six-monthly reports for the whole project. The ADB as part of its functions will prepare the necessary financial reports, while FAO will prepare financial reports related to the TA component. Financial reports will be prepared on an annual basis, in line with the GAFSP's reporting schedule and deadlines.

The **six-monthly reports** will closely follow the GAFSP monitoring framework (2017) and provide insights into the progress of planned activities using GAFSP formats and will include:

- qualitative and quantitative information describing activities carried out and specific results achieved during the semi-annual period;
- discuss key implementation challenges and how they will be resolved;
- report tier-2 indicator results against annual targets.

Success Stories. The Semi-Annual Performance Report will include success stories, if appropriate. Additional success stories may be uploaded to the GAFSP website as and when appropriate.

A **mid-term review** report will be developed during the first half of the third-project year. This report will assess the efficacy of the project design, performance assessment, implementation modalities, risk assessment and performance indicators. The key focus will be on risks assessment and whether it will be necessary to make changes to enhance the likelihood of desired impact. The PMU/FAO will prepare the **project completion report** before the project is closed. This report will use the GAFSP template and if necessary augmented by FAO template.

2.1 Evaluation Provisions

Provisions have been made to evaluate the project in line with FAO policy, which stipulates evaluation of all projects/programmes under the responsibility of FAO management. The envisaged evaluation intends to provide not only accountability on results, but also lessons learned and recommendations to improve the future performance of FAO and provide an evidence-base for decision-making. This evaluation will only cover the TA part of the overall GAFSP project which is different from the GAFSP-CU evaluation considered for some projects. Project evaluation services are considered direct project costs as part of technical support provided by FAO. To this end, provisions for evaluation are made under Budget Line 5027 Technical Support Services.

SECTION 3 - SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 Capacity Development

The project approach is mostly based on capacity development at different levels. At national level, the project intends to roll out the national extension strategy, hence building capacities at central, provincial and district levels. As part of MAIL's strategy for institutional reform and effective service delivery where it is needed the most, the project engages in building the capacities of extension workers at district and provincial levels to improve service delivery. Much of the capacity development is on-the-job training and development of processes and institutional arrangements to ensure that the capacity development efforts are instantly used and retained by the institution.

An initial assessment of capacities during the project formulation process indicate a lack of adequate technical and operational capacities at both provincial and district levels. Most of the extension staff at district level do not have sufficient capacity to address farmers' needs for technical support. Even when the required capacity is available, extension workers are not able to visit farmers' fields due to lack of transportation and mobility in general. The district extension offices do not have the required resource and means to demonstrate new technologies and provide the required training. In this regard, the project shall work very closely with MAIL extension units at the district and provincial level, to build capacities using training of trainer (TOT) methods, equip the district extension offices with the necessary facilities, enable visits to farmers' fields, and provide training and technology demonstrations to farmers at the district level. The extension workers are also provided with training materials and a strict schedule to conduct FFS and Farmer-to-Farmer (FtF) in the district. The key aspect of capacity development strategy is to build on the national extension strategy, develop capacities and processes of service providers (extension workers) and subsequently provide training to farmers on a

regular basis using FFS and FtF methodologies. This shall ensure government ownership and continuation of project activities beyond the life of the project.

At the community level, the Project encourages livelihoods with higher likelihood of financial sustainability and resilience. Target households are grouped into CIGs with a view to improve economies of scale in production, processing and marketing as well as access to extension services, credit, input and output markets. Introducing GAP and improved production technologies in diversified livelihoods are part of efforts for a sustainable development and poverty eradication. Female project beneficiaries are organised in separate CIGs to ensure participation and direct targeting of women. The selected districts do not yet have female extension officers, which is part of the national extension strategy but presently conditions are not suitable to hire female extension workers. To fill this gap the project shall recruit female social mobilisers to provide the required services, at least during the life of the project.

Similarly, water user associations and Kareez user associations are developed and members are trained in group management, efficient water use, and maintenance of infrastructures. MRRD provincial and district staff are provided with the required capacity development (TOT) and equipped to provide regular training to water and Kareez user associations in the project districts.

The project staff are housed in the Extension Department of MAIL. Planning and implementation of activities are jointly conducted with MAIL and MRRD staff at central, provincial and district levels. The project works with the CIGs to ensure they have the capacity to engage in marketable livelihoods on their own. By design the exit strategy is part of the project implementation strategy and no further activities are necessary to ensure an eventual handover or exit. The project implementation strategy involves MAIL and MRRD staff at central, provincial and district levels. Therefore, no new or additional structures have been envisaged to suggest augmented costs with budget and sustainability implications.

3.2 Decent Rural Employment

The HFLS project will contribute towards all 4 pillars of the Decent Work Agenda. The project will create new employment opportunities through livelihood development, value addition to primary agriculture production and marketing and will build economies of scale among the poorest households. The project facilitates private sector involvement in agricultural processing and marketing activities and small-scale enterprise development (Pillar I). The project will promote social protection through awareness and education efforts, including reduction of risks associated with pesticide use and adoption of eco-friendly pest management options. The GAP/IPM FFS interventions will particularly target the most vulnerable rural community households and its members, to reduce exposure to toxic pesticides by men, women and children in particular (Pillar II). The project will promote socially responsible agricultural production activities (Pillar III). The project will support good governance and social dialogue, particularly through its adult-education and empowerment-oriented farmer field school work, while fostering the participation of farmers and their organizations into important decision making processes in public and private sector domains (Pillar IV).

3.3 Environmental Sustainability

The HFLS project will support environmental sustainability through the development of GAP standards and the implementation thereof. The GAP/IPM capacity building activities, implemented through Farmer Field Schools, will empower farmers to make better and informed decisions about the efficient use of agricultural inputs, including seeds, irrigation, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. FAO's policy advice for sustainable intensification of crop production, promoted under the banner of *Save and Grow*, will inform all relevant capacity building activities. The IPM learning modules to be integrated in

the GAP farmer training, will allow farmers to reduce on-farm use of agrochemicals while conserving and making more sustainable use of natural ecosystem goods and services, including natural biological control of crop pests and diseases.

Kareez rehabilitation requires a ban on deep tube-well use to extract excessive groundwater with significant environmental implications. The rehabilitation measures envisage the use of local shrubs, trees and bushes to control soil erosion and retain surface water. It also includes harvesting rainwater to improve ground water levels and make water available when it is critically needed for human, animal and plant during summer. The flood control elements of the project includes both biological (shrubs and trees) and engineering measures to protect critical and high value assets (villages, schools, clinics, roads, bridges and agriculture land). The engineering solutions are using local materials with limited or no negative environmental impact.

Crop and livelihood diversification promoted by the project is a key factor in adapting to climate change. Furthermore, water management including small-scale surface water harvesting, flood control, Kareez rehabilitation and on-farm water use efficiency are key elements of adapting to the current and projected climate change scenarios.

3.4 Gender Equality

The HFLS project prioritises livelihoods that are more relevant to women hence encouraging gender balance and attempting to contribute to gender balance in the project areas. At least 30% of the project beneficiaries are women. Female-headed households are given priority and all efforts are made to ensure that support to women livelihoods do not attract discrimination from the communities. In view of the cultural sensitivities, it is not feasible to combine men and women. The project, therefore, considers the needs of men and women separately and ensures that emphasis is placed on livelihoods that are directly relevant to women. The approach for gender equality in the project design is entirely based on experiences from the previous four HFLS projects, namely - GCP/AFG/093/SWI, SARD/UTF/083/AFG, GCP/AFG/061/LUX and GCP/AFG/072/LUX.

Literacy, numeracy, nutrition and sanitation education are part of the FFS curricula for both men and women. In addition, the project will hire social mobilisers, mainly educated women and girls, and provide training to support information, nutrition education, sanitation, child-care, literacy and numeracy courses for women in the villages. The formation of female-CIGs have significant social and domestic implications for rural women through solidarity and information sharing among women in the villages. The social mobilisers are also key to providing information on women rights, public services available for women, social protection, access to markets as well as other support networks. The water user associations and the Kareez user associations will have separate female groups to ensure women's priorities and needs are fully considered in any decision making process on water and related activities. The proposed measures to ensure women's active participation in the project is informed by past HFLS, other past projects experiences as well as a series of consultations with women during the proposal and project formulation processes. Female consultants were hired and trained to conduct detailed consultations with women in the project districts.

3.5 Indigenous Peoples

Afghanistan does not define any group as indigenous. There are many ethnic groups but no particular indigenous group has been identified in the country. The Project has a geographic targeting, which has been jointly selected by MAIL and MRRD in line with a pre-defined list of criteria, which were stipulated in the project proposal. The project does not perceive any discrimination against any group in the selection of districts or population.

ANNEX

Appendix I - Logical Framework Matrix

Key outputs in this logical framework only reflects the FAO TA component. The FAO will also be responsible for monitoring the overall project and reporting in accordance with the GAFSP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2017. The monitoring reporting will be based on the overall project logical framework.

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Impact					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme poverty reduced among target households in 8 districts of 5 provinces (Kabul, Logar, Wardak, Ghazni, Khost) in Afghanistan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income of target households increase by 30% by year 4 of the project. Food security as defined by FIES methodology is ensured among target households (20% of total population in 8 districts). Crop yields increase by 30% among target beneficiaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined at the inception “ “ Various crops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30% increase by year 4 Zero prevalence of food insecurity among target households 30% by year 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress Reports. Terminal report and Evaluation report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security does not deteriorate, and other natural disasters does not derail project activities. (These indicators will be monitored for the overall GAFSP project)
Outcomes					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livelihoods among target households in the selected districts are more productive, resilient and better linked to markets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Target households increase income by at least 30% compared to baseline by the 4th year of project. • Target households increase productivity by at least 30% (disaggregated by livelihood type). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various, baseline for income and yields provided separately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income increase by 30% among 20% of households in 8 districts by year 4. Yields increase by 30% by year 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress reports and activity financial models. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security situation remains stable and no major natural disaster affects the project area.

	2. Subnational institutions have developed their capacities and deliver improved services.	1. Extension officers in 8 districts have capacity to deliver extension services to farmers on a regular basis. 2. At least 80% of target household's express satisfaction for the extension services received compared to baseline.		Extension officers are able to deliver at least 5 new technologies to farmers. 80% satisfaction by year 4.	Monitoring and Progress reports Monitoring and Progress reports	
Outcome 1: Livelihoods among target households in the selected districts are more productive, resilient and better linked to markets						
1. Crop and livestock-based livelihood development					FAO TA is only relevant to Component II.	
1.1	Agricultural households are organised in Common Interest Groups (CIGs) for a number of livelihoods (to improve economies of scale in production, processing, marketing and to demand extension services.)	At least 20% of the target district households are organised in CIGs by year 2 of the project – At least 30% of the CIGs are women.	0	At least 630 CIGs are established by year 2. 220 (36%) CIGs are women	Monitoring and Progress reports	MAIL registers CIGs as a legal entity. MRRD, MoE and MAIL representatives collaborate to ensure timely intervention.
		At least 80% of CIGs (male and female) reinvest the value of provided inputs in at least 3 cropping seasons over 4 years.	0	80% of CIGs reinvest the initial capital 3 times	Monitoring and Progress reports	

1.2.	Production, processing, marketing & management capacities of CIGs are improved in the following livelihoods: - Wheat (mostly men) - Orchards (mostly men) - Vegetable (mostly men) - Backyard poultry (mostly women) - Greenhouse (mostly women) - Livestock (mostly women) - Beekeeping (men/Women).	All CIGs (male and female) receive at least 60 hours of training by extension workers on improved technologies in production, processing and marketing during the life of the project.	0	All CIGs in target districts receive at least 60 hours of training by year 5.	Monitoring and Progress reports	MAIL registers CIG as a legal entity without exposing them to unnecessary taxation and other financial burdens. Households continue to pursue their adopted livelihood and collaborate as part of the group.
		All CIGs (male and female) receive input packages for crop diversification and adaptation to climate conditions	0	All CIGs receive input packages by year 1.	“ “	
		At least 50% of illiterate CIG Members (men and women) complete the MOE standard literacy courses.		At least 50% of the illiterate CIG members pass the MOE adult literacy exam.	Monitoring and Progress reports	
2. Households and SMEs improve their processing and marketing activities.						
2.1	Household increase their capacities to process and conserve food for household and local market consumption.	At least 300 women are trained in food processing, conservation and marketing by year 4	0	300 women are trained by year 4.	Monitoring and Progress reports	
		Organise agriculture market fairs at district and provincial capitals	0	10 market fairs by year 4.	Monitoring and Progress reports	
2.2	SMEs have access to technology, technical knowhow and management of food processing.	At least 20 food processing SMEs visit similar enterprises in one or two countries in the region.	0	20 SMEs participate in technical exposure visits.	Monitoring and Progress reports	COVID-19 restrictions does not disrupt travel and visa is provided by the recipient country

3. Households improve their knowledge and practices of nutrition education and sanitation.						
3.1	Households improve their knowledge and practices of nutrition, sanitation, childcare and literacy.	At least 40 female social mobilisers receive training in nutrition education, sanitation, childcare and literacy as TOT.	0	40 female volunteer social mobilizers receive 80 three-day TOT throughout the life of the project	Monitoring and Progress reports	Volunteer social mobilisers are available and interested to participate in the training course in the district.
		At least 1,200 households in 8 districts receive messages in nutrition, sanitation, childcare and literacy training.	0	1,200 women receive messages in nutrition, sanitation, childcare and literacy, at least once a week over 4 years.	Monitoring and Progress reports	Women in the villages are interested to participate in the training and receive messages. Assuming each social mobiliser will train 3 groups of 10 women once per week each.
		At least 80% of target women in 8 districts report satisfaction with messages on nutrition, sanitation, childcare and literacy courses.	0	80% of target households report satisfaction by year 4	Satisfaction survey of beneficiaries.	
Outcome 2: Subnational institutions have developed their capacities and deliver improved services.						

2.1.	Capacities of extension workers are improved in good agriculture practices (GAP), FFS, group management and assessment of the agriculture situation in the district.	At least 60 extension workers receive 135 technical and administrative training of trainer (TOT) by year 3 of the project. (See Table in Annex IV for the type and duration of training)		60 extension workers receive 135 TOT trainings throughout the life of the project.	Monitoring and Progress reports	MAIL continues to provide the required support and the Extension Department remains fully engaged.
		At least 4 Farmer Learning and Resource Centres (FLRC) are established by year 4 of the project. (FLRC is part of the National Extension Strategy).		4 Farmer Learning and Resource Centre (FLRC) are established by year 4	Monitoring and Progress reports	MAIL identifies and manages the FLRC site including operational costs. Establishing FLRC is feasible in only 4 out of 8 target districts
		District extension offices are equipped and means of transportation provided to ensure visits to farmer fields	0	8 district extension offices refurbished, computers and motorcycles provided by year 2.	Monitoring and Progress reports	
2.2	Line ministries improve their capacities for coordinating and implementing development activities at district level informed by detailed district level data.	At least 50 MAIL, MRRD and MoE staff are trained in survey, group management, focus group discussion marketing, coordination and literacy.	0	50 MAIL, MRRD and MoE staff are trained	Monitoring and Progress reports	Relevant national institutions cooperate at provincial and district levels.
		A comprehensive baseline and livelihood survey is conducted in 8 target districts and data made available to key stakeholders through MAIL database.	0	A census and livelihood survey is conducted in 8 districts	Monitoring and Progress reports	

2.3	Effective project management, technical and operation oversight; Effective monitoring and reporting.	An effective project management structure is established in MAIL and DAIL by the first six months of the project life.	0	Establishment of effective project management structure	Monitoring and Progress reports	MAIL and other partners commit to planned pledges of cooperation.
		Support is provided to the preparation of annual implementation plans in MAIL and MRRD and close coordination among all partners is ensured.	0	Joint annual plans are prepared and approved by PSC.	Monitoring and Progress reports	
		Regular Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings are organized and close coordination between MAIL and MRRD is ensure.	0	At least 1 regular and ad hoc PSC meetings per year, when necessary, are organized.	Monitoring and Progress reports	
		A monitoring framework based on the "GAFSP Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2017" is established.	0	Monitoring framework established and regular reporting in accordance with the GAFSP requirements for the entire project.	Monitoring and Progress reports	

Annex II: Stakeholder Engagement Matrix

1) Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings	Expected timing (for Stakeholder Engagement Plans Only)	Comments
Smallholder farmers and food insecure households	Primary Stakeholder/ direct beneficiaries	Local community	Field visits, Consultations, Focus Group Discussion	Widespread poverty, lack of alternative livelihoods, lack of economies of scale to access markets, low-input low output agric. systems, no value addition to primary agric. produce, lack of modern/commercial farming skills. Inability to purchase inputs and break the cycle of low-input-low-output agriculture.		
CDCs (Community Development Councils)	Primary Stakeholders	Local Community	Open Public Meeting, PRA, consultations	Insufficient and unreliable water, lack of access to improved farm inputs (seeds and fertilisers), lack of access to markets, extension services are weak or not available at all.		
Food insecure households and smallholder farmers, CDCs	Primary Stakeholders	Local Community	Open Public Meeting, PRA, consultations, survey questionnaire	Identification of eligible households (the most vulnerable and the poorest), identification of livelihoods for support.	Planned at the project inception.	
District MAIL Authority (DAIL) – extension workers and other district authorities.	Primary Stakeholders	Local Government Institution/body	Focussed discussions and workshops	Extension workers lack adequate capacity to support farmers, extension offices are not equipped with basic supplies (desk, computer, printer, electricity), extension workers are not mobile to reach farmers. Significant willingness from District authorities to support project implementation and provide any other support if part of their authority.		
Provincial MAIL Department (PAIL), Education, Health and MRRD departments.	Key Stakeholder	Local Government Institutions/body	Focus Group Discussion and workshops	Inadequate capacity at provincial level to deliver technical support to districts; District extension units do not have sufficient means for mobility. Education department fully prepared to support the literacy		

				<i>efforts among farmers and women; Health Dept. willing to support nutrition and sanitation education efforts,</i>		
MAIL Departments: Extension, Home Economy, Plan and Policy	Key Stakeholder	<i>National Government Institution/body</i>	<i>Video conference, Focus Group Discussion and workshop</i>	<i>Project targeting criteria, design consideration, implementation arrangements were fully endorsed. Linkages and synergies suggested with other projects in the same provinces. Capacity at the central level will be available to support project activities. Close liaison and planning with MRRD is necessary to ensure all project components are coordinated and aligned.</i>		
Kariz Department of MRRD	Key Stakeholder	<i>National Government Institution/body</i>	<i>Video conference, Focus Group Discussion, Workshop</i>	<i>Project targeting criteria, locations, project activities, joint implementation planning and coordination were agreed. Technical support from MRRD HQ staff to project districts agreed. Synergies and linkages emphasised with ongoing and planned MRRD projects in the same provinces.</i>		
Kabul and provincial universities	Secondary stakeholder	<i>Interviews with key informants</i>	<i>Video conference, Focus Group Discussion, Workshop</i>	<i>Support for capacity development efforts under the project was agreed. Some materials in the universities exist but will be supplemented with additional materials from FAO. Some training courses can be conducted in the respective universities if other venues are not available.</i>		
Processors/Traders (Market Linkage Support)	Key Stakeholders	<i>Private Sector/Players</i>	<i>Focus Group Discussion</i>	<i>Access to improved processing technologies, technical knowhow and machinery are limited. Marketing skills are severely restricted. Most SMEs are too small to access national or international markets. Access to some critical inputs are not feasible.</i>		
MAIL, MRRD (Deputy Ministers), ADB & FAO country offices.	Key Stakeholder	<i>Resource Partner/Donor</i>	<i>Video conference, One-day Workshop Regular Meeting; Steering Committee</i>	<i>Arrangements to ensure adequate support for project implementation, the steering committee shall be responsible for oversight and implementation risk management. Regular meetings of the SC and on demand.</i>	<i>The SC will regularly meet during the project implementation</i>	

FAO Project and country management staff	Key Stakeholder	<i>Technical Assistance Providing Agency</i>	<i>Video conference, Focus discussion Regular Meeting; Steering Committee</i>	<i>Project implementation experiences are valuable to reflect in the project design, joint activities in particular related to capacity development for cost saving and increased impact. Synergies with other FAO projects in the project areas. Support to project implementation as and when needed.</i>		
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2) Grievance Mechanism

Focal Point Information	Rajendra Aryal, FAO Representative in Afghanistan or someone of his nomination.
Contact Details	Rajendra.Aryal@fao.org ; Ph. +93
Explain how the grievance mechanism has been communicated to stakeholders	At the community level, the stakeholders have the choice of reporting grievances through the district extension officers, CDC structure, District governor's office, the provincial agriculture department (PAIL) or directly to FAO Representation. At the province level – grievances may be communicated through the PAIL structure, the relevant FAO-Regional office, the Provincial Development Committee (PDC), FAO-Representation or directly to the PSC. All means of communications and contacts have been explained to relevant stakeholders and will be made available once again during the project inception.

3) Disclosure (For moderate and high risk projects only)

Disclosure Means	Public meetings with CDC, PDC, farmer groups, water association groups, women groups, through mosques, public health unit, schools and through the farmer field schools (FFS).	
Disclosure information/document shared	Key project activities, duration, targeting criteria, location of the project. Rights and obligations of stakeholders. Grievance communication contact lists and ways of reporting.	
Disclosure dates	From: Click here to enter a date. Project inception, throughout implementation	To: Click here to enter a date. At inception and till end of project.
Location	Target districts, provinces, MAIL, MRRD, FAO, ADB in Kabul, Afghanistan.	
Language(s)	Dari and Pashtu.	
Other Info		

Annex II.2: Grievance Mechanism Continued.

FAO will facilitate the resolution of concerns of beneficiaries of FAO programs regarding alleged or potential violations of FAO’s social and environmental commitments, in compliance with the General Conditions as part of Annex II of the Contribution Agreement for this Project. For this purpose, concerns may be communicated in accordance with the eligibility criteria of the Guidelines for Compliance Reviews Following Complaints Related to the Organization’s Environmental and Social Standards, which applies to all FAO programs and projects.

Concerns must be addressed at the closest appropriate level, i.e. at the project management/technical level. In the case of this project the lowest institutional denomination is the district level. The principles to be followed during the complaint resolution process include: impartiality, respect for human rights, including those pertaining to indigenous peoples, compliance of national norms, and coherence with the norms, equality, transparency, honesty, and mutual respect.

Project-level grievance mechanism and process.

The project will establish a grievance mechanism at field level (district and provincial levels) to file complaints during project inception phase. The project will also be responsible for documenting and reporting, as part of the safeguards performance monitoring, on any grievances received and how they were addressed.

Contact information and information on the process to file a complaint will be disclosed in all meetings, workshops and other related events throughout the life of the project. In addition, it all awareness raising materials to be distributed will include the necessary information regarding the contacts and the process for filing grievances.

Process:

1. The District Extension Office (DEO): The complaint could come in writing or orally to the DEO directly as a first port of call. At this level, received complaints will be registered, investigated and solved by the DEO in consultation with the provincial authorities.
2. The FAO HFLS-TA Project Management Unit (PMU). The complaint could come in writing or orally to the PMU directly. At this level, received complaints will be registered, investigated and solved by the Project Office.
3. If the complaint has not been solved and could not be solve in level 1 and 2, then the Project Coordinator elevates it to the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
4. FAO Representative. The assistance of the FAO Representative is requested, if a resolution was not agreed in levels 1 and 2.
5. FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. FAO Representative will request if necessary the advice of the Regional Office to resolve a grievance, or will transfer the resolution of the grievance entirely to the regional office, if the problem is highly complex.
6. The FAO Regional Representative will request only on very specific situations or complex problems the assistance on the FAO Inspector General who will pursue its own procedures to solve the problem.

Resolution

Upon acceptance a solution by the complainer, a document with the agreement should be signed with the agreement.

Review Level	Contact Details
District Extension Office (DEO)	Any district extension officer involved in the project may receive and record the complaint, respond within 5 days and inform the FAO PMU of the complaint and response.
Project Office	Must respond within 5 working days.

Project Steering Committee (PSC)	Anyone in the team may receive a complaint and must provide proof of receipt. If the case is accepted, the Project Coordinator must send the information to all Project Steering Committee (PSC) members and call for a meeting to find a solution. The response must be sent within 5 working days after the meeting of the PSC.
FAO Representation in Country	Must respond within 5 working days in consultation with FAO's Representation. FAO Representative : Mr. Rajendra Aryal Email: FAO-AFG@fao.org
FAO Regional Office Asia and Pacific	Must respond within 5 working days in consultation with FAO's Representation. FAO Representative: XXX Email: RAP-ADG@fao.org Phone: +66 2 6974310
Office of the Inspector General (OIG)	To report possible fraud and bad behaviour confidential: By Fax: (+39) 06 570 55550 By e-mail: Investigations-hotline@fao.org By confidential hotline: (+ 39) 06 570 52333

Annex III: Work Plan

Activities	Responsible Unit	2021		2022				2023				2024				2025				2026			
		3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	
Recruit the PMU staff and establish HQ and District PMU	PMU																						
Organize inception workshop with key stakeholders	PMU/MAIL/MRRD																						
Conduct baseline survey and generate detailed district profiles.																							
Select beneficiaries and identify livelihood groups	PMU/PAIL/DAIL																						
Establish CIGs and group governance, and open bank account for each group	PMU/DAIL/PAIL																						
Assess the CIGs needs, priorities and key impediments to development	PMU/ MAIL (M&E-EXT)																						
Train CIGs on financial management, production planning, group management and joint marketing.	PMU/ MAIL (EXT)																						
Organize Literacy courses for CIGs	PMU/DAIL																						
Facilitate farmers’ participation in agric. market fairs	PMU/ MAIL (EXT)																						
Conduct technical trainings relevant to each livelihood group –FFS and FtF.	PMU/DAIL																						
Provide technical specifications and implementation oversight to input distribution to CIGs	PMU/DAIL/PAIL																						
Conduct ToT on food processing, conservation, and Marketing	PMU/DAIL/PAIL																						
Organize agriculture market fairs at district and provincial capital	PMU/DAIL/PAIL																						

Annex IV: Budget in USD:

FAO Accounts	Budget Description	Unit	QTY	Unit per Year						Unit Cost USD	Cost per Year					Total Budget	
				Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Year-4	Year-5	Total		Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Year-4	Year-5		
	Professional Staff																
5011	National Project Manager	Month	1	4	6	5	6	12	33	8,538	34,152	51,228	42,690	51,228	102,456	281,754	
5011	National Operations Officer	Month	1	2	3	3	3	2	13	6,000	12,000	18,000	18,000	18,000	12,000	78,000	
5011	FAO HR Servicing(National)	Month	1	6	9	8	9	14	46	178	1,068	1,602	1,424	1,602	2,492	8,188	
	Sub-Total Professional Staff										47,220	70,830	62,114	70,830	116,948	367,942	
	Consultants (International/National NPP/SC)																
	International Consultants										17,874	15,374	17,874	15,374	15,374	81,870	
5013	Technical Expert/2	Day	1	20	15	20	15	15	85	500	10,000	7,500	10,000	7,500	7,500	42,500	
5013	Monitoring	Day	1	15	15	15	15	15	75	500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	37,500	
5013	FAO HR Servicing - Int. Consultants	contract	1	2	2	2	2	2	10.0	187	374	374	374	374	374	1,870	
	National Project Personnel (NPPs/SC)	Month									49,700	131,018	133,545	133,545	139,488	587,296	
5013	Knowledge Management, and Communication Officer	Month	1	-	6	6	6	6	24	2,100	-	12,600	12,600	12,600	12,600	50,400	
5013	Livelihood and Food Security Officer	Month	1	4	5	5	5	12	31	2,550	10,200	12,750	12,750	12,750	30,600	79,500	
5013	Administrative and Finance	Month	1	-	7	7	7	12	33	1,701	-	11,907	11,907	11,907	20,412	56,133	
5013	Driver	Month	1	-	12	12	12	12	48	1,100	-	13,200	13,200	13,200	13,200	52,800	
5013	Provincial Coordinator	Month	2	12	24	24	24	12	96	1,701	20,412	40,824	40,824	40,824	20,412	163,296	
5013	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	Month	1	4	12	12	12	12	52	2,110	8,440	25,320	25,320	25,320	25,320	109,720	
5013	Capacity Building Consultants	LS/Person	2	4	5	6	6	6	27	2,500	10,000	12,500	15,000	15,000	15,000	67,500	
5013	FAO HR Servicing (national consultants)	Month	9	24	71	72	72	72	311	27	648	1,917	1,944	1,944	1,944	8,397	
	Sub-Total Consultants (International/National)										67,574	146,392	151,419	148,919	154,862	669,166	
	Locally Contracted Labour																
5020	Social Mobilizers /3	Month	40	480	480	480	480	480	2,400	200	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	480,000	
	Sub-Total locally contracted labor										96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	480,000	
	Travel																
	Travel																
5021	Air ticket BKK-KBL (TSS mission)	p/mission	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	12,500	
5021	Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) TSS missions	p/day	1	12	12	12	12	12	60	162	1,944	1,944	1,944	1,944	1,944	9,720	
5021	Travel costs (air ticket and terminals) - Int. Cons	per mission	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	8,500		
5021	DSA for Int. Consultants - missions only.	p/day	2	6	6	6	6	6	30	162	972	972	972	972	4,860		
5021	Hazard pay for Int. Travel in Kabul.	p/day		18	18	18	18	18	90	62	1,116	1,116	1,116	1,116	1,116	5,580	
5021	Domestic travel - project staff /4	p/trip	60	24	24	24	20	20	112	350	8,400	8,400	8,400	7,000	7,000	39,200	
5021	Procurement Services	PO	-	3	2	2	1	1	9	44	132	88	88	44	44	396	
	Sub-Total Travel										16,764	16,720	16,720	15,276	15,276	80,756	
	Training/5																
0	Study tour for processors - abroad.	LS/Trip	10	-	1	1	1	-	3	33,320	-	33,320	33,320	33,320	-	99,960	
5023	Two-day HH Survey Training - district profiles.	Sessions	8	3	-	-	-	-	3	1,110	3,664	-	-	-	-	3,664	
5023	One-day TOT group formation and management	Sessions	56	3	-	3	-	-	7	342	1,128	-	1,128	-	-	2,256	
5023	3-day TOT - in project plan, impl. M&E and reporting	Sessions	8	3	-	3	-	-	7	1,532	5,056	-	5,056	-	-	10,113	
5023	3-day TOT in Technical issues, 1/year/livelihood. (7 livelihoods)	Sessions	12	23	23	23	23	23	116	1,532	35,395	35,395	35,395	35,395	35,395	176,977	
5023	3-day TOT for Social Mobilisers (Poultry, livestock, greenhouse)	Sessions	3	9	9	9	9	9	43	1,532	13,134	13,134	13,134	13,134	13,134	65,669	
5023	3-day TOT for Social Mobilisers (Literacy, nutrition, social services)	Sessions	8	9	9	9	9	9	43	1,532	13,134	13,134	13,134	13,134	13,134	65,669	
5023	Procurement Services	PO	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	44	44	44	44	44	44	220	
	Sub-Total Training										71,556	95,027	101,211	95,027	61,707	424,528	
	Expendable Procurement																
5024	General office supplies including office stationary, toners, cartridges and etc for project and district offices.	per month	9	12	12	12	12	12	60	450	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400	5,400	27,000	
5024	Expendable equipment and supplies including office furniture, solar panel sets, printers, and	Per district	8	8	-	-	-	-	8	4,000	32,000	-	-	-	-	32,000	
5024	District Extension Offices/FLRC' rehabilitation and restoration.	Per district	8	8	4	-	-	-	12	3,600	28,800	14,400	-	-	-	43,200	
5024	Procurement Services	PO	8	2	2	-	2	2	8	44	88	88	-	88	88	352	
	Sub-Total Expendable Procurement										66,288	19,888	5,400	5,488	5,488	102,552	

Non-Expendable Procurement																
5025	Laptops (15) laptops for use of project staff and district extension units.	Number	15	15	-	-	-	-	15	1,250	18,750	-	-	-	-	18,750
5025	One photocopy machine (3 in 1) for project office	Number	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	5,500	5,500	-	-	-	-	5,500
5025	150 cc motorbikes for 56 extension officers of 8 districts	Number	56	56	-	-	-	-	56	702	39,298	-	-	-	-	39,298
5025	<i>Procurement Services</i>	<i>PO</i>	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	44	44	-	-	-	-	44
Sub-Total Non-Expendable Procurement											63,592	-	-	-	-	63,592
Technical Support Service (TSS)																
5027	Lead Technical Officer (LTO) - TSS, 12 days mission 5 days desk work/year	Day	2	17	17	17	17	17	85	996	16,932	16,932	16,932	16,932	16,932	84,660
5027	Independent Evaluation of the project	Lump sum	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	11,000	-	-	11,000	-	11,000	22,000
5027	Terminal Report cost (FAO- fixed cost)	Lump sum	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	7,000	-	-	-	-	7,000	7,000
Sub-Total TSS											16,932	16,932	27,932	16,932	34,932	113,660
General Operating Expenses																
5028	Office Operating and Maintenance Costs	per month	9	6	6	6	6	4	28	382	2,291	2,291	2,291	2,291	1,527	10,690
5028	Internet cost	per month	1	6	6	6	6	4	28	150	900	900	900	900	600	4,200
5028	Telephone cost for Ext. officers, social mobilisers (\$20/Month/person)	Person	56	106	106	106	106	106	530	240	25,440	25,440	25,440	25,440	25,440	127,200
5028	Fuel and maintenance cost for counterparts motorbikes - 56 motorbikes, \$30/motorbike/month	Person	56	56	56	56	56	56	280	360	20,160	20,160	20,160	20,160	20,160	100,800
5028	Fuel and maintenance for 1 project vehicle	per month	1	12	12	12	12	12	60	200	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	12,000
5028	Vehicle Insurance Cost.	Annual	1	-	1	1	1	1	4	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	6,000
5028	Farmer Learning Resource Center (FLRC) running cost	LS/FLRC	8	2	2	2	2	2	10	2,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	25,000
5028	Transportation, handling and storage of inputs.	Month	4	96	96	96	96	96	480	50	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	24,000
5028	Other Operating Costs	LS									1,000	2,000	1,327			
5028	<i>Procurement Services for GOE</i>	<i>PO</i>	8	1	1	1	1	1	5	44	44	44	44	44	44	220
5028	<i>Security Expenses in Country of operations</i>	<i>PO</i>	4	32	82	82	83	88	367	300	9,600	24,600	24,600	24,900	26,400	110,100
Sub-Total General Operating Expenses											71,635	89,135	88,462	87,435	87,871	420,210
5050	GOE Common Services- (Other Central Support Services)															
5050	<i>IT Services</i>	<i>Pers. Month</i>	367	32	82	82	83	88	367	137	4,384	11,234	11,234	11,371	12,056	50,279
5050	<i>Financial Services (USD 2,000,001 – 3,000,000)</i>	<i>Lump sum</i>	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	26,726	26,726	-	-	-	-	26,726
Sub-Totals											548,671	562,158	560,492	547,278	585,140	2,803,738
5029	<i>Project Support Costs (PSC -7%)</i>										38,407	39,351	39,234	38,309	40,960	196,262
Project Grand Total											587,078	601,509	599,727	585,587	626,100	3,000,000.00

Annex V: Risk Management
Section A: Risks to the project

Risk description	Worst case consequence for the project	Risk Score		Mitigating action	Action owner
		Impact	Likelihood		
1. Deteriorating security situation: Armed non-state actors make inroads or take over the project districts.	Access to project sites are blocked, project activities in particular related to women are forbidden, FAO and national partners (executing agencies) are not able to visit districts. Project assets are looted.	High	Medium	More responsibility to communities and the private service providers. Failing to obtain adequate guarantees the project will work in alternative districts.	MAIL, MRRD with oversight from FAO and ADB.
2. Reduced access to project areas: Road conditions, insecurity and/or criminality hamper access to project sites.	Delays in project activities – training, access to beneficiaries, delivery of inputs and equipment disrupted – causing delays in implementation and loss of some assets.	Med-High	Med-Low	Planning in advance and considering alternative ways and means of access to the district in close consultation with district authorities. Liaison with security institutions for critical activities.	MAIL, MRRD with oversight from FAO and ADB.
3. Political crisis: The political situation in the country deteriorates and hinders the implementation of reforms.	Reforms to delegate authority and responsibility to decentralised offices are derailed, significant delays in project implementation.	Med	Low	FAO and ADB regularly monitor implementation of the reforms and report any serious issues to the steering committee.	MAIL, MRRD, FAO and ADB.
4. Natural hazards (drought, floods, earthquakes): Highly likely are droughts, floods, landslides. Severe droughts have been reported once every 3 years over the	Investment in infrastructure (FLRC and extension office refurbishment) is threatened by floods. Target farmers cannot farm and Kareezes remain dry due to drought compromising project impact.	High	Medium	Prioritise flood protection infrastructures in project areas; avoid high investment in flood prone areas, ensure	MAIL, MRRD and FAO.

recent past as compared to historic average of once in 15-20 years.				contingency plans for drought management of Kareez rehabilitation is part of the 5-year management plan by communities. Drought adaptation is part of the technical support to farmers.	
5. Discrimination by gender and social groups: Impediment of access to and involvement of women by local customs and strongmen.	Women are not able to benefit from the project.	Low	Low	Project activities are dependent on gender inclusion as specified. Women members of CDCs actively participate in the project planning and monitoring.	MAIL, MRRD and FAO.
6. High turnover of district and provincial MAIL and MRRD staff: The last few years have seen frequent turnovers particularly at district and provincial levels.	Trained staff at district level are unable to deliver the required services to farmers.	Med-High	Medium-Low	Critical issues related to project districts staff movements are regularly coordinated through the steering committee (SC).	MAIL, MRRD and FAO
7. Lack of Kareez and flood control structure maintenance: Kareez and water management infrastructures are not maintained after rehabilitation.	Build infrastructures can fall into disrepair without adequate maintenance and agreed operations among communities.	Med-High	Low	Any infrastructure that is build is planned together with communities with communities contributing to 10% of the costs. Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and implementation is enforceable.	MRRD with FAO oversight.

<p>8. Financial mismanagement: Incentives for financial mismanagement seems to be high and is a risk to most initiatives in the country.</p>	<p>Project funds and expenditure is mismanaged and project not implemented as planned.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>All project plans and implementation arrangements are conducted under the FAO supervision. Communities are involved in monitoring the project as well. Rigorous financial management measures are taken by ADB.</p>	<p>ADB, MAIL, MRRD and FAO.</p>
<p>9. Lack of market for livelihoods: Project participants (CIGs) are unable to market their produce.</p>	<p>Project beneficiaries do not benefit from the project and income/poverty targets are not reached.</p>	<p>Med-High</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Critical assessment of livelihoods and marketability before support is provided. Livelihoods with no or limited markets will not be supported.</p>	<p>MAIL, FAO</p>
<p>10. CIGs don't remain active after the end of the project: Once the project's support ends, farmers will no longer engage in CIGs.</p>	<p>Economies of scale among the target small holders are not developed, farmers remain too small to access markets, undermining project targets.</p>	<p>Med</p>	<p>Med</p>	<p>CIGs farmers will be voluntary and focus on livelihoods of interest to farmers. Benefits will be demonstrated during the life of the project.</p>	<p>MAIL, FAO.</p>
<p>11. MAIL and MRRD do not allocate sufficient staff to support project implementation.</p>	<p>Project implementation is jeopardised.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>MAIL and MRRD prepare annual plans and allocate responsibilities to specific staff members at different levels under the FAO supervision. Close implementation monitoring and any issues reported to SC.</p>	<p>MAIL, MRRD and FAO.</p>

Section B: Environmental and Social risks from the project

No critical environmental and social risks have been identified as a result of project interventions.

Risk identified	Risk Classification	Risk Description in the project	Mitigation Action (s)	Indicators	Progress on mitigation action

Annex VI: Terms of Reference of Key Staff and Consultants

National Project Manager

Under the direct supervision of the FAO Representative (FAOR) and the technical guidance of the Lead Technical Officer (LTO), the expert will, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) counterpart authorities/staff, other FAO personnel, carry out the following tasks:

- With the help of MAIL, establish the District Project Teams and initiate the project activities in the selected districts. Provide the needed support to the District Project Teams to implement the project field activities and to facilitate the needed support to the vulnerable and food insecure households in the project districts;
- Build linkages with relevant departments in MAIL, other ministries, projects and organizations to coordinate on the household food security issues and to mobilize the needed support for implementing the identified improved livelihood strategies in the project districts;
- Provide regular on the job support and training to District Project Teams and on the job support to relevant government staff on sustainable livelihoods and food security issues;
- Support MAIL in managing information relating to sustainable livelihoods and food security interventions (database of agencies and projects, project reports, etc.), building upon information available through other projects, in particular the SPFS;
- Provide regular technical support and advice to the structure within MAIL responsible for coordinating sustainable livelihoods and food security issues;
- Supervise the work of international consultants, in particular recruited for support on M&E and Management Information System development, FFS and relevant livelihood strategies;
- Supervise the analysis and documentation of lessons learnt regarding successful livelihoods and food security interventions and ensures they are appropriately disseminated;
- Prepare an annual work plan in consultation with the MAIL and other stakeholders;
- Assist FAOR/SPOO in drafting TORs for national and international consultants, assist in identifying and recruiting local consultants and partner institutions for community-level work, coordinate and supervise their outputs;
- Supervise the overall management of the project (human resources, finance, and logistics);
- Advise Project Operations Officer on the project implementation and projects execution modalities, through regular monitoring,
- Represent FAO- Afghanistan in central region UNRT coordination meetings;
- Act as focal person for Repatriation and Repatriation of Ag- based Afghan Refugees in Pakistan;
- Act as focal person for Food Security and Livelihoods projects;
- Prepare reports and documents, including semi-annual reports and the terminal report;
- Any other tasks as required.

National Operations Officer

Under the guidance and close supervision of the FAO Representative and Senior Projects Operations Officer, with personal initiative and judgement, the Officer is responsible for managing and providing the full range of operational tasks in support of the programme and project activities of the FAO Representation in the areas of agriculture and rural development. Also, assist in the coordination with concerned authorities for the formulation of new projects. Specifically, the incumbent will

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Advise and liaise with project staff and counterparts in the areas of FAO's activities and other partner agencies. Represent FAO at resource partner meetings as assigned;
- Participate in policy dialogue and participate in the development of country level development frameworks such as the Country Programming Framework (CPF) as assigned;
- Contribute to the preparation of programme and project proposals, monitor and review the status of the programme/project implementation to ensure that all operational activities are carried out in line with the work plan and the project document; identify inconsistencies and delays and submit proposal to the FAOR on how to improve results and increase efficiency;
- Plan scheduling of and prepare documentation for project task force consultations on behalf of the faor/budget holder and ensure the secretariat of such meetings;
- Ensure the timely provision of project inputs (personnel, technical support services, sub-contracts, training, equipment and supplies) directly by the Organization or, when appropriate, through contractors;
- Provide support and advice to the FAO Representative in the area of project operations and management particularly on delivery of projects;
- Participate in the preparation of project work plans, monitor progress and, where necessary, identify corrective measures to overcome operational constraints;
- Coordinate operational actions required for the procurement of goods and services/contractual arrangements for the projects, in line with the Office and project work plans and budgets as per FAO rules and regulations;
- Ensure project budget and FBA management and guide the team leaders in budget revisions as required;
- Ensure timely preparation and submission of the Quarterly Project Implementation Reports, semi annual reports, terminal reports and any other reports required by the Organization;
- Ensure preparation of analytical reports on project performances, as required;
- Coordinate action concerning the completion of field projects and arrange for timely and adequate reporting, including identification of project follow-up requirements;
- Act as Officer-in-Charge for the day-to-day running of the Operations Unit during the absence of the SPOO;
- Perform other related duties as required.

National Food Security and Livelihood Officer (NFSLO)

Under the general supervision of the FAO Representative, the Senior Project Operations Officer (SPOO in Afghanistan,) and under the direct supervision of the Senior Project Manager (NPO), in close collaboration with other FAO staff and government counterparts, the National Food Security and Livelihoods Officer will fulfill the following tasks under GCP/AFG/088/LUX, UTF/AFG/083/AFG, GCP/AFG/091/GER and GCP/AFG/093/SWI and GCP/AFG/107/GAF projects.

- Assist the NPO in the implementation of all project tasks.
- Work closely with the staff of the relevant ministries, project and other organizations to coordinate and mobilize the needed support to the vulnerable and food insecure households in the selected districts.
- Support the NPO and government counterparts in the facilitation of coordination and information sharing between all stakeholders contributing to sustainable livelihoods, food security.
- Provide on the job support and regular trainings to government counterparts. Prepare training materials on sustainable livelihoods and food security. Provide training support to farmer producer and common trust groups.
- Provide on-the-job support to government counterparts, in particular the structure established in MAIL to supervise livelihoods and food security mainstreaming and programming.
- Assist the international consultants in fulfilling their terms of reference, and provide technical assistance as needed.

- Contribute to the review and analysis of lessons learnt from the project field activities and to the development and dissemination of capitalization materials.
- Supervise the work of the National Information Management Officer and other national consultants (with support from the SPM).
- Assist the SPM in overall project management and preparation of project reports.
- Travel regularly to the project districts to provide support to the District Project Teams and to oversee the implementation of projects.
- Any other tasks as required by the project.

Qualifications: University degree in Agriculture and at least five years of experience in Agricultural Development and Food Security work. Fluent in English (oral and written). Good communication and training skills.

National Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Under the general supervision of the FAO Representative, the Senior Project Operations Officer in Afghanistan, the direct supervision of the Senior Project Manager(NPO), in close collaboration with other FAO staff and government counterparts, in particular the M&E units and coordination units of the Policy and Planning Department and Program Implementation and Coordination Unit of MAIL, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Officer will fulfill the following tasks under GCP/AFG/088/LUX, UTF/AFG/083/AFG, GCP/AFG/091/GER and GCP/AFG/093/SWI and GCP/AFG/107/GAF projects.

- Assist the NPO and National Food Security and Livelihoods Officer in the management of all information related to the project's objectives.
- In collaboration with the project team and government counterparts establish and maintain a database of successful livelihood strategies, agencies and projects addressing sustainable livelihoods, food security data, and of relevant contacts (e.g. e-mail lists required for coordination meetings).
- Develop and initiate baseline survey at the beginning of the project and final evaluation at the end of the project with the help of the M&E/MIS Expert.
- Support the M&E/MIS Expert in the review of existing food security surveillance databases and information management systems, the M&E/MIS Expert's support to Program Implementation and Coordination Unit in developing and implementing a useful MIS in MAIL and provide support in the implementation of recommendations that the M&E/MIS Expert formulates (in collaboration with relevant stakeholders).
- Support and coordinate the MAIL M&E Department and extent possible integrate the MAIL monitoring system with that of the project monitoring, and project team in the compilation, use and dissemination of relevant M&E data regarding livelihoods and food security projects. Provide technical recommendations regarding M&E data management.
- Monitor the activities of all projects including the GCP/GER and Prepare monitoring reports for both projects with inputs from other staff members and ensure that monitoring of project activities, nutrition and food security indicators are regularly and adequately monitored.
- Provide assistance with the compilation, management and dissemination of information regarding lessons learnt from livelihoods and food security projects. Facilitate the preparation of specific crop, nutrition and food security analysis and reports
- Assist in the preparation of lessons learnt materials (e.g. videos, project fact sheets).

- In collaboration with the FAO information and media relations officer, and the information officer recruited under the German funded food security related projects, support the communication of relevant project activities and events to be advertised through the media.
- Assist in the compilation of information required for project reporting. Identify gaps and issues with project implementation with a view to inform the NPO and others for an early attention and possible action. And perform any other tasks as suggested by the NPO

Qualifications: University degree in Monitoring and Evaluation, Agriculture Economics, Social Sciences, Business Administration, International Development, or any other closely related field, with solid background/understanding of the agricultural, food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture development sectors. At least three years relevant professional experience. Good English (oral and written). Experience in M&E of projects, in particular related to food security, and to utilize data analysis and statistical software such as SPSS and STATA are highly preferred. Good communication and training skills.

National Administrative and Finance Assistant –

Under the overall supervision of the FAO Representative (FAOR) in Afghanistan, direct supervision of the National Project Manager (NPO), in close coordination with project team and counterparts, the National Administrative and Finance Assistant will have the following responsibilities under GCP/AFG/088/LUX, UTF/AFG/083/AFG, GCP/AFG/091/GER and GCP/AFG/093/SWI and GCP/AFG/107/GAF projects.

- Act as focal point for all project administrative and financial matters, in close collaboration with the FAO Representation in the country, and be responsible for ensuring the smooth administration;
- Supervise all practical aspects of project set-up and daily management of project activities, personnel, assets, inputs, and contacts.
- Prepare request for payments (fund release orders), ensure all the supporting documents are available and in accordance with FAO rules;
- Reconcile Petty Cash ensuring all disbursements and maintain a database for keeping track of all kinds advances disbursed and follow up their settlements in accordance with FAO rules and procedures;
- Provide financial support for various activities of the programme (DSA and salary payments, communication expenses, travel arrangements, etc);
- Assist in handling day-to-day operational project activities;
- Assist in organizing workshops, training events and meetings, and support other technical aspects of project implementation and office management, including official missions and study tours.
- Liaise closely with the FAO Representation in the country with regard to the procurement of supplies and equipment, assist in custom clearance procedures and maintain inventory records;
- Organize appropriate filing system; ensure the maintenance of financial records and monitoring systems to record and reconcile expenditures, balances, payments, financial statements and other data for day to day transaction and report.
- Ensure smooth operation of the computers installed at the Program Office as well as the smooth functioning of the Program Office by providing required secretarial support to all;

- Assist in the preparation of work plans and project progress reports as well as any other documents as required, including translations of documents such as meeting minutes, GoA tenders and official documents
- Provide expert support to Project Manager to draft financial documents, resolve financial issues with office staff or counterparts, verify property, accuracy, correctness and completeness of system input data, basic records and their documents, reconcile accounts, prepare payments, raise commitments, detect errors and initiate necessary adjustments.
- Assist the supervisor, technical officers in all matters relating to finance, budget and account management.
- Respond to both normal and unpredictable operational needs, in accordance with FAO rules and procedures;
- Assist the Project Manager in the annual closure procedures of the project for the Representation as well as initiate/draft project budget revisions.
- Review the commitments and expenditures documents and prepare periodic as well as ad hoc financial report in line with established rules, regulations and procedures and assist supervisor in timely manner.
- Maintain contacts and liaise with relevant project stakeholders, as needed;
- Monitor validity of received Field Authorization and ceiling of authorized amounts to ensure that expenditures remain within authorized level; provide preliminary clearance of other Field Authorizations.
- Carry out any other duties as may be requested by the NPO.

National Knowledge Management and Communication Officer: 24 months

Under the general supervision of the budget Holder/FAO Representative in Afghanistan and Senior Operations Officer and the direct supervision of the NPO (National Project Manager / Officer), the National Knowledge Management and Communication Officer will carry out the following tasks:

- In consultation with other project staff, prepare six-monthly, annual and terminal reports related to the GCP/AFG/088/LUX, UTF/AFG/083/AFG, GCP/AFG/091/GER and GCP-AFG-093-SWI and GCP-AFG-107-GAF projects.
- Review and finalize all concepts notes and project documents related to food security and nutrition issues,
- Support the preparation and finalization of all relevant reports and other documents to different stakeholders, ensuring high standards and quality,
- Support the project team to prepare new concept notes and project documents related to food, livelihood and nutrition security,
- Support the project team to prepare policy notes and other analytical documents related to food and nutrition security,
- Create communications materials in collaboration with the project team. Food security and nutrition communications materials will include among others: thematic subgroups statements and publications, bulletins, workshop reports, training reports, briefs, electronic newsletters, brochures, pamphlets, posters, PPT, news releases...etc;

- Provide advice on drafting of relevant project messages and promoting them through established local media channels and through direct communications with national clients and partners;
- Document the media presence at national/ sub national levels, select a reduced list based on relevance to the project and establish communications links in view of promoting the project activities and products;
- Collaborate project activities with FAOAF program framework.
- Support the information and database officer in the review and improvement of information products and database.
- Conduct any other tasks requested by the NPO.

Provincial Coordination Officers:

Under the general supervision of the budget Holder/FAO Representative in Afghanistan and Senior Operations Officer and the direct supervision of the NPO (National Project Manager / Officer) with close collaboration with PAIL Bamyan the provincial coordination officer will carry out the following tasks:

- Assist the NPO in managing project staff and consultants working at field sites and ensure that their reports and results are delivered on time;
- Assist the NPO to prepare HFLS quarterly project progress reports, as well as any other reports requested by the Executing Agency and FAO;
- Act as NPO in case of his/her absence;
- Overall, provide all necessary support to the NPO in field implementation of the project;
- Provide general administrative support to ensure the smooth running of the Field Offices;
- Monitor the use of non-expendable equipment (record keeping, drawing up regular inventories);
- Provide technical assistance and co-ordination for capacity building activities at field.
- Promote the project at provincial level and maintain good network with local stakeholders;
- Backstop day-to-day to support DAILS including consultation, advice, provision of project information;
- Conduct any other tasks requested by the NPO.

Annex VII: FAO and Government Obligations

(a) This Annex sets out the basic conditions under which FAO will assist the Government in the implementation of the Project described in the attached Project Document.

(b) The achievement of the objectives set by the Project shall be the joint responsibility of the Government and FAO.

FAO OBLIGATIONS

1. FAO will be responsible for the provision, with due diligence and efficiency, of assistance as provided in the Project Document. FAO and the Government will consult closely with respect to all aspects of the Project.

2. Assistance under the Project will be made available to the Government, or to such entity as provided in the Project, and will be furnished and received (i) in accordance with relevant decisions of the Governing Bodies of FAO, and with its constitutional and budgetary provisions, and (ii) subject to the receipt by FAO of the necessary contribution from the Resource Partner. FAO will disburse the funds received from the Resource Partner in accordance with its regulations, rules and policies. All financial accounts and statements will be expressed in United States Dollars and will be subject exclusively to the internal and external auditing procedures laid down in the financial regulations, rules and directives of FAO.

3. FAO's responsibilities regarding financial management and execution of the Project will be as stipulated in the Project Document. FAO may, in consultation with the Government, implement Project components through partners identified in accordance with FAO procedures. Such partners will have primary responsibility for delivering specific project outputs and activities to the Project in accordance with the partner's rules and regulations, and subject to monitoring and oversight, including audit, by FAO.

4. Assistance under the Project provided directly by FAO, including technical assistance services and/or oversight and monitoring services, will be carried out in accordance with FAO regulations, rules and policies, including on recruitment, travel, salaries, and emoluments of national and international personnel recruited by FAO, procurement of services, supplies and equipment, and subcontracting. The candidacies of senior international technical staff for recruitment by FAO will be submitted to the Government for clearance following FAO procedures.

5. Equipment procured by FAO will remain the property of FAO for the duration of the Project. The Government will provide safe custody of such equipment, which is entrusted to it prior to the end of the Project. The ultimate destination of equipment procured under this Project will be decided by FAO in consultation with the Government and the Resource Partner.

GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS

6. With a view to the rapid and efficient execution of the Project, the Government shall grant to FAO, its staff, and all other persons performing services on behalf of FAO, the necessary facilities including:

- i) the prompt issuance, free of charge, of any visas or permits required;
- ii) any permits necessary for the importation and, where appropriate, the subsequent exportation, of equipment, materials and supplies required for use in connection with the Project and exemption from the payment of all customs duties or other levies or charges relating to such importation or exportation;
- iii) exemption from the payment of any sales or other tax on local purchases of equipment, materials and supplies for use in connection with the project;
- iv) any permits necessary for the importation of property belonging to and intended for the personal use of FAO staff or of other persons performing services on behalf of FAO, and for the subsequent exportation of such property;

- v) prompt customs clearance of the equipment, materials, supplies and property referred to in subparagraphs (ii) and (iv) above.

7. The Government will apply to FAO, its property, funds and assets, its officials and all the persons performing services on its behalf in connection with the Project: (i) the provisions of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies; and (ii) the United Nations currency exchange rate. The persons performing services on behalf of FAO will include any organization, firm or other entity, which FAO may designate to take part in the execution of the Project.

8. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims which may be brought by third parties against FAO, its personnel or other persons performing services on its behalf, in connection with the Project, and will hold them harmless in respect to any claim or liability arising in connection with the Project, except when it is agreed by FAO and the Government that such claims arise from gross negligence or wilful misconduct of such persons.

9. The Government will be responsible for the recruitment, salaries, emoluments and social security measures of its own national staff assigned to the project. The Government will also provide, as and when required for the Project, the facilities and supplies indicated in the Project Document. The Government will grant FAO staff, the Resource Partner and persons acting on their behalf, access to the Project offices and sites and to any material or documentation relating to the Project, and will provide any relevant information to such staff or persons.

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

10. FAO will report to the Government (and to the Resource Partner) as scheduled in the Project Document.

11. The Government will agree to the dissemination by FAO of information such as Project descriptions and objectives and results, for the purpose of informing or educating the public. Patent rights, copyright, and any other intellectual property rights over any material or discoveries resulting from FAO assistance under this Project will belong to FAO. FAO hereby grants to the Government a non-exclusive royalty-free license to use, publish, translate and distribute, privately or publicly, any such material or discoveries within the country for non-commercial purposes. In accordance with requirements of some Resource Partners, FAO reserves the right to place information and reports in the public domain.

12. The Project will be subject to independent evaluation according to the arrangements agreed between the Government, the Resource Partner and FAO. The evaluation report will be publicly accessible, in accordance with the applicable policies, along with the Management Response. FAO is authorized to prepare a brief summary of the report for the purpose of broad dissemination of its main findings, issues, lessons and recommendations as well as to make judicious use of the report as an input to evaluation synthesis studies.

FINAL PROVISIONS

13. Any dispute or controversy arising out of or in connection with the Project or this Agreement will be amicably settled through consultations, or through such other means as agreed between the Government and FAO.

14. Nothing in or related to any provision in this Agreement or document or activity of the Project shall be deemed (i) a waiver of the privileges and immunities of FAO; (ii) the acceptance by FAO of the applicability of the laws of any country to FAO, and: (iii) the acceptance by FAO of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising from assistance activities under the Project.

15. This Agreement may be amended or terminated by mutual written consent. Termination will take effect sixty days after receipt by either party of written notice from the other party. In the event of termination, the obligations assumed by the parties under this Agreement will survive its termination to the extent necessary to permit the orderly conclusion of activities, and the withdrawal of personnel, funds and property of FAO.

16. This Agreement will enter into force upon signature by the duly authorized representatives of both parties.
