

Environmental and Social Risk Screening and Action Plan

Improving climate resilience of vulnerable communities and enabling conditions for local climate action in Tajikistan

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1. Introduction

The “*Improving climate resilience of vulnerable communities and enabling conditions for local climate action in Tajikistan*” project has been risk screened against WFP’s Environmental & Social Risk Screening (ESRS) Tool, which was developed taking into account environmental and social safeguards (ESS) and policies of GCF specifically the IFC Performance Standards. The screening is done on the basis of the activities described in the Concept Note (under Section C.2. Proposed project / programme).

All the proposed adaptation activities will be locally-led and small scale thus, classified as Category C (low risk). Therefore, activities eligible under this proposal are those typically qualifying as Category C only following the environmental and social risk category definition in the Accreditation Framework and the Information Disclosure Policy of the GCF. Activities under this category are project and context specific and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis following a community-based participatory planning, and include, among others:

- a) Component 1 will focus on strengthening district-level enabling conditions for locally-led, risk-informed climate adaptation by supporting the development and operationalisation of District Adaptation Plans (DAPs). Key activities will include conducting participatory climate and vulnerability assessments; preparing DAPs aligned with the National Adaptation Plan, climate risk profiles and watershed data; identifying and costing priority adaptation investments; and integrating disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action through locally defined triggers and response protocols. The component also establishes and operationalises inclusive District Adaptation Committees (DACs) to validate priorities, rank investments and endorse annual plans, while ensuring participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities;
- b) Component 2 will deliver community-level investments to strengthen climate resilience by upgrading and managing climate-proofed water assets and diversifying livelihoods. Key activities will include rehabilitating and constructing drought and flood resilient irrigation systems, canals and renewable-energy water pumps; establishing demonstration sites and training farmers and strengthening Water User Associations and district water asset funds to ensure sustainable operation, with site selection guided by DACs and DAP priorities. The component also promotes climate-resilient smallholder production through the introduction of resilient crops, orchards, agroforestry, intercropping and protected production systems, supported by demonstration plots, hands on training and participatory planning using PUUs, PUGs and forestry groups. In parallel, livelihood diversification capacity, particularly for women will be built through solar drying, improved storage, processing and value addition, supported by women led cooperatives, low-cost technologies, market linkages, bulking centres and real time market information to increase incomes and reduce climate related losses; and
- c) Component 3 will focus on strengthening knowledge management and awareness to sustain, scale and replicate locally led climate adaptation. Key activities will include delivering culturally appropriate community awareness campaigns on climate change, food security and nutrition linkages; promoting understanding of adaptation, disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action and using existing CASP+ platforms and G2F knowledge products to maximise reach and coherence, with a strong focus on women, youth and persons with disabilities. The component will also document, monitor and evaluate adaptation interventions through participatory approaches involving district and community groups; generates practical knowledge products and guidance; and shares evidence through national institutions and CEP/CIIP mechanisms to inform policy, strengthen institutional learning and support replication beyond project areas.

As per WFP’s Environmental Policy (2017) and the environmental laws in Tajikistan that governs environmental protection, natural resource use, pollution control, climate resilience and project compliance will be applicable once the exact nature, type, location, size and specificities of the activities to be implemented have been agreed upon through a community-based participatory planning, the WFP’s risk screening tool will be re-applied to ensure that all the environmental and social risks have been identified and that the risk level is kept to minimal or no adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts. If during that “activity-level” screening it appears that a selected asset triggers a higher risk, then the activity’s design will be modified to avoid or reduce the risk and keep the activity as low risk. A list of excluded activities deemed to present moderate to high risk has also been included.

2. Environmental & Social Risk Screening

Guidance on how to use the WFP Environmental & Social Screening Tool is provided below:

The screening tool consists of 23 general level-1 questions (in bold) and around 70 detailed level-2 questions (below each level-1 question). They are categorized in eight thematic areas that correspond with the eight Environmental and Social Standards of WFP.

The level-1 questions need to be answered FIRST and they need to be answered ALL. Level-2 questions only need to be answered when the corresponding level-1 question triggered a 'yes'.

These are possible scenarios:

- **If all level-1 questions are answered with a 'no'** then the entire activity/intervention is considered of **low risk**.
- **If at least one level-1 question is answered with a 'yes'**, move to the corresponding level-2 questions. All level-2 questions under a level 1 question that triggered a 'yes' need to be answered. The level 2 questions will indicate whether the activity/intervention is of 'low', 'medium' or 'high' risk.
 - **If at least one level-2 question indicates a high-risk level**, then the entire activity/intervention is classified as **high risk**.
 - If no level-2 questions indicate a high risk, but **at least one level-2 question indicates a medium risk**, then the activity/intervention is of **medium risk**.
 - **If no level 2 questions are answered with a 'yes'**, then the activity/intervention is of **low risk**, even if some level-1 questions triggered a 'yes'.

Describe for each level-1 question in the 'Annotations' field why the answer is 'no' or 'yes'.

If a potential risk area is not covered by any of the level-1 or level-2 questions, it can be added at the end of the screening tool.

The level of risk determines the type of follow-up actions needed:

- **low risk** (Category C): no revision of the design needed; no risk management plan needed
- **medium risk** (Category B): either revise the design to turn the activity/intervention into low risk OR maintain the risks and develop a risk management plan (ESMP)
- **high risk** (Category A): either revise the design to turn the activity/intervention into a low or medium-risk project OR abort the project OR maintain the risks, arrange for an independent impact evaluation, and develop a risk management plan (ESMP)

Scope of the questions

All questions apply to all phases of the activity/intervention: the implementation phase (e.g. start-up, construction, etc), as well as any phases after WFP's involvement ends (e.g. maintenance, self-sustained production, operation, decommissioning), to the extent that sufficient information is available.

All questions apply to all components of the activity/intervention, regardless of whether the components are implemented by WFP or through partners, because partners are also bound to comply with the WFP Standards. All questions need to be answered keeping in mind that people who may be affected by the activity/intervention are not necessarily beneficiaries.

Below is the full screening tool with inputs/responses for the ECRF project proposal in [blue text](#).

Table 1: E&S Risk Screening Report

E&S Standard 1: Sustainable Natural Resources Management				Level	Annotations
1	Could the project alter the land cover of forests, wetlands, farming land, grazing land, or other landscapes of ecological or economic importance?		N		The project involves the development of climate-resilient agricultural systems, including the establishment of 300 ha of mixed orchards. Relevant activities will be small-scale (demonstration plots, community-managed infrastructure) on existing farmland. Risks are localised and manageable.
if 1 is yes	1.1	Could the project degrade, fragment, or convert the vegetation cover in an area (contiguous or cumulative) of 1 to 10 ha?	N	Medium	
	1.2	Could the project degrade, fragment or convert the vegetation cover in an area (contiguous or cumulative) of more than 10 ha?	N	High	
2	Could the project alter the quantity or quality of groundwater, surface water, or sea water?		Y		The project includes rehabilitation of irrigation canals, reservoirs, and water-saving irrigation technologies. The design of rehabilitated irrigation canals, reservoirs, and efficient irrigation methods (such as drip irrigation) will be finalised during full project development. However, all relevant works are expected to be small-scale in size. Only smallholder (dehkan) farms will be targeted by the project. On average, these farms cultivate no more than 2 hectares of land ¹ . So, it is unlikely that irrigations schemes of larger than 2 ha will be developed and that water withdrawals will be high.
if 2 is yes	2.1	Could the project include the rehabilitation or construction of dams, weirs, reservoirs, or ponds that are more than 3m high/deep OR have a storage capacity of more than 400m ³ ?	N	Medium	
	2.2	Could the project include the rehabilitation or construction of irrigation schemes that cover more than 20ha OR withdraw more than 1000m ³ per day OR withdraw more than 10% of the average flow of a stream or river?	N	Medium	
	2.3	Could the project include the rehabilitation or construction of dams, weirs, reservoirs, or ponds that are more than 5m high/deep OR have a storage capacity of more than 10,000m ³ ?	N	High	
	2.4	Could the project include the rehabilitation or construction of irrigation schemes that cover more than 100ha OR withdraw more than 5000m ³ per day OR withdraw more than 50% of the average flow of a stream or river?	N	High	
	2.5	Could the project involve groundwater extraction in arid or semi-arid areas?	N	Medium	

¹ FAO 2019. Smallholders and family farms in Tajikistan. Country study report. [Available online.](#)

	2.6	Could the project contaminate water sources that are used for human consumption above national or WHO limits?	N	High	The quality of local water sources is expected to be improved through enhanced water management practices and infrastructure that will be introduced by the project.
3	Could the project degrade soils, increase soil erosion, or increase sediment load in surface water flows?		N		The project specifically promotes soil conservation and will train farmers in sustainable land management within the suite of interventions that focus on agriculture. Furthermore measures to reduce and limit the sedimentation of water courses and salinization of water sources will be implemented.
if 3 is yes	3.1	Could the project convert between 1 and 10 ha of land into agricultural land or infrastructure, without introducing soil conservation measures appropriate to the topography of the landscape?	N	Medium	
	3.2	Could the project convert more than 10 ha of land into agricultural land or infrastructure, without introducing soil conservation measures appropriate to the topography of the landscape?	N	High	
	3.3	Could the project rehabilitate or develop irrigation schemes, without introducing measures to mitigate possible water logging and salinization?	N	Medium	
	3.4	Could the project introduce agricultural practices or agrochemical inputs that are likely to decrease soil quantity and quality?	N	Medium	
E&S Standard 2: Ecosystems and Biodiversity				Level	Annotations
4	Could the project negatively affect natural habitats, ecosystems, or biodiversity?		N		Although the project introduces mixed orchards, greenhouses and crop diversification, these activities will be introduced on existing farmland owned by farmers. Risks of biodiversity impacts are minor as the project avoids protected areas and promotes climate-resilient, locally-adapted species. No GMOs or invasive species will be introduced.
if Q4 is yes	4.1	Could the project fragment, reduce or degrade the natural habitat of autochthonous animal, plant or insect species?	N	Medium	
	4.2	Could the project lead to an increase in unregulated or unlicensed collecting, hunting, or fishing?	N	Medium	
	4.3	Could the project negatively affect endangered or protected animal, insect, or plant species, or their habitats?	N	High	
	4.4	Could the project alter the migration corridors of endangered or protected animals?	N	High	
	4.5	Could the project introduce species that are alien or genetically modified?	N	Medium	

	4.6	Could the project introduce alien or genetically modified species that may be invasive?	N	High	
5	Could the project lead to negative impacts in protected areas?		N		No activities anticipated in or near protected areas.
if Q5 is yes	5.1	Could activities of the project be located in the buffer zone of an area that is protected by national or international law or conventions?	N	Medium	
	5.2	Could the project be located within, or have impacts on, an area that is protected by national or international law or conventions?	N	High	
E&S Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Waste and Pollution Management				Level	Annotations
6	Could the project increase the consumption of fuel (wood, charcoal, fossil fuel) or water?		Y		Water demand will increase slightly due to expanded irrigation systems, but efficient technologies (drip/sprinkler irrigation, solar pumps) will be promoted reducing reliance on fuel wood. Risks and low-to-moderate and will be mitigated by feasibility studies.
if Q6 is yes	6.1	Could the project lead to a permanent increase in the consumption of fuel (wood, charcoal, or fossil fuels) compared to the situation before the project?	N	Medium	
	6.2	Could the project lead to a sustained withdrawal of more than 1000m ³ of freshwater per day OR the withdrawal of more than 10% of the average flow of a stream or river?	N	Medium	
	6.3	Could the project lead to a sustained withdrawal of more than 5000m ³ of freshwater per day OR the withdrawal of more than 50% of the average flow of a stream or river?	N	High	
7	Does the project involve substances or activities that could pollute the air, soil, or water?		N		The project will promote the use of organic agro-chemicals, reducing the pollution of air, soil and water.
if Q7 is yes	7.1	Could the project lead to the pollution of the air, soil or water that is <i>temporary, limited in scale, and remediable</i> ?	N	Medium	The project will promote the use of organic agro-chemicals, while at the same time discouraging the use of synthetic agro-chemicals.
	7.2	Could the project lead to the pollution of the air, soil or water that is <i>continuous OR large-scale OR irreducible</i> ?	N	High	
	7.3	Could the project contaminate water sources that are used for human consumption?	N	High	
	7.4	Could the project involve chemicals or materials that are subject to international bans?	N	High	
8	Could the project generate waste (hazardous or non-hazardous) that cannot be reused, recycled, or adequately disposed of by the beneficiaries, WFP, or partners?		N		
if Q8 is yes	8.1	Could the project produce non-hazardous waste that cannot be reused, recycled, or adequately disposed of by the beneficiaries, WFP, or partners?	N	Medium	
	8.2	Could the project generate any quantity of hazardous waste that cannot be adequately disposed of by WFP, partners or beneficiaries?	N	High	

9	Could the project lead to increased use of agrochemicals?		N		The project will promote the use of organic agro-chemicals and alternative pest control practices, such as Integrated Pest Management. The use of synthetic agro-chemicals at project sites will be discouraged and monitored.
if Q9 is yes	9.1	Could the project lead to an increase in the use of synthetic agrochemicals that could easily be substituted by natural products or techniques?	N	Medium	The project will promote the use of organic agro-chemicals and practices such as integrated pest management, while at the same time discouraging the use of synthetic agro-chemicals. This will be controlled through training on climate-smart agriculture and strong monitoring. No banned agrochemicals will be allowed.
	9.2	Could the project involve the use of pesticides that are subject to international bans?	N	High	
E&S Standard 4: Climate Change				Level	Annotations
10	Could the project increase greenhouse gas emissions from fuel combustion, changes in land cover, or other sources?		N		No significant increase – renewable energy-powered pumps and climate-smart practices will minimise emissions.
if Q10 is yes	10.1	Could the project lead to a permanent increase in the consumption of fuel (wood, charcoal, or fossil fuels) compared to the situation before the project?	N	Medium	
	10.2	Could the project degrade or convert the vegetation cover in an area (contiguous or cumulative) of 1 to 10 ha?	N	Medium	
	10.3	Could the project degrade or convert the vegetation cover in an area (contiguous or cumulative) of more than 10 ha?	N	High	
11	Could the project expose more people to natural hazards or make some people more vulnerable to natural hazards?		N		The project aims to reduce the overall vulnerability of communities to climate impacts and related hazards, including through climate proofing water infrastructure and agricultural livelihood. Furthermore, the project will focus on adaptation and risk management planning (including DRR and anticipatory action) ensuring that exposure or vulnerability to climate hazards is reduced. Climate-proofing and DRR integration will ensure risks are mitigated. All infrastructure and assets created through the project will be designed to reduce exposure to natural hazards, and the increasing impacts of climate change.
if Q11 is yes	11.1	Will the project create infrastructure or assets that could increase the exposure of any person to natural hazards?	N	Medium	
	11.2	Could the project change people's behaviour or livelihood strategies, increasing their exposure to natural hazards?	N	Medium	

	11.3	Could the project make any person more dependent on assets that would likely be damaged by natural hazards in the next 5 years?	N	Medium	
	11.4	Could the project make any farmer more dependent on a smaller number of crops?	N	Medium	
	11.5	Could the project reduce the livelihood options of any person?	N	Medium	
E&S Standard 5: Protection and Human rights				Level	Annotations
12	Could the project violate the rights of some people (whether beneficiaries or not)?		N		The project promotes inclusion, participation, gender equity and the inclusion of youth and disabled persons. All human rights will be respected. Beneficiaries will be engaged through participatory planning.
if Q12 is yes	12.1	Could the project violate or limit the rights of people granted to them by international rights standards and national law?	N	High	
	12.2	Could the project reinforce the discrimination of individuals or groups?	N	High	
13	Could the project create or exacerbate socio-economic inequalities or discrimination in the communities?		N		The selection of beneficiaries will be done in a participatory manner. The project will also work with local farmers groups and Water User Associations (WAUs) to manage benefit sharing. The appropriate GRMs will be put in place to allow for reporting of any relevant grievances in a timely manner. The ESMP will include mitigation measures to prevent the creation or exacerbation of socio-economic inequalities.
if Q13 is yes	13.1	Could the targeting or implementation of the project be controlled by a subset of the target group?	N	Medium	
	13.2	Could the project perpetuate existing socio-economic inequalities?	N	Medium	
	13.3	Could the project further limit vulnerable people's access to assets?	N	High	
	13.4	Could the project change tenure arrangements in such a way that they create, reinforce, or exacerbate socio-economic inequalities or conflicts?	N	High	
14	Could the project lead to the involuntary resettlement (either physical or economic) of people?		N		No physical or economic displacement is foreseen. Assets will be community-based and on voluntarily allocated land.
if Q14 is yes	14.1	Could the project lead to the involuntary economic or physical resettlement of up to 20 people?	N	Medium	
	14.2	Could the project lead to the involuntary economic or physical resettlement of more than 20 people?	N	High	
15	Could the project lead to child labour?		N		The project is not expected to lead to any form of child labour. Appropriate measures will be put in place to ensure this is the case.

if Q15 is yes	15.1	Could the project involve the paid or unpaid employment of minors below the age of completion of compulsory schooling (which should be no less than 14 years) in light or regular work?	N	High	
	15.2	Could the project involve the paid or unpaid employment of minors of less than 18 years in activities that could jeopardise their health, safety or morals?	N	High	
16	Could the project negatively affect any cultural heritage (either tangible or intangible)?		N		The project is not expected to affect any cultural heritage.
if Q16 is yes	16.1	Could the project negatively affect tangible or intangible cultural heritage in a <i>temporary</i> AND <i>remediable</i> way?	N	Medium	
	16.2	Could the project negatively affect any tangible or intangible cultural heritage with implications that are <i>permanent</i> OR <i>irremediable</i> ?	N	High	
17	Could the project involve or affect indigenous peoples or their territories?		N		The project has applied a preliminary screening approach consistent with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy. Based on available national and contextual information, no impacts on Indigenous Peoples are anticipated. However, site-specific screening will be conducted during implementation to confirm the presence or absence of Indigenous Peoples in project areas. Where Indigenous Peoples are identified, the requirements of the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy will be applied.
if Q17 is yes	17.1	Could the project be implemented in territories managed or claimed by indigenous peoples?	N	Medium	
E&S 6: Gender Equality				Level	Annotations
18	Could the project lead to gender-based inequalities, discrimination, exclusion, unwanted workload and/or violence?		N		Stakeholder engagement is central to project design, and the project has a strong gender and inclusion focus. Risks of exclusion will be mitigated by quotas for women and youth participation, as well as training tailored for disabled persons. A project-level gender action plan will be developed to ensure clear gender-related targets are set, and integrated into the logical framework. The ESMP will also make provision for mitigating SEAH within the bounds of the project.
if Q18 is yes	18.1	Could the project lead to increased unpaid work (including domestic and care work) for women and/or girls?	N	Medium	
	18.2	Could the project amplify gender inequities in decision-making in households and/or communities?	N	Medium	
	18.3	Could the project amplify existing conditions for gender-based inequalities or create new conditions for inequalities?	N	High	
	18.4	Could the project exacerbate or lead to gender-based violence?	N	High	

E&S Standard 7: Community Health, Safety and Security				Level	Annotations
19	Could the project increase tension or conflicts within the community, with neighbouring communities, or with workers from outside the community?		Y		There is a small risk of water conflicts if irrigation schemes over-extract. This will be managed through participatory water governance (including through WUAs) and local water asset funds.
if Q19 is yes	19.1	Could activities exacerbate existing, or create new conflicts within the community or between communities?	N	Medium	
	19.2	Could activities exacerbate existing violent conflicts or create new violent conflicts within the community or between communities?	N	High	
	19.3	Could the project decrease opportunities for income or employment without providing new alternatives for income or employment?	N	Medium	
	19.4	Could the project lead to influx of alien workers (less than 10% of the host community)?	N	Medium	
	19.5	Could the project lead to influx of a large alien workforce (more than 10% of the host community)?	N	High	
20	Could the work arrangements in the project violate the labour rights of the people employed by the project or pose a risk to their health or safety?		Y		Potential occupational, health and safety risks could be foreseen for those employed in the construction/rehabilitation of infrastructure such as irrigation canals, reservoirs, and the planting of orchards. Emphasis will be placed on community-based activities that do not involve heavy machinery where possible, but rather hand-held tools. Where needed, adequate Personal Protective Equipment will be made available commensurate to the specific interventions' needs.
if Q20 is yes	20.1	Could the project disregard fundamental labour rights or principles as defined by national and international standards?	N	Medium	
	20.2	Could the project pose a risk to the health or safety of people through the use of heavy equipment, heavy means of transportation, or hazardous materials?	N	Medium	
	20.3	Could the project cause permanent injury or the death of people through the use of heavy equipment, heavy means of transportation, or hazardous materials?	N	High	
21	Could the project facilitate the spread of diseases or introduce new diseases?		Y		Small risk associated with the construction of reservoirs (e.g., creating new habitat for mosquitoes). Risk from temporary/standing water during works and shallow, vegetated margins in operation. During construction: schedule in drier periods, install temporary drains/silt traps, complete inlets/outlets early, backfill/compact pits/ruts same day; remove any water persisting >48–72h. In operation: maintain circulation and safe shore slopes, clear weeds/debris, keep spillways/toe drains clear; use targeted biological larvicides and/or native larvivorous fish only if surveillance shows

					<p>persistent breeding. Community sensitization with local health/water actors will promote reservoir hygiene (designated, hardened collection points; no washing/animal access at intakes), safe household storage, and use of the WUAs to report issues. Monitoring: monthly inspections with corrective actions logged and budgeted (vegetation control/desilting/outreach).</p>
if Q21 is yes	21.1	Could the project facilitate the spread of endogenous or existing diseases in the community?	N	Medium	
	21.2	Would the project develop water infrastructure that could facilitate the spread of water-borne diseases?	N	Medium	
	21.3	Could the project introduce new diseases in the community?	N	High	
E&S Standard 8: Accountability to Affected Populations				Level	Annotations
22	Is there a risk that the voice of some key stakeholders would not be heard in the design, implementation or monitoring of the project?		N		<p>Stakeholder engagement is central to project design, and the project has a strong gender and inclusion focus. Risks of exclusion will be mitigated by quotas for women and youth participation, as well as training tailored for disabled persons. A Grievance Redress Mechanism will be established for the project to ensure any complaints or feedback are easily submitted.</p>
if Q22 is yes	22.1	Could some relevant stakeholders feel that they have not been adequately consulted?	N	Medium	
	22.2	Could some relevant stakeholders, in particular people or groups who are already prone to marginalization, be pressed not to participate in the consultations?	N	Medium	
	22.3	Could some relevant stakeholders, in particular people or groups who are already prone to marginalization, have difficulties filing complaints or feedback?	N	Medium	

3. E&S Risk Screening Attestation

Table 2: Attestation of the E&S Risk Screening

Name and location of activity:		Improving climate resilience of vulnerable communities in Tajikistan through locally-led adaptation			
Responsible WFP unit or office:		WFP Tajikistan Country Office			
Expected timing & duration of activity:		5 Years			
Brief summary:		Climate change project (Adaptation) funded by GCF			
Result of screening:					
Category A / High		Category B / Medium		Category C / Low	X
<p>Type and scale of activities result in low degree of concern/Category C.</p> <p>The project will deliver small-scale civil works and nature-based adaptation measures, including canal rehabilitation, infiltration trenches, minor drainage upgrades, climate-smart demonstration plots, water-management improvements, greenhouse development, post-harvest processing facilities and extensive capacity building and extension services. Most works will involve rehabilitation or small structures implementable through community labour or local contractors.</p> <p>Any construction and or rehabilitation related activities and or works will be risk screened again once identified by communities through a community-based participatory planning approach and all specifics of each activity is defined. If a higher degree of concern is identified at that point, changes in design will be made to ensure that any activity implemented within this project is low-risk.</p> <p><i>To ensure activities are kept within the low-risk category, a list of excluded activities is provided under Section 6 of this ESAP in relation to this project. Chapter 4 below presents possible residual risks and their corresponding mitigation measures for selected activities.</i></p>					

4. Environmental and Social Action Plan

As described above, the project will focus only on low/Cat. C type of interventions, avoiding any Medium/High risk activity. Environmental and social risk screenings for the on-site specific interventions to be implemented after the consultation with the local beneficiaries and will be conducted by the local contractors and or cooperating partners (in strict coordination with the Executing Entities within the Project Administration Team (PAT) and in alignment with the WFP's screening tool) so to ensure no intervention will be categorized above Cat. C/ low risk and if necessary, the intervention will be adjusted to manage residual risk.

As a Co-executing Entity, Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects (CIIP) of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) will likewise require ESS screenings for interventions carried out by its cooperating partners/service providers. This will include ESS screening requirements from WFP and the Government of Tajikistan, which are co-financing the project and those of GCF for the grant financing enabling structural transformation.

Potential residual low-level risks, impacts and mitigation measures will be managed through the ESAP Table 3 below. The ESAP will be implemented as an integral part of the project's interventions and duly reported upon through the annual progress report (APR). The APR will additionally feature a section on the Grievance Redress Mechanism, including any potential SEAH issues. It has to be considered as a living document which can be revised, updated and adapted depending on any additional and/or different environmental and social risks which may be identified during the implementation phase. The mitigation measures indicated herein will therefore be tailored to the specific on-site assets/interventions once these will be clearly defined.

The project will ensure full compliance with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy (2018). Screening, due diligence, stakeholder engagement, and any required mitigation measures related to Indigenous Peoples will be conducted in accordance with this policy. This includes identification of Indigenous Peoples, assessment of potential impacts, and implementation of culturally appropriate consultation and engagement processes, as required.

4.1 Management of Residual Risks

Considering the outcomes of the above environmental and social risk screening and the relatively small-scale nature of the assets/interventions proposed, the identified risk Category is "C/Low risk". However, some related and residual risks may be still envisaged. These residual risks can be minimized following the measures described in the Table 3.

As mentioned in the risk screening, some community-led activities of the project will be further defined through community-based participatory planning and screened using the WFP Environmental and Social Risk Screening Tool (same tool that was used). This is in line with the WFP and GCF Policies. Only 'low risk' activities will be accepted for implementation. Activities whose risk level is medium or high will not be accepted. WFP will closely work with various Partners (Government, local contractors and Cooperating Partners technical counterparts) for the risk screening of asset-creation activities identified by the communities during the implementation of the project.

4.2 Implementation Arrangements

During implementation and operational phase, the PAT, executing entities, local contractors and cooperating partners will be responsible for the execution of the measures in the ESAP. WFP Tajikistan Country Office is in charge to oversee the action plan implementation. In this regard, the ESAP is integrated in the implementation and monitoring plan of the intervention and will be subject to the formal agreement between WFP and the different partners. The executing entities (EEs) and the PAT will periodically report on the risks and risk management measures and the ESAP may be adjusted based on the monitoring and reporting.

Safeguards implementation is supported by WFP Tajikistan's in-country capacity. The Country Office includes a dedicated safeguards function responsible for environmental and social compliance, supported by a protection officer and field officers. CIIP staff will support coordination and implementation at operational level. These roles collectively ensure that safeguards requirements, including environmental, social, gender,

and protection considerations, are integrated into all project activities. DACs will play a supporting role in community engagement, consultation, and validation of activities, but safeguards screening, approval, and compliance oversight remain the responsibility of WFP and implementing partners.

This will ensure the execution of the proposed measures in accordance with WFP, Government of Tajikistan and GCF requirements. To enhance the entities capacities to undertake their roles on environmental and social safeguards as part of the project, WFP will provide specialized training on international standards, GCF environmental and social safeguards and WFP environmental and social framework. In addition, to support the implementation of the measures gender and environmental and social officers will be part of the project management unit. The officers will ensure that the necessary mitigation measures are in place, enforcing the project implementation in accordance with the environmental and social assessment and the action plan. In addition, the officers will support the reporting process ensuring is in alignment with GCF requirements and are carried out robustly and within appropriate timeframes.

The supervision and monitoring workflow operates across three levels:

- **Community/District level:** field officers (with DAC support) support identification of activities, community engagement, and preliminary validation.
- **CIIP level:** support to WFP and implementing partners.
- **WFP level:** overall safeguards oversight, coordination, consolidation of screening results, review of screening outcomes, approval of activities, and quality assurance.

This structure ensures that safeguards considerations are integrated from community-level planning through to implementation and monitoring, with clear accountability at each level.

SEAH risk mitigation is integrated across project implementation. WFP safeguards and protection staff are responsible for oversight of SEAH risk management, supported by implementing partners and trained focal points. All personnel, contractors and service providers will be required to adhere to codes of conduct, receive training, and comply with WFP PSEA procedures. Confidential reporting pathways are in place, and all SEAH-related complaints will be handled through survivor-centred approaches.

Gender, SEAH and disability inclusion considerations are integrated into project implementation through coordinated roles across WFP, CIIP and implementing partners. Responsibilities include implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAAP), monitoring of gender-disaggregated indicators, oversight of SEAH risk mitigation measures, and ensuring accessibility of project activities and grievance mechanisms. Reporting on these aspects will be integrated into the project monitoring system and reflected in periodic reporting to WFP and GCF.

Field monitoring will be conducted regularly throughout implementation. Field officers and implementing partners will undertake routine site visits, while WFP safeguards staff will conduct periodic supervision missions and targeted monitoring of higher-value or higher-risk activities. Monitoring findings will be documented and integrated into project reporting and adaptive management processes.

The supervision and monitoring workflow for Environmental and Social Safeguarding (ESS) under the GCF project follows a structured, multi-tiered approach involving the District Adaptation Committees (DAC), the Center for Implementation of Investment Projects (CIIP), and WFP. At the community level, the DACs play an important role in facilitating early identification of potential ESS issues. Their responsibilities include engaging with local populations, mobilizing communities for consultations, and raising concerns related to environmental and social risks. They also support the identification of locally appropriate solutions and mitigation measures, ensuring that community perspectives inform risk management processes.

At the technical implementation level, CIIP staff—who will be trained on WFP and GCF ESS standards—will be responsible for identifying, planning, and monitoring ESS risks for the activities under their mandate. CIIP will conduct regular field oversight, document findings, and report ESS performance and any emerging issues to WFP in line with agreed reporting lines. Their role ensures that ESS considerations are integrated into the design and supervision of all CIIP-led interventions.

WFP, for the activities for which it is directly responsible, will similarly conduct identification, planning, and monitoring of ESS risks following its corporate Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework and GCF requirements. In addition, WFP retains overall oversight across all project stakeholders, including CIIP and the DACs, to ensure full compliance with ESS standards. This includes periodic joint monitoring missions, quality assurance reviews, and follow-up on the implementation of mitigation measures.

Field monitoring will take place on a regular basis, with routine visits conducted at least bi-weekly by field-based staff, complemented by semi-annual supervision missions from the country office and, as needed, surge support from regional and headquarters ESS specialists.

The operational workflow for environmental and social safeguarding (ESS) screening under the GCF project follows a structured, participatory, and accountability-based process from the community level to national oversight. Initial screening at the district level will be carried out by the Local Level Implementing Partner (LLIP), who serves as the primary entity responsible for applying ESS requirements during sub-project identification and appraisal. LLIPs will use WFP's established ESS questionnaire, which incorporates the full set of Eligibility Criteria and the Exclusion List, ensuring that all environmental and social dimensions are systematically assessed at an early stage. This screening is conducted in close coordination with the Project Management Committee (PMC) at community level or the District Adaptation Committees (DACs). ESS considerations form an integral part of the targeting and prioritization process for sub-project selection.

Decisions emerging from the screening process are documented through the ESS questionnaire, which serves as the central record for capturing potential risks and proposed mitigation measures. The preliminary results of the screening are first presented and discussed at the community level as part of joint PMC/DAC meetings. Representatives of the communities concerned are directly involved in reviewing identified risks, exploring mitigation measures, or, if necessary, considering alternative sub-project options. A formal protocol of each meeting is prepared, including deliberations and agreed follow-up actions, and is signed by the community representatives and the Head of the PMC/DAC. If consensus cannot be reached at this stage, the case is escalated to WFP for final decision-making and guidance.

Final approval for sub-project ESS clearance is provided at the community level by the Head of the PMC/DAC, together with representatives of the concerned community, confirming that screening requirements have been met and that appropriate mitigation measures have been defined.

Following approval, sub-project Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) instruments will be prepared by the LLIP based on the outcomes of the PMC/DAC consultations and the decisions recorded in the ESS screening documents. The ESMP will outline the specific mitigation, monitoring, and reporting measures to be implemented for each activity. Once prepared, the ESMP will be disclosed at community level through established communication channels to ensure transparency and local awareness. Monitoring of ESMP implementation will be carried out jointly by the LLIP, PMC, and DAC, with WFP providing oversight, periodic verification, and technical support to ensure compliance with WFP and GCF ESS standards throughout the project cycle.

4.3 Eligibility criterion

The ESAP now includes clear eligibility criteria that define the types of interventions permissible under a Category C classification. Specifically, the ESAP states that only small-scale, low-impact activities on already-modified land are eligible for support and provides a non-exhaustive list of permissible interventions, including, in summary: (1) rehabilitation or improvement of existing community assets; (2) minor climate-resilient upgrades with no land acquisition and no interaction with critical habitats; (3) small-scale soil and water conservation works; (4) community-level natural resource management measures with minimal environmental footprint.

4.4 Non-exhaustive list of permissible Category C interventions

Permissible project activities under Category C include small-scale, low-impact measures that take place entirely on already-modified land and do not involve land acquisition, physical displacement, significant earthworks, or interaction with critical habitats. These activities may include, but are not limited to:

1. Rehabilitation or improvement of existing community assets

- Repair or refurbishment of existing community buildings (e.g., storage facilities, community centers).
- Rehabilitation of existing small irrigation canals, intake structures, or water points.
- Restoration or maintenance of existing rural access paths without realignment or widening.
- Upgrading or repairing existing drainage structures to improve climate resilience.

2. Minor climate-resilient upgrades with no land acquisition

- Installation of small-scale water harvesting systems on existing footprints (e.g., rooftop systems, gutters, small tanks).
- Climate-proofing of existing communal infrastructure (e.g., reinforcement of existing slopes or embankments using bioengineering).
- Replacement or upgrading of existing equipment or structures (e.g., pipes, pumps, fencing) without expansion of footprint.
- Minor stabilization works on already-disturbed land to prevent erosion.

3. Small-scale soil and water conservation works

- Contour bunds, mulching, or vegetative barriers on farmland already under cultivation.
- Rehabilitation of degraded plots through reseeded, mulching, or planting of non-invasive species.
- Small check-dams, infiltration trenches, or gabions installed on modified terrain.
- Water retention structures under 1,000 m³ with no impact on downstream water availability.

4. Community-level natural resource management measures

- Community-led planting of native or non-invasive species on degraded communal land.
- Removal of invasive species in areas already under human use.
- Establishment of community demonstration plots for climate-resilient crops.
- Small-scale composting or organic waste management initiatives.

5. Small-scale livelihood and climate adaptation activities

- Establishment or improvement of small, community-managed greenhouses on existing sites.
- Training, inputs, and small assets for climate-resilient agriculture, beekeeping, or similar livelihoods.
- Demonstrations or pilots involving low-risk technology (e.g., solar dryers, improved storage bins).

- Support to community disaster preparedness systems (e.g., signage, equipment storage) using existing facilities.

6. Non-infrastructure and soft-measures

- Capacity-building, training, planning workshops, community consultations, and awareness campaigns.
- Early warning system strengthening using existing communication channels and structures.
- Participatory natural resource management planning.
- Monitoring, data collection, surveys, and assessments that do not involve intrusive activities.

Operational screening and safeguards workflow for relevant sub-projects/interventions:

1. Community-level supported identification of proposed activities
2. Preliminary validation by field officers with support from DACs
3. Initial environmental and social screening at district level by implementing partners using standardised screening tools
4. Application of eligibility criteria and Category C exclusion list
5. Identification and documentation of site-specific risks and mitigation measures
6. Integration of mitigation measures into activity design and implementation plans
7. Submission of screening results to CIIP and WFP
8. Safeguards review and final approval by WFP
9. Implementation with embedded mitigation measures
10. Monitoring through field visits, supervision missions, and reporting systems
11. Documentation and reporting of safeguards performance

Screening procedures will include specific criteria to identify the presence of Indigenous Peoples, including communities that may meet the characteristics outlined in the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy. This screening will be conducted for all project-supported activities at the site level. Where such groups are identified, additional due diligence will be undertaken, and appropriate measures will be developed in line with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy. Screening outcomes, including confirmation of the presence or absence of Indigenous Peoples and any related follow-up actions, will be documented and included in project monitoring and reporting systems.

Table 3: Residual risks and Mitigation Measures for selected activities

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
Project-wide safeguards monitoring and reporting	<p>Strengthened transparency and accountability</p> <p>Improved tracking of safeguards performance</p> <p>Alignment with GCF reporting requirements</p>	Incomplete reporting on safeguards if not systematically tracked	<p>Define ESAP monitoring indicators linked to screening and mitigation measures</p> <p>Assign clear responsibilities for data collection and reporting</p> <p>Integrate safeguards reporting into Annual Performance Reports (APRs)</p> <p>Report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of activities screened • Key risks identified • Mitigation measures implemented • Any incidents or grievances <p>Regular internal review of safeguards performance</p>	Low to moderate	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer, Gender, Environmental Engineer and Protection Officer	Quarterly monitoring; annual reporting through APRs	<p>Clear and consistent reporting on ESAP implementation</p> <p>Evidence-based tracking of environmental and social performance</p>	Covered under M&E budget

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
All project-supported activities under Components 1 and 2, including: Climate-resilient irrigation rehabilitation Installation of productive assets (greenhouse s, storage, water-saving technologies) Climate information services and advisory systems Capacity building and planning (DAPs)	<p>Ensures all supported activities remain within Category C (low-risk) thresholds</p> <p>Prevents escalation of environmental and social risks</p> <p>Strengthens transparency and accountability in activity selection</p> <p>Provides clear guidance to implementing partners and stakeholders</p>	<p>Risk of inclusion of activities that exceed Category C thresholds if eligibility criteria are not clearly defined or enforced</p> <p>Risk of inconsistent interpretation of permissible activities by implementing partners</p> <p>Risk of unintended environmental or social impacts if screening is not rigorously applied</p>	<p>The project will apply a formalised eligibility and exclusion framework to ensure that only Category C-compliant activities are supported:</p> <p>Eligibility criteria (permissible activities include):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small-scale rehabilitation of existing irrigation infrastructure on already modified land Installation of water-efficient technologies (e.g. drip irrigation, water storage systems) with minimal environmental footprint Construction/installation of small-scale productive infrastructure (e.g. greenhouses, storage facilities, bulking centres) within existing agricultural land <p>Activities that do not require land acquisition or result in physical or economic displacement</p> <p>Activities with negligible or reversible environmental impacts that can be mitigated</p>	Moderate	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer, Gender and Protection Officer	<p>Throughout project implementation, applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At activity identification and design stage Prior to approval of investments During implementation (spot checks and monitoring) 	<p>All project-supported activities comply with Category C requirements</p> <p>No escalation of environmental or social risk classification during implementation</p> <p>Clear and consistent application of eligibility criteria across all districts</p> <p>Enhanced transparency and stakeholder confidence in project safeguards</p>	<p>Covered under project management, ESS compliance, and monitoring budgets. No significant additional standalone cost required.</p>

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>through standard good practices</p> <p>Exclusion criteria (activities not permitted):</p> <p>New large-scale infrastructure development or expansion into natural or critical habitats</p> <p>Activities involving significant land acquisition, resettlement or restriction of access to livelihoods/resources</p> <p>Activities with significant water abstraction impacts on downstream users or ecosystems</p> <p>Activities involving hazardous chemicals beyond acceptable agricultural standards</p> <p>Any activity that would trigger higher-risk ESS standards (e.g. ESS5, ESS6 with significant impacts)</p> <p>Activities posing elevated risks of SEA/SH without adequate mitigation measures</p> <p>Procedural controls:</p> <p>All activities screened using WFP ESS procedures prior to approval</p>					

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>Application of a screening checklist aligned with Category C thresholds</p> <p>Documentation and approval of screening results before implementation</p> <p>Integration of SEAH risk screening and mitigation measures where relevant</p> <p>Disclosure of eligibility criteria to stakeholders to ensure transparency</p>					
	<p>Increased community-led integrated and sustainable land and water management practices</p> <p>Strengthened livelihoods</p> <p>Increased water availability</p> <p>Climate-resilient shelters and infrastructure</p>	<p>Soil erosion and degradation</p> <p>Increase in temporary waterlogging on less permeable soils could result into floods</p> <p>Increased flood risk if not well designed or stabilized.</p> <p>Increased human health (vector- and water-borne diseases)</p>	<p>Integrate with revegetation measures to enhance stability</p> <p>Integrate with soil drainage solutions if waterlogging risk is identified</p> <p>Adequate training/ sensitization on vector- and water-borne diseases</p> <p>Water should be used for intended purposes e.g. irrigation</p>	Low to Medium	Project Administration Team (PAT) – in particular Project Coordinator and Environmental Engineer	Mitigation measures to be planned/ designed at asset design stage and implemented during asset building stage	<p>Access to water for productive use</p> <p>Improved soil and water conservation</p> <p>Water harvesting assets are stabilized with adequate vegetation measures</p> <p>Improved drainage solutions avoid waterlogging</p> <p>Increased knowledge in human health</p>	No additional costs as these should be part of the assets building budget

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
All project activities involving labour, including: Construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure Installation of productive assets Community-based activities Technical assistance and service provision	Improved working conditions and safety for all workers Reduced risk of labour-related incidents and disputes Strengthened accountability and compliance with ESS2	Unsafe working conditions if OHS measures are not consistently applied Labour disputes or grievances not addressed effectively Risk of SEA/SH or exploitation in labour arrangements Lack of clarity in roles and responsibilities across worker categories	Worker categories: Direct workers: WFP and implementing partner staff Contracted workers: contractors, suppliers, service providers Community workers: individuals engaged at community level for project activities Minimum labour standards (applied to all categories as relevant): Written agreements or clear terms of engagement Compliance with national labour laws and ESS2 Codes of conduct (including SEAH provisions) signed by all workers Defined working hours and fair treatment Prohibition of child labour, forced labour, and discrimination Occupational Health and Safety (OHS): Provision and mandatory use of appropriate PPE	Moderate	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer, Gender, Environmental Engineer and Protection Officer	Throughout implementation, with emphasis prior to and during construction/installation activities	Safe and compliant working conditions across all project activities Effective grievance handling for workers No incidents of child labour, forced labour, or SEAH Clear accountability across worker categories	Covered under project management, safeguards implementation and contractor obligations

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>Training prior to commencement of work</p> <p>Safe excavation and construction practices</p> <p>Incident reporting and maintenance of incident logs</p> <p>Clear assignment of OHS responsibilities (contractors responsible for site safety; WFP/partners for oversight)</p> <p>Worker grievance redress mechanism (GRM):</p> <p>Workers may access the project-level grievance mechanism or a dedicated worker GRM</p> <p>Confidential reporting channels available, including for SEA/SH-related complaints</p> <p>Grievances recorded, addressed and resolved within defined timeframes</p> <p>Clear roles for grievance handling (WFP and implementing partners)</p> <p>SEAH risk mitigation:</p> <p>Mandatory codes of conduct prohibiting SEA/SH</p>					

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			Awareness and training for all workers Zero tolerance for exploitation in exchange for employment or benefits Referral pathways for survivors where needed					
	Improved nutrition Increased food production Access to clean energy sources Reduced deforestation	Potential soil and water pollution by chemical fertilizers and pesticides Generation of waste	Avoid or limit use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides Compost making and conservation agriculture Vegetate areas around fields for IPM Waste management	Low to Medium	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator and Resilient Livelihoods Officer	Mitigation measures to be part of asset design and asset building	Use of agrochemicals is avoided or reduced to the maximum in nutritional gardens. Compost is created and used Waste managed properly	No additional costs as these should be part of the assets building budget
	Knowledge and skills improved	Vulnerable/minority groups excluded from trainings	Ensure women and vulnerable/minority groups are able to participate in trainings by adapting content/ location/time to their specific needs	Low to Medium	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator and Gender and Protection Officer	Mitigation measures to be part of activity design	Women and vulnerable/minority groups participate in trainings and skills enhancement activities	No additional costs as these are part of design
	Soil stabilization Biodiversity and ecosystems restoration	Negative ecological impact from non-native species	During asset design, ensure proper choice of species and avoid invasive species. Use native species only	Low to Medium	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator and Resilient Livelihoods Officer	Mitigation measures to be part of asset design	Reafforestation is adapted to the local context and soil/climate specificities	No additional costs as these are part of design

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
	Carbon sequestration Biomass production Water table recharge	Increased water demand depending on species chosen Soil erosion and degradation Eutrophication Sedimentation of water resources	Adequate training/sensitization Soil and water conservation technologies				No invasive species are introduced but rather promotion of local species Access to biomass Raised water table thus adequate water for production	
	Soil protected from erosion Improved soil fertility Improved soil stability	Competition for water and nutrients between crops Soil erosion and degradation Water and soil pollution	Ensure proper choice of crops to be grown Ensure soil and water conservation techniques are adopted	Low to Medium	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator and Resilient Livelihoods Officer	Mitigation measures to be part of asset design	Conservation agriculture techniques are applied with the adequate crops	No additional costs as these are part of design
	Assets and resilience	Increases tensions Reduced land access Land conflicts	Community consultations and action plans will inform where assets can be built on communal land to minimize tensions and land access issues. If any, land acquisition for the project (either communal or private land) should be on a “willing buyer/willing seller” principle Establish a CFM to register complaints and redress	Medium	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator and CFM Officer	Land issues to be discussed during Community-based Participatory Planning (CBPP) and sorted out before asset building	Status of land where the assets are built is clear for all. If any, land acquisition for the project will be on a “willing buyer/willing seller” principle Strengthen community-based conflict resolution mechanisms	No additional costs as these are part of design

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
Development of District Adaptation Plans (DAPs) Rehabilitation and construction of climate-resilient irrigation infrastructure Installation of productive assets (e.g. greenhouses , storage facilities, water-saving technologies) Strengthening of climate information services and advisory systems	Improved inclusion of diverse stakeholder groups in climate-resilient planning processes Enhanced resilience of minority and agro-pastoralist communities through improved access to water, climate information and productive assets Strengthened community-level governance (e.g. WUAs, DACs) with broader representation Integration of local and traditional knowledge into adaptation planning and implementation	Risk of exclusion of minority ethnic groups and agro-pastoralist populations (including seasonal users) from consultations and decision-making processes Risk that mobile or seasonally present populations are not adequately reached by project interventions Potential unintended impacts on access to shared natural resources (e.g. grazing areas, water points) due to infrastructure investments Risk of inequitable access to project benefits where interventions are primarily crop-focused	Conduct inclusive stakeholder mapping to identify minority and agro-pastoralist groups, including seasonal users Adapt consultation processes to local contexts and mobility patterns (e.g. seasonal timing, use of local institutions) Ensure representation of these groups in community-level structures (e.g. WUAs, DACs) where relevant Integrate pastoralist and traditional knowledge into DAPs and climate risk assessments Screen infrastructure investments to avoid restricting access to shared resources and ensure equitable water allocation Ensure equitable access to project-supported services and infrastructure, including climate information services	Low to Moderate	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer, Gender and Protection Officer	Throughout project implementation, with emphasis during: Inception and stakeholder mapping DAP development and consultation phases Design and siting of infrastructure investments Ongoing implementation and monitoring	Minority and agro-pastoralist groups are meaningfully included in consultations and decision-making processes No exclusion of vulnerable or mobile populations from project benefits Continued access to shared natural resources (water, grazing areas) maintained or improved Improved adaptation outcomes for diverse livelihood groups, including agro-pastoralists Reduced risk of social conflict related to resource access	Covered under Component 1 (capacity building, stakeholder engagement, DAP development) and Component 2 (implementation support and monitoring). No significant additional standalone cost required, as measures are integrated into existing activities and budgets.

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>Establish and communicate accessible grievance redress mechanisms</p> <p>Monitor inclusion and access to benefits through disaggregated data where feasible</p> <p>If during implementation any group is identified as potentially meeting IP criteria, WFP will apply the IP Policy and consult with the GCF Secretariat on next steps.</p>					
All site-specific investments under Component 2 (irrigation rehabilitation, productive assets, water-saving technologies, small infrastructure)	<p>Ensures systematic identification and management of site-specific environmental and social risks</p> <p>Strengthens consistency and accountability across all project-supported investments</p> <p>Supports safe and compliant</p>	<p>Inconsistent application of screening procedures across districts</p> <p>Incomplete identification of site-specific risks</p> <p>Weak documentation of mitigation measures if processes are not standardised</p>	<p>Institutionalised screening process (step-by-step):</p> <p>Activity identification at community/district level</p> <p>Initial E&S screening using standardised checklist (aligned with WFP ESS)</p> <p>Risk classification and confirmation of Category C eligibility</p>	Moderate	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer, Gender Officer, Environmental Engineer and Protection Officer	Applied to all investments prior to approval and throughout implementation	<p>All investments screened and documented using standardised process</p> <p>Site-specific risks identified and mitigated consistently</p> <p>Improved compliance with ESS requirements across all project sites</p>	Covered under project management, safeguards implementation, and capacity building budgets

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
	implementation of infrastructure and livelihood activities		<p>Identification of site-specific risks (e.g. waterlogging, erosion, OHS, SEAH risks)</p> <p>Residual risks and mitigation measures (for micro-assets)</p> <p>Review and approval by WFP/designated safeguards focal point</p> <p>Integration of mitigation measures into technical design and implementation plans</p> <p>Monitoring of compliance during implementation and operation</p> <p>Documentation and reporting of outcomes</p> <p>Residual risks and Mitigation measures (applied to all micro-assets):</p> <p>Description of activity and location</p>					

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>Identification of key environmental and social risks</p> <p>Mitigation measures</p> <p>OHS requirements</p> <p>SEA/SH risk considerations and mitigation</p> <p>Monitoring actions and responsibilities</p>					
All Component 2 investments (aggregated at district and watershed level)	<p>Early identification of cumulative environmental and social risks</p> <p>Improved planning and spatial distribution of investments</p> <p>Reduced risk of unintended system-level impacts (e.g. water stress, land pressure)</p>	<p>Accumulation of small-scale impacts (e.g. water abstraction, land use pressure)</p> <p>Localised environmental degradation if investments cluster geographically</p>	<p>Annual review of screening results at district and national levels</p> <p>Analysis of spatial distribution of investments (e.g. watershed-level review)</p> <p>Identification of emerging patterns of risk (e.g. concentration of assets)</p> <p>Adjustment of planning, technical guidance or</p>	Moderate	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer, Gender Officer, Environmental Engineer and Protection Officer	Annual reviews with ongoing monitoring	<p>No significant cumulative environmental or social impacts</p> <p>Balanced distribution of project investments</p> <p>Adaptive management based on emerging risks</p>	Covered under M&E and project management budgets

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>investment allocation where needed</p> <p>Integration of findings into updated DAPs and implementation plans</p>					
	<p>Improved water use efficiency and reduced pressure on water resources</p> <p>Reduced environmental footprint through efficient technologies</p> <p>Promotion of sustainable resource use practices</p> <p>Reduced pollution through improved waste management</p>	<p>Over-abstraction of water, particularly during dry seasons</p> <p>Localised impacts on downstream water users</p> <p>Improper disposal of materials (e.g. plastics, irrigation components)</p> <p>Environmental risks associated with improper handling of solar system components (e.g. batteries)</p>	<p>Water-use screening and management:</p> <p>Include water-use screening questions in all site-specific assessments:</p> <p>Source and availability of water (including seasonal variability)</p> <p>Estimated abstraction levels</p> <p>Potential impacts during dry-season conditions</p> <p>Potential effects on downstream users and ecosystems</p> <p>Prioritise water-efficient technologies (e.g. drip irrigation)</p> <p>Avoid investments in areas with known water stress or over-abstraction risks</p> <p>Ensure alignment with local water management plans and WUA allocation systems</p>	Moderate	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer, Environmental Engineer and Protection Officer	<p>Throughout project implementation, with emphasis during:</p> <p>Screening and design phase</p> <p>Installation of infrastructure</p> <p>Operation and maintenance phase</p>	<p>Sustainable and efficient use of water resources</p> <p>No significant impacts on downstream users or ecosystems</p> <p>Proper management of waste and materials</p> <p>Safe and effective operation of renewable energy systems</p>	<p>Covered under project implementation, safeguards, and technical assistance budgets</p>

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>Waste management (greenhouses and irrigation systems): Promote reuse and recycling of materials where feasible (e.g. plastics, piping) Safe storage and handling of materials during installation and operation Proper disposal of non-recyclable waste in accordance with local regulations</p> <p>Avoid open burning or uncontrolled disposal of waste materials Solar systems (pumps and energy systems): Monitor performance of solar pumps to ensure efficient operation Ensure proper installation and maintenance of systems Safe handling, storage and disposal of batteries in line with national regulations and good international practice Engage qualified service providers for installation and maintenance</p>					

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
	<p>Improved safety of infrastructure and reduced exposure to climate-related hazards</p> <p>Increased community awareness of safety practices</p> <p>Reduced risk of accidents and incidents during project implementation</p>	<p>Construction-related risks (falls, open trenches, equipment hazards, traffic)</p> <p>Risks to communities from poorly managed worksites</p> <p>Risks from infrastructure failure (e.g. canal breaches, flooding)</p> <p>Low-probability risks related to inappropriate conduct by security personnel</p>	<p>Construction and community safety protocol: Clearly mark and signpost all worksites Fence or secure hazardous areas where necessary (e.g. trenches, excavations) Supervise worksites at all times during active construction Implement safe traffic management practices for movement of materials and equipment Inform communities in advance of construction activities and associated risks Restrict access of unauthorised persons to active worksites</p> <p>Emergency preparedness and response: Develop simple, site-level emergency response procedures for infrastructure failure or extreme events (e.g. floods, canal breaches) Define roles and responsibilities (contractors, local</p>	Moderate	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer, Gender Officer, Environmental Engineer and Protection Officer	Throughout implementation, with emphasis during construction and high-risk periods (e.g. rainy season)	<p>Safe construction and operation of infrastructure</p> <p>Reduced incidence of accidents and safety incidents</p> <p>Effective response to emergency situations</p> <p>No incidents related to misuse of security or SEAH violations</p>	Covered under project implementation, contractor obligations, and safeguards budgets

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>authorities, WFP/partners) Establish communication protocols to inform affected communities rapidly Ensure immediate safety measures (e.g. temporary barriers, evacuation if required) Coordinate with local disaster risk management structures where applicable</p> <p>Security and SEAH considerations: The project will not employ armed security personnel In cases where public security forces are present, they will operate under national law and adhere to codes of conduct, including SEAH provisions All project personnel and associated actors will comply with codes of conduct prohibiting SEA/SH Awareness and training on appropriate conduct will be provided</p>					

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
Small-scale infrastructure and asset installation requiring land use (e.g. greenhouses, storage, irrigation structures)	<p>Enables community-level investments without land acquisition</p> <p>Supports local ownership of project assets</p> <p>Minimises need for formal land acquisition processes</p>	<p>Enables community-level investments without land acquisition</p> <p>Supports local ownership of project assets</p> <p>Minimises need for formal land acquisition processes</p>	<p>Voluntary Land Donation (VLD) protocol:</p> <p>Land donation is only permitted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is genuinely voluntary and free of coercion The land is free of disputes and encumbrances The donation does not result in significant impact on livelihoods or income sources <p>Full, prior and informed consent must be obtained from all relevant land users and rights holders</p> <p>Written documentation of consent is required, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signatures of landowners and users Inclusion of women and joint owners where applicable 	Moderate	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer, Gender Officer, Environmental Engineer and Protection Officer	Prior to approval of any activity requiring land use, and monitored throughout implementation	<p>No involuntary land acquisition or resettlement</p> <p>No economic displacement of households</p> <p>Transparent and documented land use arrangements</p> <p>Equitable participation of all land users, including women</p>	Covered under project implementation and safeguards budgets

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>Independent verification by implementing partners or local authorities to confirm voluntariness</p> <p>Screening and exclusion measures:</p> <p>All activities screened for potential economic displacement risks</p> <p>Screening includes assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Loss of access to land, grazing areas or water resources ○ Changes to land use affecting livelihoods <p>Any activity that may result in physical or economic displacement is excluded under Category C eligibility criteria</p> <p>Additional safeguards:</p> <p>Community consultations to ensure</p>					

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>transparency and agreement</p> <p>Grievance redress mechanism available for land-related concerns</p> <p>Monitoring of land use impacts during implementation</p>					
<p>Establishment of orchards and agroforestry systems</p> <p>Irrigation rehabilitation and water-related infrastructure</p> <p>Land-based productive investments (greenhouses, storage, etc.)</p>	<p>Promotion of sustainable land management practices</p> <p>Use of climate-resilient and locally adapted species</p> <p>Reduced land degradation and improved ecosystem services</p> <p>Avoidance of impacts on sensitive ecosystems</p>	<p>Localised impacts on sensitive ecosystems (e.g. riparian zones, slopes)</p> <p>Soil erosion or sedimentation into water bodies</p> <p>Habitat disturbance or fragmentation from poorly sited assets</p> <p>Introduction of inappropriate or non-native species</p>	<p>Biodiversity and habitat screening checklist (applied to all investments):</p> <p>All proposed activities will be screened using a simple checklist to assess:</p> <p>Whether the site is located in or adjacent to:</p> <p>Natural forests</p> <p>Riparian zones or riverbanks</p> <p>Wetlands</p> <p>Steep or erosion-prone slopes</p> <p>Whether the activity could:</p> <p>Cause soil erosion or sedimentation into water bodies</p> <p>Fragment or disturb natural habitats</p>	Moderate	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer, Environmental Engineer	Applied prior to approval of all site-specific investments and monitored during implementation	<p>No project activities in natural or critical habitats</p> <p>No habitat degradation or fragmentation</p> <p>Sustainable use of land and ecosystem resources</p> <p>Use of appropriate and non-invasive species</p>	Covered under safeguards, planning, and implementation budgets

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>Affect ecosystem services (e.g. water regulation, grazing areas)</p> <p>Exclusion criteria: Any activity located within natural or critical habitats is not permitted Any activity that could result in conversion or degradation of such habitats is excluded under Category C eligibility criteria</p> <p>Species selection: Only native or long-naturalised, non-invasive species will be used Species selection will be aligned with national guidelines and vetted by relevant authorities</p> <p>Additional measures: Avoid siting infrastructure in ecologically sensitive areas Apply erosion control measures where needed Integrate ecosystem considerations into DAPs and planning processes</p>					

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
	<p>Protection and respect of cultural heritage sites</p> <p>Increased awareness of cultural heritage considerations in project planning</p> <p>Avoidance of damage to culturally significant areas</p>	<p>Accidental discovery and disturbance of physical cultural resources (e.g. artefacts, burial sites)</p> <p>Risk of impacts on intangible or community-recognised cultural sites if not identified during planning</p>	<p>Chance-Find Procedure: Immediate stoppage of all works if artefacts, graves, or other cultural heritage items are discovered</p> <p>Secure the site to prevent disturbance or damage</p> <p>Notify relevant local authorities and community leaders</p> <p>Engage appropriate authorities and stakeholders to determine the significance and required actions</p> <p>Resume works only after formal agreement and clearance has been obtained</p> <p>Proactive screening and avoidance: Use community consultations to identify known cultural and sacred sites (including intangible heritage)</p> <p>Avoid siting of project activities in or near such locations</p> <p>Integrate cultural heritage considerations into site selection and planning</p>	Low	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer, Environmental Engineer	Throughout implementation, with emphasis during site selection and construction phases	<p>No damage to cultural heritage sites</p> <p>Effective management of any chance-find events</p> <p>Respect for both tangible and intangible cultural heritage</p>	Covered under project implementation and safeguards budgets

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			Awareness and training: Inform contractors and workers about chance-find procedures Include cultural heritage considerations in site-level briefings					
All project activities involving community engagement, beneficiary selection, infrastructure implementation, labour, service delivery, and field-level interaction with affected persons	Improved accountability to affected populations Increased transparency; timely resolution of complaints Safer and more inclusive access to grievance channels Strengthened trust between communities, implementing entities and the project	Limited awareness of grievance channels Exclusion of women, youth, persons with disabilities or remote groups Inadequate handling of sensitive complaints Weak escalation or documentation Confidentiality risks for SEAH-related complaints	Establish a three-tier GRM structure comprising project-level entry points, WFP corporate pathways, and information on access to the GCF IRM Designate GRM focal points at project, district, CIIP and WFP levels Communicate GRM procedures in local languages and accessible formats through community meetings, printed materials, posters and field outreach Maintain confidential and survivor-centred SEAH reporting pathways distinct from standard grievances Provide safe access options for women and	Moderate	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator	Throughout project implementation, beginning at project inception and continuing through closure	Affected people can safely and effectively raise concerns Grievances are recorded and resolved in a timely manner SEAH-related complaints are handled confidentially and appropriately Women, youth, persons with disabilities and remote communities have equitable access to grievance channels Grievance trends are monitored and used for adaptive management	Covered under project management, stakeholder engagement, safeguards implementation and monitoring budgets

Type of activities	Positive impacts	Potential residual risks	Mitigation measures	Risk significance before mitigation	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Expected results	Cost/Budget
			<p>girls and accessible submission options for persons with disabilities</p> <p>Apply standardised grievance log templates and categorise incidents by type</p> <p>Set indicative service timelines and escalation procedures</p> <p>Report grievance statistics through project monitoring and APRs</p>					
All project-supported site-specific activities under Outputs 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3	Enhanced inclusiveness and equitable access to project benefits through strengthened screening and stakeholder engagement processes	Potential exclusion of Indigenous Peoples or unidentified impacts if screening is not systematically applied at site level	Integrate Indigenous Peoples screening criteria into the project's environmental and social screening procedures for all site-specific activities, in line with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy. Where screening identifies the potential presence of Indigenous Peoples, undertake additional due diligence and apply relevant policy requirements, including appropriate consultation and documentation	Low	PAT, in particular Project Coordinator, Resilient Livelihoods Officer	Throughout implementation, prior to approval of site-specific activities	Systematic identification of Indigenous Peoples where present; appropriate application of GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy requirements; reduced risk of exclusion and non-compliance	Covered under existing safeguards implementation and monitoring budget (no additional cost required)

5. Compliance with IFC Performance Standards

The planned activities are not expected to have adverse environmental or social impacts. Therefore, the overall project is categorized as Category C. Table 4 presents a summary of the compliance of the project with the IFC Performance Standards (PS) as part of GCF's ESS and how these relate to WFP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF) or WFP Sustainability Framework:

Table 4: Compliance with IFC Performance Standards

IFC Performance Standards	Relationship with WFP ESSF	Compliance
PS1: Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts	ESSF Module 3: WFP Environmental and Social Safeguards for Programme Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The proposed activities will contribute towards sustainable management of environmental and social performance throughout the life of a project. These activities include capacity development, planning support, institutional development and strengthening, advisory services, communication and outreach, and early warning and other monitoring systems, small-scale facilities, smallholder production and community-based conservation, rehabilitation and maintenance of existing small-scale infrastructure mainly within an already built-up area and with no additional footprint and or areas considered to be critical habitats. - The mentioned activities have been subjected to an E&S risk screening and don't present adverse negative E&S impacts but rather are likely to present minimal or residual or no adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts. - Thus, an ESAP has been elaborated to either avoid, minimise and mitigate and residual risks that are likely to arise during the implementation of the project. - Any registered grievances from affected communities and external communications from other stakeholders will be responded to and managed appropriately through the WFP complaints feedback mechanism (CFM). - Tajikistan's Law No. 760 "On Environmental Protection" acknowledges the need for the assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts. - Screening procedures will include specific criteria to identify the presence of Indigenous Peoples, including communities that may meet the characteristics outlined in the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy. This screening will be conducted for all project-supported activities at the site level. Where such groups are identified, additional due diligence will be undertaken, and appropriate measures will be developed in line with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy.
PS2: Labour and working conditions	Standard 5: Protection and Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some activities under the project Components 2 and 3, beneficiaries will have opportunities to produce small scale agricultural and water related micro infrastructures or assets that benefit communities' livelihoods and support their adaptation to climate change. The amount and type of work that each individual will do will be identified through consultations and will take account of men's and women's chores, roles and obligations.

IFC Performance Standards	Relationship with WFP ESSF	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The assets building activities will be executed in compliance with government regulations. The program adheres to the criteria of the Decent Work Agenda (DWA). WFP endorsed International Labour Organization (ILO) definition of Decent Work as being productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. The DWA involves providing opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, provides security in the workplace and social protection for workers and their families, offers better prospects for personal development and encourages social integration, gives people the freedom to express their concerns, to organise and to participate in decision that affect their lives; and guarantee equal opportunities and equal treatment for all. - The project will adopt the following measures will be emphasised including: fair treatment, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity of workers; maintain, and improve the worker-management relationship; compliance with national employment and labour laws; protect workers, including vulnerable categories of workers such as children, migrant workers, workers engaged by third parties, and workers in the client's supply chain; promote safe and healthy working conditions, and the health of workers and; avoid the use of forced labour. These will be guided by a number of international conventions and instruments, including those of ILO's and the United Nations (e.g. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 32.1; UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families).
PS3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention	Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Waste and Pollution Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This project will adhere to the following measures including avoid or minimize adverse impacts on human health and environment by avoiding/minimizing pollution from project activities; promote more sustainable use of resources (e.g. energy, water); reduce project-related GHG emissions. - This project aims at reducing unsustainable practices such as deforestation by introducing clean cooking stoves, better fuel practices, and more options for livelihood. Solarisation of water abstraction systems will contribute towards resource efficiency. Further, support engagements in diversified and off-season livelihood activities. - All water infrastructure will be constructed or rehabilitated during this project are small scale (managed at household or community level) and water extraction from groundwater or surface water sources will be done in compliance with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. - All construction and rehabilitation activities such as excavation will not be carried out during intense rainfall. Use temporary bunding to reduce the risk of sediment, oil or chemical spills to the receiving waters and soils. The project will ensure all works carried out minimise pollution risk (e.g. liquid effluents, air emissions, noise and vibration management, vehicle and equipment maintenance and selection, fuel, oil and chemical storage and handling) including the whole duration of the Project. The project will ensure appropriate containment and storage of construction wastewater, including sanitary water. No untreated effluent is discharged.

IFC Performance Standards	Relationship with WFP ESSF	Compliance
PS4: Community health, safety and security	Standard 7: Community Health, Safety, Security, and Conflict Sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFP is guided by the Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) and international standards on occupational safety and health. Activities of the project will lead to improved food security and nutrition levels amongst the target population. There will be no safety and security risks introduced by the project. The project will mobilize local populations for all asset creation activities, including the creation of agricultural fields not less than 1 hectare in size where vegetables, wood lots, tree nurseries or orchards can be developed in a healthy, safe and secure environment. WFP is committed to promoting a safe and healthy workplace for its community-driven projects in order to accomplish its mandate and strategic objectives. - The project partners will ensure that safe working conditions are in place at the project site.
PS5: Land acquisition & involuntary resettlement	Standard 5: Protection and Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be no land acquisition and resettlement of people under the project. The adaptation actions will target the most vulnerable rain-fed agricultural areas and rehabilitate watersheds within the local boundaries, based on the community based participatory planning process. The project objective is to promote livelihood activities that enable communities to continue to live sustainable lives in harmony with the current land use and tenure systems. - Tajikistan's CEP is responsible for developing and coordinating policies, including the Land Act, and other legal frameworks related to land, land governance, and land rights in the country. WFP in collaboration with this CEP will ensure that activities undertaken do not result in illegal land acquisition and involuntary resettlement.
PS6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources	Standard 1: Natural Resources; Standard 2: Biodiversity and Ecosystems; Standard 4: Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project activities will conserve local biodiversity and improve ecosystem services in the target areas. Reforestation will be promoted to improve on water catchment areas and enable ground water recharge. Introduction of new seeds and trees will be done in consultation with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to ensure that invasive species are not introduced, and local species are used. Water infrastructure will observe regulated uptake to ensure that there is no depletion in accordance with Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation. - Vegetation clearing will be limited to areas within the site boundary where it is strictly necessary. All activities will result in a net positive impact on the environment and the products from completed projects shall not affect the sustainable management of living natural resources.
PS7: Indigenous peoples (and vulnerable groups)	Standard 5: Protection and Human Rights; Standard 8: Accountability to Affected Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project has applied a preliminary screening approach consistent with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy. Based on available national and contextual information, no impacts on Indigenous Peoples are anticipated. However, site-specific screening will be conducted during implementation to confirm the presence or absence of Indigenous Peoples in project areas. - At the on-set of project implementation if any indigenous peoples (IPs) are identified, WFP and its partners will engage IPs in a process of ICP and obtain their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) in accordance with this PS 7 and the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy.

IFC Performance Standards	Relationship with WFP ESSF	Compliance
PS8: Cultural heritage	Standard 5: Protection and Human Rights; Standard 6: Gender Equality; Standard 8: Accountability to Affected Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although no specific monuments/buildings/areas of cultural heritage have been identified in the target communities, WFP will nonetheless ensure that other types of cultural heritage (graves, landscapes, etc) are not impacted by activities of this project. - Communities will be consulted on this topic during Community Based Participatory Planning processes and WFP will ensure that any concern raised by communities on potential impacts on critical cultural heritage that is essential to their identity and/or cultural, ceremonial, or spiritual aspects of their lives is addressed.

6. Excluded Activities or Interventions

To ensure activities are kept within the low-risk category, a short list of excluded activities is provided in relation to this project. This list is not exhaustive as an unlimited number of activities are excluded, but this list indicates some of the assets that can be built in WFP projects which are moderate to high risk and therefore will be excluded from this project. The exclusion criteria include:

1. The planned activities will not involve associated facilities or generate cumulative impacts that would require further detailed due diligence and management planning.
2. The planned activities will not involve transboundary impacts including those that would require further due diligence and notification to affected states.
3. The planned activities will not adversely affect working conditions and health and safety of workers or potentially employ vulnerable categories of workers including women and children.
4. The planned activities will not potentially generate hazardous waste and pollutants including pesticides and contaminate lands that would require further studies on management, minimization and control and compliance to the country and applicable international environmental quality standards.
5. The planned activities will not involve the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure (like dams, water impoundments, coastal and riverbank infrastructure) that would require further technical assessment and safety studies.
6. The planned activities will not potentially involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, and economic displacement of persons and communities.
7. The planned activities will not be located in protected areas and areas of ecological significance including critical habitats, key biodiversity areas, and internationally recognized conservation sites.
8. The planned activities will not affect indigenous peoples that would require further due diligence, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and development of inclusion and development plans. The project has applied a preliminary screening approach consistent with the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy. Based on available national and contextual information, no impacts on Indigenous Peoples are anticipated. However, site-specific screening will be conducted during implementation to confirm the presence or absence of Indigenous Peoples in project areas. Where Indigenous Peoples are identified, the requirements of the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy will be applied.
9. The planned activities will not be located in areas that are considered to have archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, cultural, artistic, and religious values or contains features considered as critical cultural heritage?

Table 5 therefore, presents some of the excluded activities and or activities that will not be implemented under this proposal. In addition, any other activity that, during implementation, would lead to medium or high environmental and social risks or negative impacts, as per WFP risk screening safeguards.

Table 5: List of excluded activities

Excluded Activities / Interventions	Potential Environmental Risk (Moderate, High)
Any activity that will lead to involuntary resettlement, displacement or loss of properties and livelihoods	High
Activities that require an elaboration of a full ESIA according to WFP and GCF ESS and National legislations	High
Afforestation and reforestation activities with non-native vegetation	High
Use of inputs that are not on the Government list of endorsed inputs, which delimits the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) i.e. plants, animals, or microorganisms	High
Interventions likely to negatively affect endangered or protected animal, insect, or plant species, or their habitats	High
Interventions likely to alter the migration corridors of endangered or protected animals or insects	High
Any agrochemicals considered to be Persistent organic pollutants (POPs) as per UN Environment Programme (UNEP)	High
Intervention likely to lead to a sustained withdrawal of more than 5000m ³ of	High

Excluded Activities / Interventions	Potential Environmental Risk (Moderate, High)
freshwater per day OR the withdrawal of more than 50% of the average flow of a stream or river	
Interventions that will degrade, fragment or convert the natural vegetation cover in an area (contiguous or cumulative) of more than 10 ha	High
Interventions likely to contaminate water sources that are used for human consumption above national or WHO limits .	High
Could armed actors divert the resources of the intervention	High
Interventions likely to further limit vulnerable people's access people who have been identified as vulnerable to access assets.	High
Intervention likely to result in paid or unpaid employment of minors below 14 years in light work	High
Activities that will lead to increased use of agrochemicals	Moderate, High
Construction of infrastructure with surface >25m ²	Moderate, High
Rehabilitation or construction of dams with height >2m	Moderate, High
Community water ponds for irrigation/livestock use with volume >1000m ³	Moderate, High
Water tanks for irrigation/livestock use with volume >20m ³	Moderate, High
Small-scale irrigation using river or stream diversion with withdrawal >100m ³ /day OR diversion >10% of water flow	Moderate, High
Hand-dug water wells for irrigation and/or livestock with depth >5m OR withdrawal >100m ³ /day	Moderate, High
Construction of dams, weirs and reservoirs higher than 3m or with storage volumes higher than 10,000 m ³	Moderate, High
Animal dip-tanks with chemicals	Moderate, High
Gravel road on mountainous terrain – weak soils	Moderate, High
Discharge of hazardous substances, chemicals, construction material and wastes into water courses, ponds, drainage systems	Moderate, High
Reclamation of gullies with Brush Check dams with height >2m	Moderate
Gravel road on flat and rolling terrain – sandy or weak soils	Moderate
Gravel road on flat and rolling terrain– black cotton soils	Moderate
Road on escarpment	Moderate
Brickmaking activities taking place in critical habitats e.g. wetlands, rivers	Moderate
Rock catchments or dams in gullies and small rivers with height >2m in height	Moderate

7. Tajikistan Policies, Legal Frameworks, and Institutional Arrangements applicable to the proposed activities

7.1 Policy Framework for Climate Adaptation and Resilience

At the strategic level, Tajikistan's climate response is grounded in the *National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change* of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 (NSACC 2030), adopted by government decree. This overarching policy identifies climate risks, prioritizes adaptive measures across economic sectors and provides strategic guidance for building resilience to climate impacts in key sectors including energy, water, agriculture and transportation sectors most relevant for rural and vulnerable communities. NSACC 2030 also outlines mechanisms for financing and coordination, enabling climate-resilient development pathways that are aligned with the country's broader socio-economic goals as per the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Complementing the strategy are the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the *Paris Agreement*, which emphasize adaptation as a key pillar of Tajikistan's climate action. The NDCs commit to strengthening adaptive capacity and lowering vulnerability of populations and ecosystems, especially in agriculture and water sectors, while institutionalizing climate risk management within government planning and budgeting.

In support of medium-term planning, Tajikistan's Medium-Term Development Programs incorporate climate adaptation measures into national development goals, promoting rational natural resource use, legal protections, technology adoption and support for green economic growth.

To operationalize strategic adaptation, Tajikistan is advancing a *National Adaptation Plan (NAP)* process with support from international partners, including the GCF. The NAP framework focuses on reducing vulnerability of both the population and economic sectors to climate impacts such as floods, droughts, and landslides, and supports integration of climate risk information into sector and local-level planning.

7.2 Legal and Regulatory Framework

Tajikistan's climate responses are supported by a series of sectoral environmental and natural resource laws that set standards and procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), pollution control, water management, land use and biodiversity protection. These environmental frameworks are critical to ensuring that adaptation measures are sustainable, socially responsible and integrated with national development priorities. These laws also underpin mechanisms for stakeholder participation and public oversight in environmental decision-making, which are essential for locally-led adaptation planning and implementation.

Tajikistan's legal commitments under international environmental conventions, including the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreement, further reinforce the country's obligations to take adaptive action and report on progress, including greenhouse gas inventories and transparency frameworks.

Law No. 760 on Environmental Protection is the primary environmental statute in Tajikistan. It establishes the legal principles of national environmental policy, including sustainable socio-economic development, rational use of natural resources, prevention of environmental harm, environmental safety and citizens' rights to a healthy environment. The law also requires environmental impact assessment (EIA) for activities with potential environmental effects and sets conditions for designing and locating facilities. It defines the roles of government authorities, including the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) and local authorities in oversight and enforcement.

Law on Protection of the Atmospheric Air regulates air quality protection, sets standards for emissions from stationary and mobile sources and mandates monitoring, reporting and control measures to reduce air pollution and protect human health and ecosystems. It includes provisions for emissions limits, permits and pollution abatement measures.

Tajikistan's environmental legal system includes a suite of sector specific laws and regulations that are applicable to this project, such as:

- *Law on Environmental Expertise (2012)* governs EIA procedures and the process of environmental review.

- *Law on Environmental Audit (2011)* that sets requirements for assessing enterprise compliance with environmental standards.
- *Law on Environmental Control (2011)* defines monitoring and enforcement mechanisms by authorities.
- *Law on Waste Management (2002)* that regulates waste handling, disposal and reduction.
- *Laws on protected areas (2011), flora (2004) and fauna (1994)* that govern biodiversity conservation, protected areas and species protection.
- *Law on Hydrometeorological Activity (2007)* that governs environmental and climate information systems.
- Other laws addressing *air, soil, water quality, biological safety and environmental information and education (2011)*.

In addition to standalone laws, several codes include significant environmental provisions such as:

- *Water Code (No. 1688) was adopted on 2 April 2020* and regulates use and protection of water resources.
- *Land Code was adopted on 13 December 1996* and governs land use, protection, soil fertility and environmental considerations in land relations.
- *Forest Code was adopted on 2 August 2011* and regulates forest management, conservation and sustainable use of forest resources.
- A comprehensive *Environmental Code* has been drafted and circulated for public and expert review. It is expected to be adopted in early 2026.

7.3 Institutional Roles and Mandates

The institutional framework for climate adaptation is multi-layered, involving national authorities, sector ministries, and sub-national entities entrusted with implementing policies and regulations. The proposed institutional arrangements are fully aligned with GCF's Locally Led Climate Action (LLCA) guidance by embedding decision-making authority and implementation responsibilities within district and community structures. District Adaptation Committees (DACs), comprising CEP district offices, jamoat representatives, women's groups, Water User Associations (WUAs) and community-based organisations, will play a formal role in validating DAPs, prioritising Component 2 investments, and endorsing annual implementation plans. This ensures that planning and investment decisions are grounded in local knowledge and community-defined priorities. Community assemblies and thematic groups (women, youth, people with disabilities) will feed recommendations into DAC processes, creating systematic feedback loops and downward accountability. Vertical integration will be ensured through CEP's leadership at national and district levels, while WFP provides technical support and safeguards compliance. This structure strengthens local ownership, clarifies roles across levels of government, and ensures sustained LLCA-aligned delivery throughout the project cycle.

a) Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects

The Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects (CIIP) is a national implementing institution established in September 2021 as a legal entity under the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. It is mandated to coordinate, manage and implement internationally financed environmental and climate investment projects, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation, water resources management, waste management, environmental monitoring and sustainable development initiatives, ensuring alignment with national policies and international financing requirements. CIIP inherits the roles of the former Projects Implementation Unit, operates with institutional autonomy, and serves as a Direct Access Entity for climate finance, including accreditation with the Green Climate Fund, to mobilise, plan and execute donor-supported projects with strong fiduciary, environmental, social and governance standards, while coordinating with government bodies, stakeholders and development partners to advance Tajikistan's climate and sustainable development objectives.

CIIP will be the national co-EE with WFP for the project. CIIP is an entity within CEP and is responsible for the strategic planning and execution of environmental and climate change-related projects in Tajikistan. Additional project partners may include the Agency for Hydrometeorology (AoH), the Forestry Agency, and the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation.

b) Committee for Environmental Protection

The Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) under the Government of Tajikistan is the principal authority responsible for implementing and enforcing these laws. It oversees air, water, land, waste and biodiversity protection, conducts environmental monitoring, and administers compliance and sanctions processes. Local CEP subdivisions also enforce environmental laws at district and community levels. The CEP is the primary coordinating body for climate change adaptation policy and implementation. By government decree, the CEP is responsible for overseeing implementation of the NSACC 2030, coordinating cross-sectoral climate activities and aligning adaptation actions with national priorities. Importantly, the CEP serves as the National Designated Authority (NDA) for the Green Climate Fund, granting it a central role in GCF project review, approval, and oversight.

c) Agency for Hydrometeorology (Hydromet)

Operating under the CEP, Hydromet provides essential climate and weather data, long-term climate projections and early warning information that inform adaptation planning and risk assessments at national, regional and local scales. Hydromet's technical outputs support evidence-based decision-making in sectors such as agriculture, water resources and disaster risk management.

d) Sector Ministries and Agencies

Key ministries including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and the Agency for Land Reclamation and Irrigation are mandated to integrate climate adaptation considerations into sectoral planning and operations. These entities implement adaptation measures such as resilient irrigation systems, sustainable land management practices and climate-responsive agricultural extension services, all crucial for strengthening community resilience. Complementary roles are played by the Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defence, which leads national disaster risk reduction efforts.

e) Local Governments and Communities

Sub-national authorities at the raion (district) and jamoat (local) levels are increasingly recognized as essential actors in implementing adaptation actions on the ground and linking national policies to community priorities. These authorities support participatory planning processes, local adaptation actions, and monitoring of climate risks at the community level.

7.4 Integration of Climate Finance and Local-Led Adaptation

Tajikistan's strategic and institutional frameworks are explicitly aligned to attract and manage international climate finance. The designation of CEP as the GCF NDA ensures that climate finance proposals including those focusing on locally-led adaptation are evaluated within the context of national strategies and priorities. Through initiatives such as the GCF funded "Enabling an Effective National Adaptation Plan Process," institutional capacities are being strengthened to develop, implement, and monitor adaptation planning across sectors and administrative levels.

The collective policy, legal and institutional environment thus provides a solid foundation for a GCF funded project aimed at improving the climate resilience of vulnerable communities through locally-led adaptation. These frameworks ensure that such projects are aligned with national objectives, supported by institutional mandates, and integrated into broader sustainable development and climate resilience agendas of Tajikistan.

8. Grievance and Redress Mechanisms

The project will apply a three-tier grievance redress structure to ensure that complaints and feedback can be raised, addressed and escalated in an accessible, transparent and timely manner. The mechanism is designed to meet project-level accountability needs, align with WFP's corporate systems, and ensure that complainants are informed of their right to access the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM).

Tier 1: Project-level GRM

At project level, grievances and feedback may be submitted through multiple entry points, including:

- field monitors and project staff;
- district- and community-level meetings and consultations;
- Water User Associations (WUAs), District Adaptation Committees (DACs), and other local project structures;
- suggestion boxes where appropriate;
- phone-based channels and community-facing contacts communicated during project activities;
- designated GRM focal points at district and project levels.

These entry points will be available for environmental, social, implementation, inclusion, access, labour, and benefit-related complaints.

Tier 2: Accredited Entity-level GRM (WFP corporate system)

Complaints may also be submitted through WFP's Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) and other relevant WFP corporate accountability channels. WFP's CFM allows beneficiaries and affected people to submit complaints, requests for information, observations and misconduct concerns through established channels, including toll-free phone lines, field-based channels, and other corporate reporting systems. More serious complaints may be escalated through WFP's institutional systems, including the Office of Inspections and Investigations and other relevant compliance and ethics pathways, in accordance with WFP policy.

WFP Tajikistan uses a Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) as its primary grievance and redress channel, designed to ensure two-way communication between programme participants and WFP staff. The CFM allows individuals and groups of all genders, ages and abilities to express concerns, ask questions, provide feedback or lodge complaints regarding WFP assistance and project implementation in an inclusive manner. Feedback is collected through multiple access points, such as field monitors, phone calls, suggestion boxes, community consultations and established toll-free helpline dedicated CFM email, to ensure accessibility and anonymity where needed. WFP records and follows up on cases, providing consultations or actions in response to information requests, complaints and positive feedback, and integrates monitoring of these mechanisms into site operations with adjustments based on community input. The mechanism supports regular communication and follow-up with beneficiaries, including through post-distribution surveys and ongoing engagement, to ensure concerns are addressed and lessons are fed back into programme planning and delivery.

WFP Tajikistan's CFM is aligned with UN accountability principles, the UN Secretary-General's Bulletin on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), and donor safeguards including GCF Environmental and Social Standards. The mechanism is accessible, inclusive, confidential and survivor-centred, offering multiple entry points (in-person, phone, written and community-based channels) and ensuring safe access for women, youth, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Complaints are logged, tracked and resolved within defined timelines, with escalation pathways for sensitive cases (including SEA/SH), and feedback loops to inform programme improvement. Data protection and confidentiality are applied throughout case handling, and performance of the GRM is monitored and adapted based on community feedback and lessons learned.

WFP's CFM entails the mechanism of a **tollfree helpline** to allow participants **to call or leaving voice messages** of their suggestions and complaints related to the project. The helpline number is publicized throughout the project cycle and especially in key activities like registration. Project staff also ensure that they visibly display banners with details about the helpline through use of posters. The number is also available on registration cards. The management of the toll-free is done by WFP CFM unit through call centre operating. All calls that come in are documented and categorised and transmitted to WFP programming and informs decisions based on the community preferences received through the mechanism. Immediate response can be given depending on the type of feedback/complaint. Any complaints, suggestions, request categorizes under five categories as request for assistance, request for information, complaints, observation and suggestion, misconduct issues and prioritized in one of three priorities, low level, medium level or high level. Low-level is generally relatively minor issues and are often resolved within 10-15 working days. Medium level complaints are usually more complex but still are managed in a standard 10-15 working days. For High-level concerns – the most serious tier – the duration can extend to 3 working days to adequately address the complexity and gravity of the complaint.

The channel of the complaints and feedback mechanism is explained to the communities during the community consultations that are held in the first year of project implementation. The tollfree number is also printed on all communication material about the project distributed to stakeholders.

Issues of a severe nature that needs urgent escalation are referred immediately to CO management within 24 hours. All non-WFP related cases are referred to relevant stakeholders. Depending on the nature, the incident management protocol can also be initiated, which may lead to elevation of the case to the institutional-level grievance and redress mechanism managed by the Office of Investigations at the WFP headquarters

Tier 3: GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM)

Any person, group, or community who believes they have been or may be adversely affected by the project may also directly access the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM). Information on how to contact the GCF IRM, including email and phone details, will be provided alongside project GRM information and communicated through project awareness and consultation processes. Information on the GCF's IRM, including contact details and modality to file a complaint, will also be communicated to the Project Steering Committee and to implementing partners, including governmental institutions and cooperating partners/Service Providers in the field. When they provide beneficiaries with information on the GRM, they are requested to also provide contact details of the GCF's IRM. However, please note that most of the project beneficiaries do not have access to the internet and might find too expensive reaching an international phone number, therefore the GCF's IRM might not be the most suited channel for them.

In addition to WFP's and GCF's Grievance and Redress Mechanisms, any complainant also has the option to resort to the judicial court of law or administrative remedies at local, provincial or national level.

Communication and accessibility

Information on all grievance channels will be communicated in locally appropriate languages and formats and through accessible means, including community meetings, posters, printed materials, verbal explanation during consultations, and field-level sensitisation. In remote areas, project staff and local structures will support dissemination of GRM information through regular outreach and community engagement processes.

For the mechanism, data is captured into an online database CFM Corporate System and some of the information collected includes name of the person providing feedback, village, ward, district, cooperating partner, programme, nature of feedback. Issues are followed-up, investigated and action taken to improve on programme delivery. Data is analysed and reports are shared monthly. Feedback is also communicated through stakeholder meetings and beneficiary meetings during registrations and distributions. For sensitive issues, feedback is given to the concerned persons bilaterally.

Accessibility and inclusion measures

The GRM will be implemented in a manner that is accessible and safe for all affected persons, including women, youth, persons with disabilities, minority groups and people in remote communities.

To support safe access for women and girls, the project will provide confidential reporting options and sensitisation on the grievance mechanism in ways that minimise risks of backlash, stigma or retaliation. Female staff or focal points will be used where feasible for sensitive complaints.

To support persons with disabilities, grievances may be submitted through accessible formats and with support from trusted persons where requested by the complainant. Project teams will use practical accommodations, such as verbal submission, assisted registration of complaints, or support through local institutions and outreach staff.

To support remote communities, GRM information will be disseminated through community meetings, field visits, local structures, and project communications materials, including during consultations, beneficiary engagement, and implementation monitoring.

Roles, timelines, escalation and reporting

The grievance system will include designated focal points at the following levels:

- **Project level:** Project Administration Team / designated project GRM focal point
- **District level:** district focal points linked to project implementation structures and local institutions
- **CIIP level:** designated focal point within the co-Executing Entity structure
- **WFP level:** WFP country office focal points and the corporate Community Feedback Mechanism

These focal points will be responsible for receiving, recording, referring, following up and closing complaints in accordance with project procedures and WFP policy.

Indicative timelines

The GRM will apply indicative service standards as follows:

- acknowledgment of receipt within **5 working days**;
- initial review and categorisation within **10 working days**;
- resolution of standard complaints within **30 working days**, where feasible;
- immediate escalation of serious or sensitive cases, including SEAH, integrity matters, and serious incidents.

More complex complaints may require additional time, but complainants will be informed of status and next steps.

Escalation

Complaints that cannot be resolved at community or district level, or that involve serious issues, will be escalated to higher levels as appropriate, including:

- project management and WFP country office;
- CIIP and relevant implementing entities;
- WFP corporate systems;
- the GCF IRM, where complainants choose to access it directly.

Documentation and reporting

All complaints will be recorded using a standardised GRM log template. Cases will be categorised by type, including:

- environmental;
- social;
- labour / working conditions;
- exclusion / access to benefits;
- integrity / misconduct;
- SEAH (handled through confidential procedures).

The project will maintain records on:

- number of grievances received;
- category of grievance;
- status of resolution;
- average time to resolution;
- number of escalated cases.

Aggregated grievance statistics, excluding confidential personal information, will be reported through project monitoring systems and reflected in Annual Performance Reports (APRs) and other relevant reporting to WFP and GCF, as appropriate.

Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEAH)

In alignment with WFP the Charter of the United Nations, the Staff Rules and Regulations, and the Standards of Conduct of the International Civil Service, WFP is committed to ensuring that all its workplaces are free from abuse, offensive behaviour, harassment, abuse of authority and discrimination. Any reports of abusive conduct will be dealt with promptly, justly and effectively in accordance with the applicable regulatory framework and the procedures. Failure to meet obligations may lead to administrative or disciplinary action, up to and including summary dismissal. The policy outlines the roles of all WFP employees, those with managerial responsibilities, to prevent SEAH, as well as processes for dispute resolution, mediation and effectiveness monitoring. Employees who feel affected by abusive conduct are strongly encouraged to speak out through any of the informal and formal channels outlined in the Circular. Every year, a report on disciplinary practice is issued by WFP and includes an account of disciplinary measures imposed in confirmed instances of abusive conduct. This policy applies to:

- All WFP employees, regardless of contract type or duration;
- All WFP partners, suppliers, contract workers and external service providers.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is explicitly integrated into WFP contracts through mandatory clauses requiring all partners, staff, and contractors to uphold WFP's zero-tolerance policy on SEA.

Contracts also stipulate compliance with reporting obligations, training, and accountability mechanisms to ensure safeguarding standards are consistently applied.

A distinct, confidential and survivor-centred reporting pathway will be available for complaints related to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH). SEAH complaints will not be handled through standard grievance channels in the same way as routine project complaints. Instead, they will be immediately referred through confidential channels in accordance with WFP's Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) procedures and applicable survivor-centred protocols.

SEAH-related complaints may be reported through:

- WFP's designated confidential reporting channels;
- trained focal points;
- trusted project staff or partners, who must immediately refer the case through the appropriate confidential pathway.

All personnel, partners, contractors and service providers will be subject to codes of conduct prohibiting SEAH, including any form of sexual exploitation or abuse in exchange for work, services, or project benefits. Confidentiality, non-retaliation and referral to appropriate support services will be ensured in accordance with WFP procedures.

Complaints related to SEAH in addition can be reported to the Office of Inspections and Investigations or with the designated Focal Point at the country or field office levels, or his/her alternate, they are present in all Regional Offices, Country Offices and field offices with significant staff presence. Focal Points support senior management in creating a SEA-preventative environment and raise awareness of WFP employees and partners. The Ethics Office administers a network of over 300 PSEA Focal Points and alternates. Additional services such as medical care, psychosocial support, and legal advice are available on a case-by-case basis.

The institutional-level grievance and redress mechanism can also be contacted directly at the confidential email hotline@wfp.org, the confidential phone +39 06 6513 3663, or the confidential fax +39 06 6513 2063.

GCF Independent Redress Mechanism

The IRM is another avenue by which project affected people can seek redress, particularly when related to non-compliance with GCF policies or procedures. The IRM encourages the use of local grievance mechanisms where appropriate.

The WFP's CFM has been established to receive complaints and feedback and functions in a collaborative manner and in a way that is complementary to GCF independent Redress Mechanism and requiring that any gaps or weaknesses be addressed. The IRM helps project affected people or communities address problems by convening dialogues or conducting investigations in a manner that is timely, fair and independent.

The GCF does not tolerate retaliation. The GCF is committed to protecting anyone who reports wrongdoing, makes a complaint or cooperates with a GCF investigation. The GCF provides this protection through the Independent Integrity Unit (IIU) and the Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM). The GCF's Supporting Operating Procedures of the Independent Redress Mechanism on Retaliation (SOPs) have been developed to facilitate the implementation of provisions of the Procedures and Guidelines (PGs) on retaliation. The SOPs will be considered in the Project level Grievance and redress mechanisms.

Any person, group or community who believes they have been, or may be, harmed by a GCF project including those under consideration can file a complaint. There is no special form required to submit a complaint. However, complaints should include the following information: a) Name and contact details of the person(s) or community filing the complaint; b) A brief description of the GCF funded project or programme; c) A description of the harm or impact; d) If submitted by a representative, a letter from the affected person(s) or community allowing the representative to file the complaint with the IRM.

GCF can also be contacted directly at email irm@gcfund.org and phone +82 32 458 6485.