

# AFGHANISTAN

AE:UNDP



GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND

GLOBAL  
PROGRAMMING  
CONFERENCE

## Project title

Climate Change Resilient Livelihoods Advanced in Rural Afghanistan Through Improved Irrigation System

### Result areas

[Livelihoods of people and communities]

### Sector

Public/Private

### Total financing, USD

[USD 35 M]

### GCF financing, USD

[USD 30 M]

### Financial instrument

Grant

### Description of specific climate change problem and how the project will address it

Given the multitude and complexity of the identified climate change induced problems, the proposed programme can only address a set of prioritized issues in the selected project sites. Due to the dependence of the people on irrigated agriculture and the vulnerability of their livelihoods to the impacts of ongoing and predicted climate change, making more resilient irrigation systems towards these impacts is a priority need.

Both government and local communities play a key role in addressing climate change impact in Afghanistan. The capacity of decision makers must be developed to allow them to take informed decisions and to implement immediate and long-term solutions. Rural communities need greater awareness of the impacts of climate change and the degradation of their environment from unsustainable land-use practices. They need assistance in the development of livelihoods, which are sustainable under the conditions of climate change.

This project's overall objective is the increased resilience to climate change impact of the livelihoods of rural communities depending on irrigated arable farming by ensuring the supply of irrigation water under changing climate conditions.

### Alignment with key country priorities and stakeholders engaged

Directly contributing the national priority programmes of the Government through "National Comprehensive Agriculture Development Priority Program and Citizens Charter National Priority Programme"

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## Activities

The project will achieve this in selected rural communities by implementing two interrelated components resulting in two outcomes:

1. Building individual and institutional capacity of rural communities to assess, plan, maintain and use climate change adapted irrigation infrastructure; and
2. Rehabilitation of irrigation schemes at community level by improving groundwater recharge, reconstruction of water abstraction, delivery, inter-farm and on-farm distribution systems.

## Expected outcomes

- Awareness about climate change impact on irrigated farming and capacities to plan, deploy, use and maintain climate resilient irrigation infrastructure of local community institutions and individuals developed.
- Irrigation schemes at community level rehabilitated by improving groundwater recharge, reconstruction of water abstraction, delivery systems, inter-farm and on-farm distribution networks.

## Paradigm shift potential

The project outcomes are closely aligned and coordinated with efforts already underway within Afghanistan to promote development and SDG targets. The project focuses on strengthening the capacity of national and sub-national entities to adapt with climate change impacts. To ensure the paradigm shift and sustainability of the project interventions beyond the project lifetime, ownership of the project by government structures (primarily MRRD, NEPA and MAIL) is of paramount importance.

The project builds on traditional institutions for irrigation infrastructure construction and maintenance and regulation of water supply, which functioned for centuries, still exist in some extent in rural areas with irrigated lands or have been functioning until recently. Such institutions include, e.g., people elected by the communities, which oversee karez and canal systems and regulate water distribution in the communities – e.g., the mirabbashi, mirab and karezkan. There are also elders' councils of village and local councils shura, which deal with the maintenance and allocation of resources, including irrigation water. The project will assist in reviving or newly establishing suitable institutions and their integration in the Community Development Councils, inter-village and district institutions, including existing Water User Associations and Irrigation Associations, which is an explicit policy of the government and will make sure the sustainability of the project interventions.