Afghanistan: Water Resources Development Investment Program - Project 2

**Project Name:** Water Resources Development Investment Program - Project 2

**Project Number:** 42091-043

**Country:** Afghanistan

**Project Status:** Active

**Project Type / Modality of Assistance:** Grant

**Source of Funding / Amount:**
- Grant 0362-AFG: Water Resources Development Investment Program - Project 2
- concessional ordinary capital resources lending / Asian Development Fund
- US$ 100.00 million

**Strategic Agendas:** Inclusive economic growth

**Drivers of Change**
- Agriculture, natural resources and rural development - Agricultural policy, institutional and capacity development - Irrigation

**Gender Equity and Mainstreaming:** No gender elements

**Description:**
The proposed Lower Kokcha Irrigation Project (LKIP) will rehabilitate and improve the Shahrawan and Archi canals. Both canals suffer under both scour and sedimentation and water levels (Shahrawan canal) and capacity (Archi canal) are compromised if no works are undertaken. The Shahrawan intake, the approach channel and outflow channel have degraded significantly and are in danger of being washed away. Failure of water delivery would negatively impact around 46,000 ha of crops. The Shahrawan intake headworks will be rehabilitated and upgraded to fully discharge its design flow (60 m³/s) in a controlled manner into the Shahrawan canal. The Archi main canal will be rehabilitated and upgraded to its original design capacity of 36 m³/s (current flow rate is estimated at 30 m³/s). The flow capacity of the canal will continually degrade in the future in the absence of the project, further reducing the current area of crops of 23,041 ha (ie 85.3% crop intensity). The technology proposed is compatible with local conditions and comprises mostly unlined canals, with lined canals in areas of high flows. The project will strengthen water management institutions through creating irrigation and water users associations, and strengthening river basin and sub-basin authorities. To ensure sufficient operations and maintenance (O&M) the concept of an irrigation service fee will be introduced in Lower Kokcha Irrigation Scheme (LKIS), tied to equity and reliability of water supply and incremental benefits.

**Project Rationale and Linkage to Country/Regional Strategy:**
The Project area and the adjoining areas were historically considered the bread basket for the country. Nonetheless, the 30 years of conflict situation severely degraded the water resources infrastructure in the country, particularly in the project area. Over the period the capacity of the institutions to manage and also weakened and severely impaired the productivity of the agricultural sector, and the rural livelihoods for the communities largely dependent on the farming sector. The main objective of the Project is to enhance farm productivity through efficient and equitable irrigation distribution system, safe disposal of drainage effluent and hill torrents, reduction in waterlogging and salinity, and fostering better on farm water management practices. It is anticipated that the investment will have a positive impact of farm productivity both through horizontal and vertical expansion, vis-à-vis increase in the cropped area, cropping intensity, and higher yields per ha and per m³ of water.

**Impact:**
- Increased agricultural production in Kunduz and Takhar provinces in northern Afghanistan

**Project Outcome**

**Description of Outcome:** Improved water resources management in the Lower Kokcha Irrigation System

**Progress Toward Outcome:**
- Construction activities have not yet started. Award of the civil works ICB under T2 was canceled in 2016 due to some observations of the national procurement committee which was chaired by the President. Right after that, it was decided to repackage the main civil works into several sub-projects. For this purpose, MEW recruited international consultants and the main civil works package was split into 8 sub-projects. Procurement of the first two sub-projects is currently under process and are expected to be awarded in Q2 2018. On the other hand, MFF extension was also requested by the government and all the required actions towards extension were taken. The Board approved extension of the MFF to 21 September 2022 on 15 January 2018.

**Implementation Progress**

**Description of Project Outputs**
1. The Shahrawan and Archi main canals deliver reliable irrigation supplies
2. Improved capacity of water management and agricultural extension institutions
3. The project is implemented on time and within the budget

**Status of Implementation Progress (Outputs, Activities, and Issues):**
Construction activities have not yet started. Award of the civil works ICB under T2 was canceled in 2016 due to some observations of the national procurement committee which was chaired by the President. Right after that, it was decided to repackage the main civil works into several sub-projects. For this purpose, MEW recruited international consultants and the main civil works package was split into 8 sub-projects. Procurement of the first two sub-projects is currently under process and are expected to be awarded in Q2 2018. On the other hand, MFF extension was also requested by the government and all the required actions towards extension were taken. The Board approved extension of the MFF to 21 September 2022 on 15 January 2018.

**Geographical Location:** Dasht-e Archi, Imam Sahib, Kwhaja Ghar, Nahr-e Archi, Wilyayat-e Takhar

**Safeguard Categories**
- Environment: B
- Involuntary Resettlement: B
- Indigenous Peoples: C
Summary of Environmental and Social Aspects

Environmental Aspects

The project is category B for environment. An IEE has been prepared which comprises descriptions of (i) the LKIP area baseline environment; (ii) the physical and non-physical works; (iii) the potential impacts of these works; (iv) an environmental management plan (EMP); (v) a description of residual impacts remaining after EMP implementation; and (vi) recommendations for additional studies if required. The key findings of the IEE are that potential impacts are expected to be satisfactorily managed through EMP measures, which include attention to (i) land acquisition and resettlement; (ii) typical construction-phase dust, noise and solid waste impacts; (iii) impacts of construction on physical cultural resources including archaeological sites and artifacts and local biodiversity; (iv) impacts of altered irrigation and drainage operation on (a) vulnerable groups including but not limited to Kuchi and tail-end communities and (b) domestic water supply.

Involuntary Resettlement

The project is Category B for involuntary resettlement. The estimated area of land acquisition for the project is 172 ha, which is comprised of land required for construction of canals (84 ha) and drains (88 ha). The number of affected persons requiring resettlement as a result of these activities is estimated at 195 (40 households). Under the LARF, prepared and agreed for the Investment Program following the Government’s laws and regulations, and ADB’s Safeguards Policy Statement (SPS) (2009) and subsequently updated, all displaced persons will be entitled to compensation for land acquired and lost assets at their replacement cost. They will also be assisted in improving, or at least restoring, their pre-intervention income and livelihood standards, and productive capacity. A draft LARP has been prepared which will be updated after the detailed designs and sent to ADB for approval. The PMU will supervise LARP updating and implementation by the PIO staffed by a Resettlement Specialist, with the support of the detailed design and supervision consultants and with a supporting NGO for LARP implementation. Before implementing the LARP a qualified and experienced external monitoring and evaluation expert will also be engaged to assess performance and impacts. The LARP will be disclosed in Dari at MEW PMO and local offices and amongst the APs in the project area. In accordance with ADB’s public communications policy, monitoring reports on LARP implementation will be posted on the ADB website.

Indigenous Peoples

The project is Category C for indigenous peoples impact. The Project does not trigger safeguards for and requirements from indigenous peoples under SPS (2009) and no indigenous development framework or plan is required.

Stakeholder Communication, Participation, and Consultation

During Project Design

A survey of project area was undertaken during feasibility study. A further survey and community consultation of affected persons was undertaken during preparation of the land acquisition and resettlement plan.

During Project Implementation

Community workshops will be held by resettlement specialists to discuss LARP and any resettlement issues. Formal coordination with Community Development Councils (CDCs) will take place to prioritize and plan rehabilitation of secondary and tertiary structures. CDCs and local mirabs will be involved in development of WUAs. Two NGOs will be contracted to undertake community consultation.

Business Opportunities

Consulting Services

Firm (resettlement, M&E) $1.10 m QCBS (80:20)
Firm (water management, pilot watershed) $5.86 m QCBS (80:20)
Consultant (International) $0.48 m ICS
Consultant (National) $53,000 ICS

Procurement

Civil works -
1. Rehabilitation of main canals and intakes $70.78 million ICB
2. Rehabilitation of secondary and tertiary canals $5.07 million Community Contracting
Goods:
Motorcycles $12,000 Shopping
Field Survey Instruments $5,000 Shopping
Water measurement instruments $25,000 Shopping
Computer Sets $9,820 Shopping
Office furniture $4,820 Shopping

Responsible ADB Officer

Qanet, Hizbullah

Responsible ADB Department

Central and West Asia Department

Responsible ADB Division

Afghanistan Resident Mission

Executing Agencies

Ministry of Finance
INFO@MOV.GOV.AF
Pashtunistan Watt,
Kabul,
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Timetable

Concept Clearance -
Fact Finding -
MRM 15 Jul 2013
Approval 08 Oct 2013
Last Review Mission -
Last PDS Update 25 Sep 2018

Grant 0362-AFG

Milestones

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Project Page: [https://www.adb.org/projects/42091-043/main](https://www.adb.org/projects/42091-043/main)


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