Funding Proposal

SAP072: WATER-RES - Enhancing the ability to address the risks of water scarcity in areas most affected by climate change and water shortage in Syria

Syrian Arab Republic | ACTED | Decision B.45/08

23 July 2026

GREEN CLIMATE FUND

Contents

Notes to accredited entities on the use of the SAP funding proposal template

- The Simplified Approval Process Pilot Scheme (SAP) supports projects and programmes with a GCF contribution of up to USD 25 million with minimal to no environmental and social risks. Projects and programmes are eligible for SAP if they are ready for scaling up and have the potential for transformation, promoting a paradigm shift to low-emission and climate-resilient development.
- This template is for the SAP funding proposals and is different from the funding proposal template under the standard project and programme cycle. Distinctive features of the SAP funding proposal template are:
  - *Simpler documents*: key documents have been simplified, and presented in a single, up-front list;
  - *Fewer pages*: A shorter form with significantly fewer pages. The total length of funding proposals should **not exceed 20 pages,** annexes can be used to provide details as necessary;
  - *Easier form-filling*: fewer questions and clearer guidance allows more concise and succinct responses for each sub-section, avoiding duplication of information.
- Accredited entities can either directly incorporate information into this proposal, or provide summary information in the proposal with cross-reference to other funding proposal documents such as project appraisal document, pre-feasibility studies, term sheet, legal due diligence report, etc.
- Submitted SAP Pilot Scheme funding proposals will be disclosed simultaneously with submission to the Board, subject to the redaction of any information which may not be disclosed pursuant to the GCF Information Disclosure Policy.
- For more information on how to develop Funding Proposals under the SAP please refer to the Simplified Approval Process (SAP) Funding proposal guidelines.

Please submit the completed form through the GCF Digital Proposal Submission Platform (DPS)[1]

[1] See the DPS user guide for further information on how to access and submit proposals.

A. PROJECT/PROGRAMME SUMMARY

A.1. Has this FP been submitted as a SAP CN before?			Yes ☒ No ☐		
A.2. Is the Environmental and Social Safeguards Category C or I-3?			Yes ☒ No ☐		
A.3. Project or programme	*Indicate whether this FP refers to a combination of several projects (programme) or one project.* ☒ Project ☐ Programme	**A.4. Public or private sector**	☒ Public sector ☐ Private sector	**A.5. RfP**	Not applicable

A.6. Result area(s)	*Check the applicable GCF result area(s) that the overall proposed project/programme targets. For each checked result area(s), indicate the estimated percentage of GCF and Co-financers' budget devoted to it. The total of the percentages when summed should be 100% for GCF and Co-financers' contribution respectively.*		
		GCF Contribution	**Co-financers' contribution**
	Mitigation total	Enter number %	Enter number %
	☐ Energy generation and access	Enter number %	Enter number %
	☐ Low emission transport	Enter number %	Enter number %
	☐ Buildings, cities and industries and appliances	Enter number %	Enter number %
	☐ Forestry and land use	Enter number %	Enter number %
	Adaptation total	Enter number %	Enter number %
	☒ Most vulnerable people and communities	50 %	50 %
	☒ Health and well-being, and food and water security	50 %	50 %
	☐ Infrastructure and built environment	Enter number %	Enter number %
	☐ Ecosystem and ecosystem services	Enter number %	Enter number %

A.7.1. Expected mitigation outcome *(Core indicator 1: GHG emissions reduced, avoided or removed / sequestered)*	N/A	**A.7.2 Expected adaptation outcome** *(Core indicator 2: direct and indirect beneficiaries reached)*	*Indicate total number of direct and indirect beneficiaries*	
			Indicate number of direct beneficiaries 198,620	*Indicate number of indirect beneficiaries* 1,500,000
			Indicate % of direct beneficiaries vis-à-vis total population 0.69%	*Indicate % of indirect beneficiaries vis-à-vis total population* 5.80%
A.8.1. Total investment (GCF + co-finance)	Amount: 27,700,000 USD	**A.8.2 Total GCF funding requested** (max USD 25M)	Amount:25,000,000 USD	
A.9. Type of financial instrument requested for the GCF funding	☒ Grant ☐ Loan ☐ Equity ☐ Guarantees ☐ Others:			

A.10. Implementation period (months)	*Indicate the number of months the project/programme is expected to be implemented. (i.e. From the effective date of the Funded Activity Agreement to the Completion Date)* 60 months	**A.11. Total project/ programme lifespan (years)**	*Indicate the maximum number of years over which the outcomes of the investment are expected to be effective, i.e. to lead to adaptation and/or mitigation results* 10 years
A.12. Expected date of internal approval	*The date that the Accredited Entity obtained/will obtain its own approval to implement the project/ programme, if available* *1/12/2026*	**A.13. Has Readiness or PPF support been used to prepare this FP?**	Yes ☐ No ☒
A.14. Is this FP included in the entity work programme?	Yes ☐ No ☒	**A.15. Is this FP included in the country programme?**	Yes ☐ No ☒
A.16. Executing Entity information	The project will have two co-executing entities: 1. Acted, acting through its Syrian Branch (Acted Syria) 2. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, acting through the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MoLAE)		

A.17. Scalability and potential for transformation (max. 100 words)

1. WATER-RES will create a paradigm shift by moving from fragmented water management to locally led, scalable climate-resilient water management in Barada and Awaj basin with a focus on Eastern Ghouta. It builds on Acted's existing efforts, as well the UN-led adaptation fund's efforts to establish groundwater monitoring, predictive water models, climate-informed planning, and inclusive governance in the region. Through three integrated components, 1) strengthening data systems and national and local capacities 2) climate proofing and optimizing public water infrastructure and systems, and 3) promoting climate-smart agriculture and ecosystem-based approaches, the project creates a replicable framework for broader geographic adoption. This approach strengthens operational efficiency, reduces agricultural water demand, and builds institutional capacity at both local and national levels. By establishing scalable systems for improved water management, it increases the resilience and adaptive capacity of 198,620 people, impacting indirectly more than 1.5 million people, and creates pathways for scaling the approach across Syria.

A.18. Project/Programme rationale, objectives and approach (max. 300 words)

2. Syria is among the most climate-vulnerable and water-stressed countries in the Middle East. The Barada and Awaj basin, a critical water source, faces intensifying climate hazards. Multi-year droughts, rising temperatures, and declining groundwater levels are exacerbating water insecurity. These hazards threaten municipal water supplies, and agricultural production particularly in the downstream areas including Eastern Ghouta, where post-conflict vulnerabilities limit adaptive capacity. Without targeted interventions, these climate stresses, compounded by degraded infrastructure, outdated irrigation practices and weakened water governance, will continue to reduce water security and increase social and economic risks.

3. The project's objective is to enhance climate-resilient water security for vulnerable communities through a coordinated approach that links basin-level planning with local action. The project focuses on adaptation by strengthening the capacity of institutions, and communities to manage water resources under increasing climate variability. Component one strengthens institutional capacities for climate-informed water management through improved groundwater and climate data systems, monitoring, and inclusive water governance. This enables more informed planning, coordination, and allocation of water resources. Component two applies this information to improve the performance and resilience of drinking water systems through targeted rehabilitation, efficiency measures, reuse, and strengthened operation and maintenance practices. Component three supports climate-resilient agriculture by promoting efficient irrigation, climate-adapted farming practices, ecosystem-based measures, and stronger farmer organizations, helping to reduce pressure on shared water resources.

4. GCF grant financing is essential due to high climate risk, limited fiscal space, and the 'public good' nature of the proposed investments. Following more than a decade of conflict and large-scale destruction, Syria's fiscal capacity to finance climate adaptation remains constrained. In this context, a GCF grant will serve as a catalyst to establish the systems, foundations, and capacities needed to address critical water security, whilst paving the way for a sustained paradigm shift through scalable models that attract further investment.

B. PROJECT/PROGRAMME DETAILS

B.1. Context and baseline (max. 500 words)

5. After more than a decade of conflict, Syria faces acute climate exposure combined with weakened institutional capacity for water planning and service delivery. The country is already classified as severely water-poor,[2] with a structural water deficit of approximately three billion cubic meters per year. Per-capita water availability has declined from 1,791 m³ in 1995 to 882 m³ in 2005 and is projected to approach 500 m³ by 2050, placing Syria close to absolute water scarcity.[3]

6. These challenges are particularly acute in the Barada and Awaj water basin, one of Syria's most strategically important and climate vulnerable basins. It supplies the majority of freshwater for the Damascus metropolitan area and surrounding peri-urban and rural communities, including Eastern Ghouta. Although the basin represents less than five percent of national renewable water resources, it supports a disproportionately large share of the population (estimated 5,700,000 or 21 percent of the population)[4] and economic activity. As a result, climate shocks translate rapidly into water shortages that have environmental, social and economic impacts.

7. Observed trends in the basin over recent decades indicate rising temperatures (18.4°C average in 2024, up from 17.6°C in 1991–2020), declining precipitation (245 mm in 2024, with historic lows of 123 mm), and severe drops in groundwater and baseflow, with baseflow collapsing by up to 80 percent in 2024–25 compared to the previous decade. At the same time, climate projections for the basin indicate worsening conditions. By 2040–2059, mean annual temperatures are projected to rise by 1.7°C to 2.3°C, while precipitation is expected to decline by 4.1 to 5 percent under medium (SSP2-4.5) and high-emission (SSP5-8.5) scenarios respectively. Extreme events will intensify, with the number of hot days exceeding 40°C projected to increase from 11 up to 21 days per year.[5] Longer dry spells will intensify evapotranspiration, reduce groundwater recharge, and accelerate depletion of already stressed aquifers, increasing risks to domestic water supply, irrigation dependent agriculture, and ecosystem stability across the basin.

8. Municipal systems in the basin are highly sensitive because they rely on winter precipitation, snowmelt recharge, and spring and groundwater-fed supplies (notably Ein al-Fijeh spring). Downstream peri-urban areas such as Eastern Ghouta face compounded vulnerability due to high population density, and dependence on residual flows and shallow groundwater after upstream abstraction for the metropolitan core. Conflict-related damage, high non-revenue water (estimated at 33 percent pre-conflict), proliferation of illegal wells (over two-thirds of existing wells), and limited cost-recovery further constrain reliable service delivery and sustainable abstraction. Recent droughts have caused sharp declines in spring discharge, leading to widespread drinking water supply interruptions and increased reliance on private wells and water trucking,[6] exposing them to higher costs, limited water quality oversight, and elevated public health risks.[7]

9. At the same time, agricultural production systems in the basin are highly vulnerable to climate variability. Most agriculture in Eastern Ghouta, the breadbasket of Damascus, relies on groundwater irrigation. Heat stress, irrigation deficits, and dust storms reduce crop yields and increase water demand.[8,9] Groundwater over abstraction has led to declining water tables and higher pumping costs, reducing farmers' ability to cope with climate shocks. Competition between agricultural and drinking water use intensifies during drought periods, particularly in downstream and peri urban areas.

10. Baseline adaptive capacity remains low and uneven. National water institutions have limited access to integrated climate and hydrological data for the basin, restricting climate-informed water management. Coordination across

[2] Isayed A., Menendez-Aguado J.,M., Jemmali, H., Mahmoud N., (2024), Water Poverty Index over the Past Two Decades: A Comprehensive Review and Future Prospects—The Middle East as a Case Study. Available here.
[3] Rida, F., Aw-Hassan, A., Bruggeman, A., (2004), The impact of food and agricultural policies on groundwater use in Syria. Available here.
[4] Mourad, K.,A., (2012), Marginal and Virtual Water for Sustainable Water Resources Management in Syria. Available here.
[5] World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal, (2025), Syrian Arab Republic. Available here.
[6] International Federation of Red Cross, (2025), Syria Droughts 2025. Available here.
[7] United Nations Children's Fund, (2023), Urban Water Fragility and Intermittent Supply in Syria. Available here.
[8] HortScience, (2025), Heat stress in hydroponic tomato cultivation significantly reduces yield (approx. 37%–98%) under high temperatures. Available here.
[9] Ahmadzai, H., Malhotra, A., Tutundjian, S., (2023), Assessing the impact of sand and dust storm on agriculture: Empirical evidence from Mongolia. Available here.

water, agriculture, environment, and local service delivery remains uneven, and local governance structures face gaps in capacity. Fiscal and technical constraints limit the ability of public authorities to restore or operate climate-resilient water services[10], while households and farmers often lack the resources and technical knowledge to adopt water-efficient and climate adapted practices. Gender disparities further exacerbate these challenges, as women frequently bear the brunt of water scarcity while having limited access to decision-making or technical support. In this context, coping mechanisms remain reactive with limited systematic climate adaptation planning.

11. While other initiatives, such as UN-led Adaptation Fund project in the basin have focused on community water resilience, this project targets both the Barada and Awaj basin and additional communities in Eastern Ghouta. This ensures the projects are geographically complementary and designed to address locally specific climate and water challenges. Lessons from these and other Acted's programmes have informed the approach, particularly on data collection, community engagement, and water-efficient practices, and are further iterated in Annex 02, section 9.3.

B.2.1. Project/Programme description (max. 1,000 words)

12. The proposed project is built on an integrated approach to enhance climate-resilient water security in Syria's Barada and Awaj basin, with a focus on Eastern Ghouta. The project integrates three components: 1) strengthen institutional capacities for climate-risk informed water management, 2) climate proofing and optimizing public water infrastructure and systems (to reduce waste and improve water recycling, and 3) improving water management in agriculture and ecosystem measures. The target beneficiaries include approximately **198,620 direct beneficiaries**, encompassing national and local water institutions, vulnerable communities, and smallholder farmers in Eastern Ghouta, with an estimated 1,500,000 indirect beneficiaries across the basin. Detailed information on beneficiary selection can be found in *Annex 2, section 7.5.*

13. **Component 1: Strengthening institutional capacities for climate-resilient water management (Barada and Awaj basin):** This component will strengthen capacities of key national and local institutions such as MoLAE, Ministry of Energy (MoE), Damascus and Rural Damascus Water Resources Directorate (DRD-WRD), General Commission for Water Resources (GCWR), Land Directorate of Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) as well as community-based governance structures such as Water User Associations (WUA) and a community structure (e.g CSO or municipality associated community group). Public institutions will be supported to improve data collection, processing and use this to make climate-risk informed decisions on water management. Their capacity to secure future financing through evidence-based design of programs will also be strengthened. Community-based structures (i.e. WUAs) will be capacitated to act as liaison between local governments and community members, helping cascade down climate-related information for users, and feed up community/user feedback to inform national planning processes. Thus participatory and technical assessments carried out at project inception and throughout implementation will be continuously leveraged by community structures identified under Component 1 to inform implementation. Multi-stakeholder climate forums and strengthened NDA capacity will support national policy uptake, learning and long-term climate finance, embedding evidence driven decision-making.

14. **Output 1.1: Integrated data systems for measuring, monitoring, and modelling groundwater resources (Barada and Awaj basin):** This output will focus on establishing a current baseline of water demand and availability in the basin, as well as build a future, climate-risk informed model to help decision makers plan for sustainable water use under climate uncertainty. This will include first collecting robust data through: hydrological desk study, water demand mapping using digital technologies such as satellite/remote sensing, GIS mapping, water quality mapping, pumping tests, non-invasive geophysical surveys such as Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) and setting up real-time data collection through existing boreholes/monitoring points. Secondly, based on this data, groundwater flow models will be developed to support sustainable water management, in addition to building cloud-based data management systems. All interventions under this activity will be carried out with the support of a technical consultant. Technical equipment alongside hands on training for at least 175 government staff from relevant departments on installation, operation and maintenance for knowledge transfer and long-term sustainability. The activities included under this output include:
    - Activity 1.1.1: Conduct integrated baseline assessments and establish groundwater monitoring networks
    - Activity 1.1.2: Develop climate-informed groundwater flow models and decision-support tools

15. **Output 1.2: Multi-stakeholder capacity strengthening for climate-informed water management (Eastern Ghouta):** This output will build on the data collected above, and the groundwater flow model developed to strengthen capacity of local stakeholders for evidence-based water management. Firstly, the capacity of at least

[10] Met Office, (2025), Climate risk report for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, Available here.

30 DRD-WRD, Environmental Directorate staff and staff from relevant sub-branches will be built to use the data collected for planning such as drought preparedness, water allocation and development of local integrated water management plans, as well as conduct analysis such as climate risk mapping. DRD-WRD will be further supported to run governorate level scenarios, utilizing data from Output 1 through GIS-based dashboards. In addition, capacity of estimated 200 WUA members will be built for internal management and external coordination to act as liaison between community members and local water authorities. This will include equitable and meaningful participation of women. Their knowledge of climate data from Output 1 will also be strengthened, so that communities can make climate-risk informed decisions related to water use. A community structure with demonstrated experience in community facilitation, social accountability and inclusive engagement (e.g CSO, community-elected municipality volunteer board) will also be supported as an independent entity to facilitate at least five community water resilience workshops and collect and amplify community feedback on water resources planning and infrastructure. It will also implement a participatory monitoring tool to ensure accountability. Roles and responsibilities for community structure representation will be formalized under the project's Operations Manual. The activities under this output include:

- Activity 1.2.1: Strengthening capacity of Damascus and Rural Damascus Water Resource Directorate and Environmental Directorate
- Activity 1.2.2: Build local water management accountability systems

16. **Output 1.3: Knowledge sharing and financing for sustained water resilience (national):** This output will focus on building national knowledge networks to mobilize future investments in climate-proofing the water sector in Syria. In order to build national knowledge, awareness and capacities for sustainable water management, the project will: conduct a review of existing water and greywater reuse laws and regulatory framework at a national level, to understand their impacts on users within the target area, develop and disseminate policy briefs on key gaps within existing regulatory frameworks, develop a business case for grey-green infrastructure and set up of at least five multi-stakeholder exchanges for sharing best-practices/ lesson learnt and emerging trends in climate-risk informed water management. In parallel, the project will strengthen the capacity of the NDA and relevant line ministries to engage with international climate finance mechanisms and to develop a pipeline of investment-ready projects.
    - Activity 1.3.1: Participatory review and recommendations to the local water use regulatory framework
    - Activity 1.3.2: Multi-stakeholder forums for knowledge exchange and coordination of investments
    - Activity 1.3.3: Strengthening of the NDA's capacity to catalyse climate financing

17. **Component 2: Improving community water infrastructure and re-use systems (Eastern Ghouta):** This component directly improves climate resilience and water security for vulnerable communities by climate-proofing existing boreholes and water networks that are critical water infrastructure, supporting demand management at household level and strengthening cost recovery systems for improved operation and maintenance. Further, this component will promote greywater recycling at household level to improve circularity in water use. The interventions will be guided by data and governance systems established in Component 1 while real-time data will produce feeds directly into decision-support dashboards and local water management plans. Key beneficiaries include vulnerable households, MoE's Public Corporation for Drinking Water and Sanitation and water utility staff, and communities in Eastern Ghouta. Activities will be delivered in close cooperation with MoLAE and MoE.

18. **Output 2.1: Existing boreholes and networks are climate–proofed and optimised (Eastern Ghouta):** To improve climate-resilient water for vulnerable communities, in partnership with the Public Corporation for Drinking Water and Sanitation and MoLAE, this output will rely on the pumping tests conducted under Output 1.1 to prioritize maintenance for 28 existing public water boreholes and networks. Secondly, to non-revenue water, a leak detection system will be established for the maintained networks. This will include building capacity of 30 staff of the Public Corporation and relevant utilities through use of technologies (portable acoustic leak detection devices, smart bulk meters installed at key inlets and outlets) and strengthened operational procedure (i.e. integration of leak data into existing network management systems) and a community-based leak reporting mechanism. Over 168,000 people residing within the improved water service coverasge area will directly benefit. Thirdly, to ensure sustainability of the interventions on the boreholes and networks, the project will strengthen capacities of relevant stakeholders on operation and maintenance including on cost recovery. The focus will be on practical, transparent cost-recovery mechanisms that support routine O&M while remaining sensitive to affordability and vulnerability. This will be supported through installation of metering devices for at least 20,000 households. To further strengthen the cost-recovery initiatives of the local utilities, a community awareness campaign will be developed focused on increasing network subscriptions.
    - Activity 2.1.1: Climate-proof and upgrade public priority drinking water infrastructure

- Activity 2.1.2: Establish a robust leak detection and response system
- Activity 2.1.3: Strengthen water resource directorate capacities for O&M and cost recovery

19. **Output 2.2: Improved water-use efficiency and re-use in vulnerable communities (Eastern Ghouta):** To further climate proof the water supply, borehole and network level interventions will be complemented by household level interventions to improve water use efficiency and water recycling in close cooperation with MoLAE and MoE. Up to 19,500 households and 25 institutions in the target communities will benefit from the provision of water efficient fixtures. To change community perspective on water recycling and reuse and trigger long-term behaviour change, 400 households and 25 institutions will benefit from installation of small-scale greywater recycling systems. This will be complemented by robust training on operation and maintenance to ensure safe handling and management of the systems. The system design will take into perspective the differentiated needs of men and women to ensure no additional burdens are placed on women's roles within the household. For these households and institutions, non-potable water reuse will be further promoted for public green spaces, home gardens and fodder for livestock.
    - Activity 2.2.1: Installation of water efficient fixtures
    - Activity 2.2.2: Installation of small-scale greywater recycling systems for household reuse

20. **Component 3: Supporting climate-resilient agriculture (Eastern Ghouta):** This component enhances the climate resilience of agricultural production and local ecosystems and strengthens Components 1 and 2 by aligning farmer decisions. It supports local extension services, agricultural research centres and nurseries under the management of MoA, and farmers to scale up uptake of efficient irrigation, climate-adapted practices, use of drought-resistant crops, and small-scale water harvesting. Locally led financing options for the adoption of these practices will help creating lasting impacts, reinforcing the paradigm shift. Ecosystem-based measures, such as infiltration trenches and re-vegetation, will improve groundwater percolation in farming communities and soil management. Key beneficiaries include smallholder farmers, farmer associations, extension, research centre and public nursery workers, agri-businesses as well as vulnerable households. Activities will be delivered in close cooperation with MoLAE and MoA.

21. **Output 3.1: Smallholder farmers are supported to improve water management (Eastern Ghouta):** This output will focus on building capacities of local farming communities and improving technology uptake/ finance for climate resilient agricultural systems. This will be done through first, building capacity of 10 farmer associations to monitor water demand/supply management through incorporating data from Component 1, including data from pumping tests (irrigation abstraction surveys) and provision of tools such as flow meters. Second, the project will work with and through extension and agricultural research centres to establish demonstration plots and train at least 2,000 local farmers on sustainable farming practices that reduce water use and improve climate-resilient land management. Capacities of extension services and agricultural research centre will be strengthened through ToT training for 40 staff and provision of equipment to ensure the long-term functionality. Third, in kind support and training for at least 50 staff will be provided to the General Organisation for Seed Multiplication (GOSM), and public nurseries in Rural Damascus for strengthen a local supply of drought resistant seeds. Fourth, at least 2,060 farmers will be supported with improved access to capital, for implementing such water efficient and climate-resilient agricultural practices, through either cost-sharing grants or the establishment of a revolving grant fund in cooperation with a local financial institution. Inclusion will be ensured by leveraging community structures and feedback (Output 1.2) to ground-truth criteria for technical assistance; all capacity building will ensure accessibility and suitability for women and youth in terms of financial and digital literacy, including gender-inclusive measures; and the two-track financing structure is designed around capacity, not exclusion. Micro-farmers access cost-sharing grants, ensuring the most vulnerable receive direct support without repayment obligations. The revolving grant fund (RGF), by contrast, targets small- and medium-scale farmers with greater capacity to engage with the on-granting mechanism. An Operations Manual will govern the RGF, setting out its governance and operating procedures alongside explicit gender, inclusion, and PSEAH considerations. The activities included under this output include:
    - Activity 3.1.1: Capacity-building for farmer associations
    - Activity 3.1.2: Training on climate adapted agricultural practices
    - Activity 3.1.3: Support to government nurseries for increased supply of drought resistant crop seeds
    - Activity 3.1.4: Establish locally driven financing models

22. **Output 3.2: Community level ecosystem-based adaptations to improve aquifer recharge (Eastern Ghouta):** This output will focus on improving water percolation and retention in farming communities through Ecosystem based Approaches (EbA). Two sets of activities will be carried out. Firstly, the project will work closely with DRD-

WRD and Environmental Directorate to improve groundwater recharge and enhance infiltration of water into aquifers through rehabilitation of at least 50 existing recharge assets (e.g. wells) or establishment of infiltration trenches where feasible. Clear O&M plans will also be developed to ensure their sustainability. Community consultations facilitated under Outcome 1 will enable consultations with diverse user groups to ensure O&M reflect on-the-ground realities. Following this, MoA's nurseries in Eastern Ghouta will be supported to strengthen production of pasture and forest seedlings through training of at least 60 staff and technicians and provision of equipment. These will be used for revegetation on public lands, thus improving overall land quality and leading to improved water retention in these areas. Additionally, an educational site for sustainable land revegetation will be established in cooperation with MoA and MoLAE to provide a practical learning space showcasing locally appropriate species and techniques that support ecosystem restoration under climate stress for at least 500 trainees. The activities included under this component include:

- Activity 3.2.1: Enhance natural infiltration
- Activity 3.2.2: Restore degraded public land through revegetation with native plants

23. Further information on the project design, theory of change, and activities/sub-activities are detailed in *Annex 2, Section 7.*

B.2.2. Outcome mapping to GCF results areas and co-benefits categorization

Outcome number	GCF Mitigation Results Area (MRA 1-4)				GCF Adaptation Results Area (ARA 1-4)			
	MRA 1 Energy generation and access	**MRA 2** Low-emission transport	**MRA 3** Building, cities, industries, appliances	**MRA 4** Forestry and land use	**ARA 1** Most vulnerable people and communities	**ARA 2** Health, well-being, food and water security	**ARA 3** Infrastructure and built environment	**ARA 4** Ecosystems and ecosystem services
Outcome 1	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐
Outcome 2	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐
Outcome 3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☒	☐	☐

Co-benefit number	Co-benefit					
	Environmental	**Social**	**Economic**	**Gender**	**Adaptation**	**Mitigation**
Co-benefit 1	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐
Co-benefit 2	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐

B.3. Implementation / institutional arrangements (max. 750 words)

24. The project will be implemented under **Acted**, serving as the **Accredited Entity (AE)** and grant holder, assuming full fiduciary responsibility in accordance with the Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) and GCF Standard Conditions. As AE, Acted will oversee project appraisal, administrative, financial, and technical management; fiduciary management; monitoring and evaluation; and project closure and knowledge capture. These functions will be coordinated by Acted Headquarters (Paris) through a dedicated Project Task Force (PTF), including a Finance Manager, Lead Technical Advisor, and Grant Manager, supported by HQ technical specialists. The PTF will operate separately from Acted Syria's Executing Entity (EE) functions, in line with GCF Board Decision B.19/09, to maintain accountability and objectivity.

25. The project will be implemented through two EEs: The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, acting through **MoLAE** and **Acted Syria**, with clear roles, responsibilities, and coordination formalized through implementation agreements in line with GCF policies. **MoLAE** will execute activities related to institutional capacity building, knowledge management, and coordination with line ministries and public institutions, including MoA and MoE's General Commission for Water Resources. As co-EE, MoLAE will likewise contribute to monitoring and evaluation activities. Implementation will be led by the Climate Change Directorate, ensuring alignment with national policies and integration of climate considerations into local planning and investment processes. As NDA to the GCF, MoLAE will also support national coordination, documentation and dissemination of lessons learnt, and strengthen institutional capacity for leveraging climate finance. This dual role ensures that project outcomes inform national policy and contribute to long-term climate-resilient development pathways.

26. **Acted, acting through its local branch, Acted Syria,** brings extensive operational presence and technical experience, active in the country since 2012 with offices in Damascus and field bases across multiple governorates. Its programming focuses on access to basic services, climate-resilient water management, sustainable livelihoods, and strengthening local capacities. With a strong track record in climate adaptation, including hydrogeological assessments and groundwater management, Acted Syria will execute activities related to capacity transfer, climate proofing of water infrastructure, climate adapted agricultural practices and community engagement. Acted Syria will also utilize its robust monitoring, evaluation, gender equality, social inclusion, and environmental safeguards to oversee alignment with GCF investment.

27. To ensure national ownership and multi-stakeholder coordination, a **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** will be established for the duration of the project. Chaired by MoLAE, the PSC will include representatives from key line ministries (MoE, MoA, Emergency and Disaster Management, Finance), Acted Syria, and the Project Director. The PSC will meet at minimum on an annual basis and in accordance with project developments to provide strategic guidance, review work plans and budgets, appraise implementation progress, and ensure alignment with national climate and water priorities.

28. A dedicated **Project Management Unit (PMU)**, chaired by the Project Director, will provide operational and programmatic oversight. The PMU will include sub-units for finance, monitoring, evaluation, appraisal, learning (MEAL), and partnerships. Convening at least quarterly in Damascus, the PMU will coordinate implementation across components, ensure technical standards, prepare materials for the PSC, and address operational challenges. The specific Acted/MoLAE staffing composition of the PMU will be defined during the project inception phase. Further, day-to-day implementation and reporting to the PMU will be handled by the project staff within the project implementation teams of MoLAE, Acted and implementing partners.

29. A **Technical Working Group (TWG)** will provide technical oversight and advisory support to the PMU. Composed of designated technical focal points from the NDA, relevant line ministries, and EEs, the TWG will meet quarterly or as needed to review methodologies, technical designs, safeguards, and quality assurance. The TWG will provide recommendations but hold no fiduciary or procurement authority; operational and strategic decisions remain with the PMU and PSC respectively.

30. Further, the locally led, participatory approach embedded in the project design will empower community structures to meaningfully inform planning, implementation, and adaptive management of water and agricultural interventions. The project will institutionalise community voice and accountability through sub-grants to local civil society organisations to facilitate consultations and participatory monitoring, ensuring transparency and equitable water management. Thus, community feedback and monitoring will be systematically channelled through the PMU to inform adaptive management decisions and, where necessary, strategic guidance by the PSC.

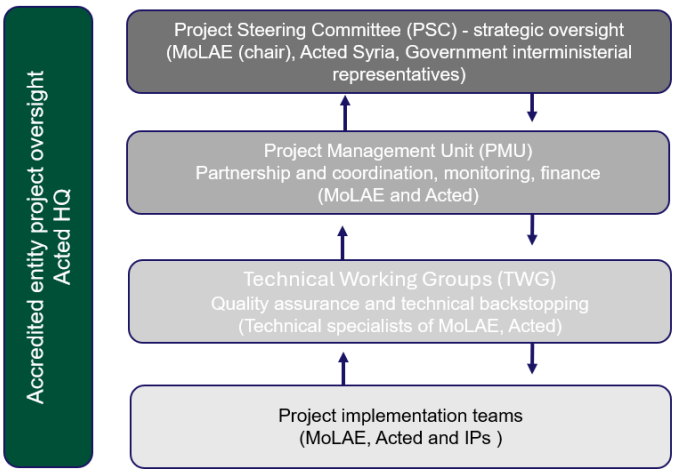

Figure 1: Project governance structure

31. GCF funds will be disbursed to Acted (HQ) in its capacity as AE and flow to the EEs – the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, acting through MoLAE and Acted Syria, following established fiduciary and reporting procedures. The flow of funds between Acted (HQ) and Acted Syria will follow normal Acted financial procedures. The transfer of funds between Acted (HQ) and MoLAE will be governed by a project-specific Subsidiary Agreement to be concluded for the purposes of the AMA. This Subsidiary Agreement will include provisions addressing MoLAE's co-financing contribution, including the allocation and use of such funds, reporting requirements, and the respective roles and liabilities of the parties in relation to both GCF financing and co-financing. MoLAE and Acted Syria will establish sub-grant agreements with third-party implementers, including government partners, community structures, and the local financial institution, for the implementation of project activities, ensuring fiduciary integrity, transparency, and full alignment with GCF financial management standards. These sub-grants are intended to provide the necessary legal and programmatic framework governing the relationship between MoLAE, as Executing Entity, and the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Energy, as well as between Acted and a local financial institution in relation to the implementation and oversight of the RGF, in addition to supporting the co-development and application of participatory community monitoring tools through local organisations. Acted as EE will also direct agreements with final beneficiaries (selected smallholder farmers and micro-producers) for cost-sharing grants. These agreements govern the provision of cost-sharing grants, disbursed in instalments against approved business plans and verified milestones. All financial transfers will be conducted through formal banking channels and subject to verification and monitoring requirements. Sub-grant beneficaries will be fully accountable for the use of funds, reporting results and achievements to the relevant EE, and ensuring full transparency in project expenditures. Any sub-granting by the EE will be fully aligned and follow the detailed scope of work for activities as outlined in Section 7 of Annex 2. This arrangement for the flow of funds will ensure that MoLAE is empowered to manage their funding and scope of work directly, while also helping to strengthen their experience, expertise, and track record in managing climate finance funds.

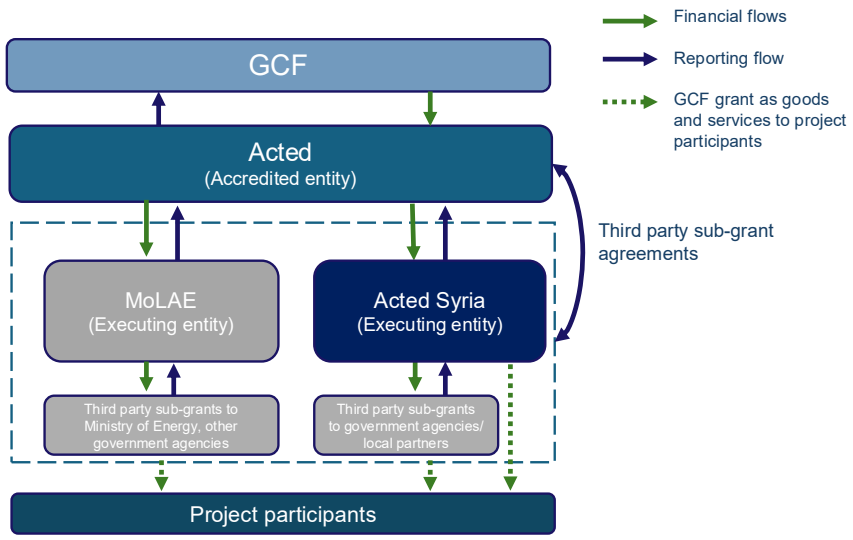

Figure 2: Flow of funds

C. FINANCING INFORMATION

C.1. Total financing

(a) Requested GCF funding (i + ii + iii + iv + v + vi)	Total Amount: 25		Currency: million USD ($)	
GCF Financial Instrument	**Amount**	**Currency**	**Tenor & grace**	**Pricing**
(i) Senior loans	Enter amount	Options	Enter years	Enter %
(ii) Subordinated loans	Enter amount	Options	Enter years	Enter %
(iii) Equity	Enter amount	Options		Enter % equity return
(iv) Guarantees	Enter amount	Options	Enter years	
(v) Reimbursable grants	Enter amount	Options	Enter years	
(vi) Grants	25	million USD ($)		

(b) Co-financing information	**Total amount**			**Currency**		
	2.7			million USD ($)		
Name of institution	**Financial instrument**	**Amount**	**Currency**	**Tenor & Grace**	**Pricing**	**Seniority**
Syrian Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (MoLAE)	In kind	1	million USD ($)	Enter years Enter years	Enter %	Options
Acted Syria	Grant	1.7	million USD ($)	Enter years Enter years	Enter %	Options

Click here to enter text.	Options	Enter amount	Options	Enter years Enter years	Enter %	Options

(c) Total investment (c) = (a)+(b)	Amount	Currency
	27.7	million USD ($)
(d) Co-financing ratio (d) = (b)/(a)	10.8%	
(e) Other financing arrangements for the project/programme (max ½ page)	*N/A*	

C.2. Financing by component

Component	Output	Indicative cost million USD ($)	GCF financing		Co-financing		
			Amount million USD ($)	Financial Instrument	Amount million USD ($)	Financial Instrument	Name of Institutions
Component 1: Strengthening institutional capacities for climate-resilient water management (Barada and Awaj basin)	Output 1.1: Integrated data systems for measuring, monitoring, and modelling groundwater resources (Barada and Awaj basin)	4,081,830.90 USD	3,699,138.93 USD	Grants	239,834.83 USD	Grants	Acted
					142,857.14 USD	In kind	MoLAE
	Output 1.2: Multi-stakeholder capacity strengthening for climate-informed water management (Eastern Ghouta)	841,982.19 USD	742,418.94 USD	Grants	28,134.67 USD	Grants	Acted
					71,428.57 USD	In kind	MoLAE
	Output 1.3 Knowledge sharing and financing for sustained water resilience (national)	1,728,168.05 USD	1,641,091.89 USD	Grants	87,076.17 USD	Grants	Acted
Component 2 Improving community water infrastructure and re-use systems (Eastern Ghouta)	Output 2.1: Existing boreholes and networks are climate–proofed and optimised (Eastern Ghouta)	8,761,339.61 USD	8,019,179.93 USD	Grants	527,873.96 USD	Grants	Acted
					214,285.71 USD	In kind	MoLAE
	Output 2.2 Improved water use efficiency and re-use in vulnerable communities (Eastern Ghouta)	1,738,541.90 USD	1,506,145.79 USD	Grants	89,538.96 USD	Grants	Acted
					142,857.14 USD	In kind	MoLAE
Component 3: Supporting climate-resilient agriculture (Eastern Ghouta)	Output 3.1 Smallholder farmers are supported to improve water management (Eastern Ghouta)	6,510,077.74 USD	5,854,013.78 USD	Grants	370,349.68 USD	Grants	Acted
					285,714.29 USD	In kind	MoLAE
	Output 3.2: Community level ecosystem-based adaptations to improve aquifer recharge (Eastern Ghouta)	1,687,114.64 USD	1,458,985.78 USD	Grants	85,271.72 USD	Grants	Acted
					142,857.14 USD	In kind	MoLAE

MEAL	MEAL	715,944.96 USD	579,024.96 USD	Grants	136,920.00 USD	Grants	Acted
Project Management Cost	PMC	1,385,000.01 USD	1,250,000.00 USD	Grants	135,000.01 USD	Grants	Acted
Contingency	Contingency	250,000.00 USD	250,000.00 USD	Grants	Enter amount	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Indicative total cost (USD)		27,700,000 USD	25,000,000 USD		2,700,000 USD		

C.3 Capacity Building and Technology development/transfer

C.3.1 Does GCF funding finance Capacity building activities?	Amount: 485,545 USD
C.3.2. Does GCF funding finance Technology development/transfer?	Amount: 5,884,925 USD

C.4. Justification for GCF funding request (max. 500 words)

32. Syria faces acute water insecurity exacerbated by 14 years of conflict, which has weakened institutions. Syria ranks fourth on the 2024 Fragile State Index, 158 on the ND-GAIN Index, and ranks high risk on the INFORM Climate Change Risk Index 2025, signalling high climate exposure and extremely low adaptive capacity.

33. Climate-resilient water management in Syria requires substantial financing. While the government recognizes the urgency, national resources are limited after years of economic contraction, with GDP at half 2010 levels, and the country now classified as low-income. The country has experienced territorial fragmentation, the growth of the informal economy and tax revenues are 10 percent of pre-conflict levels.[11] This limits the ability of the government to invest in reconstruction efforts, key when half of the country's infrastructure has been destroyed.[12] With the central bank reporting debt of 128 percent of GDP,[13] Syrian financial system faces challenges that have the potential to impede recovery and limit government investment. Early policy adjustments have opened opportunities for private investment and fiscal revitalization. Authorities are prioritizing investment-friendly reforms, simplified business procedures, and private-sector development to support reconstruction and rebuild institutional trust.[14] Despite these efforts, government or private investment in local water infrastructure at the scale required will not be likely for some years.

34. GCF investments will allow provide seed funding to build data systems that would not attract private investments and for which there are no public funds currently available. Once this data systems are operational, we can generate an evidence base for de-risking infrastructure investments in the country. Although the country is experiencing a transitional climate, early investment in these public goods provides the evidence needed to position the country for further public/private investment from countries around the world. By establishing credible data, operational models, and tested adaptation approaches, the project reduces uncertainty and creates the enabling conditions for future public and concessional investment in the water sector.

35. To improve investments in climate-resilient agriculture, the project will pilot approaches through demonstration plots, allowing farmers to develop a compendium of best practices. This will then be scaled up through capital instruments such as grants and the revolving grant fund through a local financial institution. GCF funding will allow for initial testing of different approaches to identify adaptation practices best suited to the local context.

36. The grant also represents a critical step toward long-term, sustainable water security and replicable climate resilience in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Additionally, GCF financing will provide a key opportunity to strengthen the capacity of Syria's NDA, MoLAE, to engage effectively with the fund and develop a critical pipeline

[11] World Bank, (2025), Syria Macro- Fiscal Assessment. Available here.
[12] United Nations Development Program, (2025), The Impact of the Conflict in Syria: A Devastated Economy, Pervasive Poverty and a Challenging Road Ahead to Social and Economic Recovery. Available here.
[13] World Bank, (2022), The Welfare of Syrian Households after a Decade of Conflict. Available here.
[14] Reuters, (2025), Syria's finance minister says foreign investors welcome after US sanctions move. Available here.

of eligible projects. This project provides the opportunity for MoLAE, under the direct access entity accreditation process, to gain track record with GCF funding and other institutional requirements, as an Executing Entity.

C.5. Exit strategy (max. 300 words)

37. The project impacts are secured through building long term, climate resilient water management capacities within authorities (ministries, local directorates of the MoLAE/MoE, extension centres of MoA) and community structures (WUAs, farmers associations), ensuring sustained benefits and ownership beyond the project duration and target area.

38. Under **Component 1**, General Commission for Water Resources (GCWR), DRD-WRD, and technical departments will operate digital water information systems, and continue to utilize SOPs, and training to manage groundwater models, water-quality maps, and cloud-based platforms. By the project end, GCWR will independently operate and update these systems without reliance on external technical assistance. Inclusive WUAs and community-led mechanisms embed devolved decision-making will continue to inform DRD-WRD planning beyond the project. Inclusive multi-stakeholder forums and strengthened NDA (MoLAE) capacity will embed evidence-based decision-making, support national policy uptake, and facilitate access to future climate finance.

39. Under **Component 2**, all climate-proofed infrastructure, including rehabilitated boreholes, upgraded network sections, leak detection systems, and metering devices, will be handed over to local water departments (namely Public Corporation for Drinking Water and Sanitation). Solarization and early leak detection measures will further optimize energy use and system efficiency. O&M protocols for leak detection, flow meters, and small-scale greywater recycling units will be institutionalised within local authorities, ensuring sustained functionality. Installation of smart metering for improved services will strengthen cost-recovery mechanisms to ensure long-term O&M.

40. Under **Component 3**, farmer associations and agricultural extension services will retain skills and tools for climate-resilient water management (e.g. soil moisture meters) and farming practices. Demonstration plots will remain as permanent learning hubs managed by extension centres. The revolving fund grant will be sustained by the local financial institution under both MoA and MoF oversight, ensuring continuous financing for farmers adopting resilient practices. Ecosystem-based adaptation assets, namely infiltration trenches and revegetated public land, will be maintained by the DRD-WRD and the Badia Management and Development Authority (BMDA) in line with co-developed O&M plans.

C.6. Financial management/procurement (max. 300 words)

41. Financial management of the project will be overseen by Acted HQ, in its role as the AE, and implemented by the EEs (MoLAE, Acted Syria) in accordance with clearly defined roles, internal delegation of authority, and robust internal control procedures. GCF funds will be managed through secure international and local banking channels, using phased disbursements based on validated cash-flow forecasts. This approach ensures sufficient liquidity for implementation while limiting exposure to foreign exchange volatility and fiduciary risk.

42. Acted applies standardized financial management systems covering budget planning, authorization, accounting, expenditure verification, and reporting. All expenditures are subject to segregation of duties, multi-level approvals, and supporting documentation to ensure traceability and auditability. Financial reporting to GCF is conducted in USD, in line with international accounting standards and Acted's internal financial policies. Foreign exchange risks are actively monitored through regular budget follow-up, expenditure forecasting, and variance analysis, with coordination between finance, procurement, and programming teams to anticipate and manage cost fluctuations. Where material risks are identified, mitigation measures will be applied, in coordination with GCF.

43. Procurement and contracting are governed by Acted's global procurement framework – which emphasizes transparency, competition, value for money, and ethical conduct – whilst ensuring alignment with Syrian government guidance and standards. Procurement methods are selected based on defined thresholds, market conditions, and risk levels, with clear documentation and approval requirements proportionate to contract value and complexity. Conflict-of-interest declarations, segregation of roles, and record-keeping requirements are systematically applied. All suppliers, contractors, and partners undergo due diligence and sanctions screening prior to contracting, and contractual agreements clearly define financial, reporting, and compliance obligations.

44. Third-party engagements, including service contracts, sub-grants, and partnership agreements, are managed through formal agreements aligned with GCF requirements. Acted applies a risk-based Partner Due Diligence

framework, complemented by ongoing oversight through financial reporting, monitoring visits, and performance reviews. As an Executing Entity, MoLAE manages downstream contractual arrangements with relevant sectoral ministries in accordance with national procedures, while remaining subject to project-level oversight and coordination mechanisms established under the Subsidiary Agreement concluded for the purposes of the AMA..

45. In addition to these internal controls, the project's financial statements will be subject to annual independent external audits, conducted in accordance with internationally recognized accounting and auditing standards. Audited financial statements will be submitted to GCF within four months of the fiscal year-end, in line with Acted's Accreditation Master Agreement. At the institutional level, Acted publishes annually audited financial statements prepared under GAAP and audited by a well-established external audit firm, which are publicly available. Together, these financial management, procurement, and audit arrangements ensure that GCF funds are used solely for their intended purposes and that fiduciary risks are effectively managed throughout project implementation.

D. EXPECTED PERFORMANCE AGAINST INVESTMENT CRITERIA

D.1. Impact potential (max. 300 words)

46. The project is designed to have significant adaptation impact by addressing acute water scarcity in Syria's most climate-exposed and densely populated basins - Barada and Awaj basin, a region experiencing severe climate-induced drought and groundwater depletion.

47. The project will contribute to ARA 1: Most vulnerable people and communities, and ARA 2: Health food and water security, in line with the GCF core indicators reported in the Logical Framework (Annex 2a).

48. Under ARA 1, core indicator 2, at least 198,620 people will directly benefit from enhanced institutional capacity for climate-informed decision-making, strengthened local water governance and accountability mechanisms, improved access to reliable water services, and climate-adapted agricultural support. These will include government officials, participants in water-governance and accountability activities; households with improved access to drinking water services, water-efficient household fixtures, greywater reuse systems; and participants in project-supported agricultural training, financing mechanisms and ecosystem-based services. Indirectly, 1.5 million people within the broader basin will benefit from improved water management through groundwater modelling and climate informed planning.

49. ARA 2, supplementary indicator 2.3, 168,000 individuals residing within the service coverage area of rehabilitated or climate-proofed drinking water systems will experience improved water availability.

50. ARA 2, supplementary indicator 2.5. 12,360 people will benefit from project-supported grants or on-grants to adopt climate-resilient agricultural and ecosystem-based practices.

51. The project contributes to increased climate resilient sustainable development by addressing the major drivers of water scarcity: uneven management of water resources and inefficient use of water in agricultural production.

52. The project will work at the local level in the Barada and Awaj basins to gather data, develop a groundwater monitoring model, and strengthen the capacities of users and local water authorities to apply it for climate informed planning. This localized model will support informed decision making in the face of current and future climate induced water scarcity, while also serving as a transferable approach that can guide the development of water management plans across the six other water basins in Syria. The Barada and Awaj basin represent one of the most vulnerable water basins in Syria, with respect to exposure (population served) and risk (to climate hazards). Improved management of groundwater in this basin will have a clear and measurable impact on the health and wellbeing of the target population.

D.2. Paradigm shift potential (max. 300 words)

53. The project represents a paradigm shift in climate-resilient water management in Syria, moving from an uneven and reactive approach toward an integrated, locally led approach. The theory of change contends that: **IF** vulnerable, water-scarce communities are empowered to lead locally driven climate adaptation using climate and groundwater data, inclusive governance, and sustainable water and agricultural practices **AND** are supported by resilient infrastructure and institutions **THEN** water security will improve, sustain agricultural productivity and reduce climate vulnerability **BECAUSE** locally led, data-informed decisions enable efficient, equitable, and anticipatory water and agricultural management.

54. This shift is cultivated through an interlinked results chain of activities, outputs, and outcomes. Component 1 builds institutional capacities and climate-informed data systems; Component 2 operationalises this foundation for resilient service delivery through the climate-proofing of water infrastructure and promotion of efficient practices; and Component 3 aligns agricultural water use with basin-level sustainability by supporting water efficiency and re-use. Together, these outcomes foster a drive toward the project paradigm shift of moving Syria's water management toward an integrated, anticipatory, and locally owned system.

55. **Scalability:** The project's modular, basin-level design creates scalable models for water governance, climate-proofed infrastructure, and agricultural demand management. Standardised protocols, packaged solutions, and the institutionalisation of skills, knowledge, and equipment within MoLAE and GCWR provide transferable frameworks for replication across other water-scarce basins in Syria.

56. **Knowledge sharing:** Learning and knowledge exchange is embedded across all activities, from the co-led implementation alongside national and local institutions to the peer-to-peer hubs fostered via community structures (WUAs, farmer associations). Outcome 1 incorporates specific provisions to consolidate and share lessons learned through MoLAE-led forums, fostering the systematic dissemination of evidence-based practices across governance levels.

57. **Enabling environment:** By embedding climate data management, participatory governance and basin-level planning within MoLAE, MoE's GCWR, MoA, and local entities, the project creates the institutional foundations for sustained climate-informed water governance, mainstreaming climate risk considerations into water planning processes and strengthening regulatory linkages between national and local actors.

D.3. Sustainable development (max. 300 words)

58. The project establishes a holistic framework for climate-resilient water management that provides wide-ranging sustainable development co-benefits and directly contributes to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
- SDG 13 Climate Action
- SDG 2 Zero Hunger
- SDG 15 Life on Land
- SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 5 Gender Equality
- SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals

59. **Economic co-benefits:** Reduced water losses through leak detection and efficient irrigation, sustained agricultural productivity through climate-resilient practices, and the establishment of locally driven finance models create pathways for long-term economic resilience and sustained livelihoods protection measures.

60. **Gender-sensitive development benefits:** By improving the reliability of community water sources and introducing greywater reuse systems for households, the project reduces the time burden of water collection and management that disproportionately falls on women and girls. Women will be actively represented in governance structures and will be empowered through technical training to become leaders in water resource management.

61. The project's gender action plan (Annex 4) provides detailed measures to ensure the benefits outlined above are met, namely that meaningful participation from women (including representation of women engaged in Women-Led Organizations) is ensured whilst addressing differentiated needs. Key actions of the plan that are aligned with GCF's Gender Policy include:

- Conducting a dedicated Gender and PSEAH baseline assessment, integrated into the overall project baseline and workplan
- Sustaining minimum participation targets for women in WUAs and farmer associations (20-30%)
- Prioritising female-headed households for water-efficient fixtures and greywater systems under Component 2 (30%)
- Ensuring women's access to climate-adapted agricultural training and financing under Component 3 (30%)
- Embedding women's priorities into all climate-planning and service delivery processes

62. Women's engagement will be facilitated through the active involvement of female project staff and continuous technical oversight from a dedicated Gender and Safeguarding Specialist, ensuring gender-responsive measures are consistently applied across locations and activities.

D.4. Needs of recipient (max. 300 words)

63. Syria faces extreme vulnerability shaped by severe climate hazards and socioeconomic fragility after years of conflict. Climatically, Syria is among the world's most water-stressed countries. Average temperatures are projected to rise by up to 2.3°C, while the number of extremely hot days (>40°C) is expected to increase from 11 to 21 days per year by 2040–2059. These trends are intensifying evapotranspiration, reducing surface and groundwater recharge, and increasing the frequency and severity of droughts. As such, there is a heightened risk of further stress on water and agricultural systems and increased urgency for targeted interventions to strengthen resilience in the most climate affected areas.

64. Socioeconomic conditions significantly amplify climate vulnerability. Extreme poverty affects one in four Syrians, while 67 percent live below the lower middle-income poverty line.[15] As such, over 75 percent of the population depends on humanitarian assistance.[16] Unemployment is estimated at 24 percent, with youth facing rates of 46 percent, and women disproportionately affected. Water scarcity directly undermines food security, particularly for smallholder farmers, rural communities, women-headed households, and internally displaced and returning populations. Reduced water availability for domestic use and agriculture has contributed to food insecurity affecting an estimated 14.5 million people nationwide.[17] Without targeted adaptation measures, rising temperatures and increased heat extremes are expected to further strain water systems, exacerbate poverty, and deepen dependence on humanitarian assistance.

65. The government's ability to address these adaptation challenges is limited by domestic fiscal space outlined in section C4., and competing recovery needs. Private and commercial financing for water security is currently unavailable at scale. Concessional GCF financing is therefore essential to enable climate-resilient water investments and to strengthen institutional and implementation capacity for sustainable water management and long-term resilience.

D.5. Country ownership (max. 500 words)

66. The proposed project is fully aligned with Syria's national climate priorities and international commitments under the UNFCCC, Paris Agreement, and UNCCD. Syria's Nationally Determined Contribution (2018) identifies efficient water resource management, combating land degradation and desertification, improving water-use efficiency, and institutional and community capacity-building for climate adaptation as key adaptation priorities. These priorities respond directly to the country's increasing exposure to droughts and heat extremes and their impact on water resources and agricultural production. The project operationalises these priorities through interventions that protect climate proof water resources, reduce water losses, improve water-use efficiency, promote non-traditional water sources, and support climate-adapted agricultural practices. In line with national strategies, the project emphasizes participatory, locally led approaches and strengthens institutional capacity at national, governorate, and community levels.

67. The project was developed through a co-creation process with the Government of Syria, ensuring strong country ownership. Key national institutions, including MoLAE, acting as the NDA, MoE hosting the GCWR and MoA, were actively engaged throughout project design. Between June 2025 and January 2026, structured consultations were conducted through bilateral technical meetings, national- and governorate-level workshops, field visits, and a formal, MoLAE-led validation workshop on November 27, 2025. At the community level, four focus group discussions were held with a diverse and inclusive group of participants, including farmers, youth, representatives of various local occupations, community leaders, and respected local notables. This broad representation ensured that multiple perspectives were captured, enriching the understanding of local needs, challenges, gender perspectives and opportunities for climate-resilient water

[15] World Bank, (2022), The Welfare of Syrian Households after a Decade of Conflict. Available here.
[16] United Nations Development Program, (2025), The Impact of the Conflict in Syria: A Devastated Economy, Pervasive Poverty and a Challenging Road Ahead to Social and Economic Recovery. Available here.
[17] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, (2025), Syria Humanitarian Response Plan. Available here.

management. Additional consultations were conducted with research institutions, a local financial institution, and international organizations to confirm synergies and assumptions. These combined engagements informed the selection of project locations, activity design, and capacity-building priorities. The funding proposal was shared with the NDA for final validation in January 2026, and the no-objection letter will be issued in accordance with national procedures (*see section 9 of Annex 2).*

68. The project also builds on Acted's (AE) extensive experience implementing climate-resilient water, agriculture, and ecosystem-based adaptation interventions in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. It benefits from Acted Syria (EE)'s prior groundwater monitoring and modelling work in the country that has demonstrated the importance of basin-specific hydrogeological assessments, long-term abstraction modelling, and locally owned monitoring systems for sustainable groundwater management. These lessons inform the project's design through basin-level data systems, scenario-based modelling, and structured capacity transfer to public water authorities to ensure sustainability beyond the project lifecycle. Acted Syria's long-standing Area-Based Approach programming in the country also informs the project's participatory design. Experience shows that inclusive facilitation, well-designed community engagement, and closed feedback loops linking local inputs to institutional decision-making are critical for conflict sensitivity, and adaptive management. These principles are embedded through structured stakeholder engagement, coordination with water user associations, and mechanisms that ensure community feedback informs project governance and implementation.

69. Country ownership is embedded in the project's scope and implementation arrangements, with national and local authorities playing central roles in technical oversight, coordination, and long-term operation and maintenance to ensure sustainability beyond the project duration. MoLAE, as the EE and NDA to the GCF will lead institutional capacity-building, policy integration, knowledge management, and coordination with line ministries, while ensuring alignment with national climate priorities. Through its Climate Change Directorate and governorate-level structures, MoLAE will facilitate the integration of climate risk considerations into local water planning and climate investment processes, supporting sustained, nationally owned pathways toward climate-resilient water management.

D.6. Efficiency and effectiveness (D.6.1&2 are not applicable for this adaptation project)

D.6.3. Describe how the financial structure is adequate and reasonable in order to achieve the proposal's objective(s), including addressing existing bottlenecks and/or barriers; providing the minimum concessionality; and without crowding out private and other public investment. (max. 500 words)

70. The requested GCF grant is the minimum concessionality required to overcome the incremental costs and risk premiums associated with climate adaptation investments in post-conflict Syria. As outlined in Section C.4, Syria's fiscal and financial constraints are severe and significant portions of national infrastructure has been destroyed. At the same time, climate change is intensifying water scarcity through rising temperatures, declining precipitation, and increasing drought frequency, placing additional pressure on already over-exploited water resources. These conditions constrain the Government of Syria's ability to finance climate adaptation investments without concessional support.

71. The domestic financial sector remains underdeveloped and liquidity-constrained, characterised by limited intermediation capacity, reliance on cash transactions, and the absence of long-term capital markets. Although tentative reintegration into regional and international financial systems is underway, supported by sanctions relief, the sector is currently unable to mobilise the scale of financing required for climate-resilient water infrastructure. Other international donors and humanitarian actors active in Syria have been consulted during project development, however, available funding streams are predominantly short-term and humanitarian. In this context, a grant will greatly reduce financial risks associated with climate-informed water planning and piloting of key adaptation approaches in the context of Syria, thus developing an evidence base and a use case for securing future financing. The project does not crowd out private or other public investment, as such financing is currently unavailable at scale for climate adaptation in the water sector under prevailing risk conditions.

72. The project addresses barriers that currently prevent private investment from materialising. By improving credible data availability, governance transparency, abstraction regulation, operational performance and developing evidence-based business cases, the project reduces uncertainty and risk premiums, thereby lowering future transaction costs for potential investors including for future co-financing from bilateral donors, development banks, and, over the longer term, private sector actors through blended finance models once conditions allow.

73. The level of concessionality requested from GCF is the minimum necessary to make the investment viable. The grant avoids imposing unsustainable debt on the public sector and finances the high upfront costs of climate-proofing and system optimisation. This will create substantial public goods, including systemic changes to governance at national and local levels through generating evidence base for resource management. The integrated design of the project increases efficiency by addressing supply, demand, and governance constraints simultaneously, achieving higher adaptation impact per dollar than stand-alone infrastructure or emergency interventions. Grant financing allows these systems to be established without transferring costs to vulnerable users or exacerbating social tensions in a post-conflict context.

74. Compared to conventional emergency water interventions or stand-alone infrastructure rehabilitation, the integrated approach (described in B2.1) achieves higher adaptation impact per dollar by combining demand management, supply-side efficiency, and ecosystem-based solutions. The project also employs best available technologies and practices benchmarked from arid and post-conflict settings. Examples include:
    - O2.1: The solarisation of water pumps reduces long-term operational costs and emissions, whilst leak detection systems minimise non-revenue water.
    - O1.1: Establishing a climate-informed groundwater model and cloud-based data management system provides a public good that fosters the paradigm shift of water management planning from reactive to anticipatory.
    - O3.2: Ecosystem-based adaptations like infiltration trenches and revegetation are low-cost, sustainable methods to enhance aquifer recharge.

75. The project's effectiveness is evidenced by its direct targeting of the needs of 198,620 vulnerable people, its alignment with national climate priorities, and its focus on building long-term institutional capacity within Syrian authorities (MoLAE, MoE, MoA).

E. ANNEXES

E.1. Mandatory annexes

☒	Annex 1	NDA No-objection Letter(s) (Template)
☒	Annex 2	Pre-feasibility (or feasibility) study (Guidance)
☒	Annex 2a	Logical Framework (Template)
☒	Annex 2b	Timetable (Template)
☒	Annex 3	Budget plan that provides breakdown by type of expense including AE fees (Template)
☒	Annex 4	Gender assessment and action plan (Template)
☒	Annex 5	Co-financing commitment letter if applicable (Template)
☒	Annex 6	Term sheet including a detailed disbursement schedule and, if applicable, repayment schedule
☒	Annex 7	Risk assessment and management (Template)
☒	Annex 8	Procurement plan model (Template)
☒	Annex 9a	Legal Due Diligence (regulation, taxation and insurance) (Template)
☒	Annex 9b	Legal Opinion/Certificate of Internal Approvals (Template)

E.2. Other annexes to be submitted when applicable/requested

☐	Annex 10	Economic and/or financial analysis (Guidance) (mandatory for private-sector proposals)
☐	Annex 11	Appraisal, due diligence or evaluation report for proposals based on up-scaling or replicating a pilot project
☒	Annex 12	Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) (Template)
☐	Annex 13	Operations manual for EDA projects (guidance)
☐	Annex 14	Assessment of GHG emission reductions and their monitoring and reporting (for mitigation and cross cutting-projects)[18]
☒	Annex 15	Revolving grant fund

***** Please note that a funding proposal will be considered complete only upon receipt of all the applicable supporting documents. *****

[18]Guidance on GHG emission reduction calculations for GCF projects/programmes is available on the GCF Programming Guidance (https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/gcf-programming-manual.pdf), Box 12 “How to estimate greenhouse gas emission reductions for GCF”. This annex is mandatory for Mitigation and Cross-cutting projects