

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA**



**Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation**

**Federal Government of Somalia**

**Additional Finance ( AF) Food Systems Resilience Project**

**(P177816)**

**Appraisal Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

**FINAL**

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### List of Acronyms

APFS	Agro-pastoralists Field Schools
CBOs/NGOs	Community Based Organization / Non-Government Organizations
CCAP	Climate Change Action Plan
CERC	Contingent Emergency Response Component
CDDCs	Community Driven Development Committees
CIGs	Common Interest Groups
DRIVE	De-risking, Inclusion and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies in the Horn of Africa
DCAS	Digital climate advisory system
DAT	Disruptive Agriculture Technology
DINA	Drought Impact Needs Assessment
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environment and Social Framework
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESIRT	Environmental and Social Incident Reporting
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FPOs	Farmer Producer Organizations
FSRP	Food System and Resilience Project
FMS	Federal Member States
FFS	Farmer Field School
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GC	Grievance Committee
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Produce
GRID	Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development
GRS	Grievance Redress Service
GM	Grievance Mechanism
IDPs	Internally Displaced Person
ICT	Information and communication technology
LMP	Labour Management Procedure
MoLFR	Ministry of Livestock Fishery and Range
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
MoPIED	Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development
MoECC	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
MIS	Management Information System
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NALRI	National Livestock Research Institutions
NPCU	National Project Coordination Unit
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
RRF	Recovery and Resilience Framework
SCD	Systematic Country Diagnostic

SPSC	state Level Project Steering Committee
SPCU	State Level Project Coordination Unit
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards
SCALED-UP	Somalia Capacity Advancement, Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship Digital Uplift Project
SRA	Security Risk Assessment
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SEA	Sexual Exploitation & Abuse
TA	Technical Assistance
TADs	Transboundary Animal Diseases
TIMPs	Technologies, Innovations, and Management Practices
WBG	World Bank Group
WHO	World Health Organization

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

1. Somalia has been on a trajectory toward political stabilization and reconstruction. In 2012, a Provisional Constitution was adopted, establishing the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS). Following this political transition and the subsequent establishment of Federal Member States (FMSs), periodic elections since 2012 have been conducted through representatives and described as relatively peaceful and transitions although faced with challenges, smooth. The last elections faced some delays but later held in 2022 establishing the current administration. The sustained political, economic, and institutional reforms have enabled the rebuilding of core state functions, though the country's fiscal position remains largely supported by official development assistance, remittances, and foreign direct investment. The country still faces persistent insecurity, conflict, and unresolved political tensions, as demonstrated by the delay of the elections from 2020 to 2022. A new President was officially inaugurated on June 9, 2022.
2. Somalia's economic growth trajectory has seen a moderate acceleration in recent years, supported by rebounds in agriculture, private consumption, and exports, despite significant challenges. Real GDP growth rose to 4.2% in 2023 and is expected to reach 4.4% in 2024, driven by favorable rains that improved agricultural output and a reduction in inflation due to easing global commodity prices. However, poverty remains widespread, with projections showing that 72% of the population will still be living below the poverty line by 2024. Domestic revenue is also very low, comprising just 2.8% of GDP in 2023, which limits Somalia's ability to independently fund necessary social and economic investments. Although the government closed the 2023 budget with a small surplus, fiscal constraints remain, with heavy reliance on external grants, which accounted for 55% of total revenues.
3. Agriculture and livestock continue to be pivotal for Somalia's economic stability and growth potential. Agricultural production, which employs over 70% of Somalia's population, benefitted from good rainfall in the Gu and Deyr seasons of 2023, resulting in higher crop yields and livestock health. However, flooding during the Deyr season impacted riverine areas of Somalia, highlighting the sector's vulnerability to climate variability. Somalia's 2023 deyr season brought extreme rainfall and severe flooding, driven by El Niño, resulting in total damages and losses of \$57 million, severely impacting agriculture and livestock sectors. The floods destroyed irrigation infrastructure, crops, pastures, and livestock, affecting approximately 68,000 households, particularly in 16 districts of the southern and central regions, including Jubaland, Southwest, Hirshabelle, and Galmudug states, with Beletweyne in Hirshabelle, and Dolow and Baardheere in Jubaland among the most severely impacted districts. Crop production losses, particularly of staple crops like maize and sorghum, amounted to 12,800 metric tons, while milk production losses exceeded one million liters. These disruptions significantly diminished household incomes and heightened food insecurity, with an additional 304,980 people facing food stress or crisis levels. Recovery needs for the agriculture and livestock sectors were estimated at \$60 million, as per the post disaster needs assessment (PDNA). Immediate interventions prioritized distribution of agricultural inputs and rehabilitation of irrigation systems to support future planting seasons.
4. Based on the rapid needs assessment, the Federal Government of Somalia determined the October – December 2023 as an eligible emergency to trigger the Contingent Emergency Response Component ("CERC") under Somalia FSRP. The Federal Ministry of Finance also submitted a formal request on February 7, 2024, requesting allocation of US\$ 28.28 million under the CERC, to implement a range of immediate and long-term recovery interventions

identified under the Contingency Emergency Response Action Plan (CERAP). Immediate actions under CERC included the provision of food and non-food items, cash-for-work programs, and emergency animal health services to stabilize affected communities. The plan also focused on distributing seeds, tools, and inputs to enable farmers to restart cultivation in time for the next planting season. In the medium to long term, investments targeted at rehabilitating irrigation systems and flood control infrastructure, critical for protecting agricultural areas against future flooding. Additionally, the government aimed to strengthen market access by rebuilding feeder roads and market facilities, which over 50% of respondents reported as damaged. Establishing early warning systems in key river basins was also identified as a priority, providing real-time monitoring to mitigate the impacts of future flood events. The allocation of USD 28.28 million to Component -5 (CERC) of Somalia FSRP was approved on February 29th, 2024 and implementation of activities is ongoing as per the CERAP.

5. The World Bank, working closely with the government of Somali and other governments in the region, proposes to provide an operational framework for participating countries in Eastern and Southern Africa to build more resilient food systems that can support sustainable food security, enhanced rural livelihoods and healthy ecosystems. Under the regional Food Systems Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa (FSRP P178566), the parent project will build food systems resilience and boost food security in Somalia by **supporting** mobilization and capacity building of community institutions and producer organizations, **improving** outreach and quality of extension and animal health services, large scale demonstration and adoption of climate-smart agricultural (CSA) practices, **enhancing** access to finance and markets for livestock farmers, and build long term capacity of stakeholder institutions and value chain actors. The AF project aims to to serve two purposes. They are to (i) restructure the project to retroactively reflect the reallocation of US\$28.28 million to the CERC; (ii) to replenish the component funding to original allocation and provide additional resources to the MoAI to support operationalizing the Somalia Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan (FSCPP).
6. From a regional perspective, improved agriculture and livestock productivity and resilience in Somalia will have profound positive effects on regional food security. Severe food insecurity driven by extreme climate shocks is a feature of the Horn of Africa. Somalia alone accounts for more than 25 percent of all the food insecure population in the region. At the same time, the country has vast untapped natural resources which, if sustainably managed, can boost national and regional prosperity. Improved sectoral performance of agriculture and livestock can also alleviate long standing tussles and conflicts in the country and improve overall investment environment in the region. The inclusion of Somali in the project is strategically crucial for achievement of food security and food systems resilience objectives in the region. Agriculture and Livestock has been identified as a top policy priority at national and state level across Somalia. During the latest National Development Plan (NDP) 2019-2024 consultations, Agriculture was accorded the top priority sector by four of the five member states.
7. This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI) of the Federal Government of Somalia—together with other government ministries including Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range (MoLFR)—for the regional Food Systems Resilience (FSR) Program for Eastern and Southern Africa Project, supported by the World Bank Group (WBG). As per the WBG’s Environment and Social Framework (ESF), and specifically under Environmental and Social Standard 10 (ESS10), *Stakeholders’ Engagement and Information Disclosure*, the borrower shall provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation.

8. Stakeholder engagement is an inclusive process conducted throughout the project life cycle. Where properly designed and implemented, it supports the development of strong, constructive, and responsive relationships that are important for the successful management of a project's environmental and social risks. Stakeholder engagement is most effective when initiated at an early stage of the project development process, and remains an integral part of early project decisions and assessment, management, and monitoring of the project's environmental and social risks and impacts.

## **1.2 Project description**

9. The project seeks to build long term food systems resilience through investments in enabling infrastructure, institutional capacity, resilience enhancing innovations, and inclusion of women farmers into mainstream agriculture extension and service delivery. The parent project and the AF will contribute to improved productivity for key crop and livestock value chains, enhance access to climate smart inputs and technologies, support inclusive growth and job creation in agri-business sector, and build resilience against climate shocks through a range of adaptive and mitigation measures.
10. The AF project will also support rapid production solutions such as distribution of seeds, fertilizers, and animal feed as well as asset replacement through livestock restocking, anchoring short term response to climate shocks and food security emergencies. The proposed activities are consistent with the pillars under the FSRP Multiphase Programmatic Approach and are strategically aligned with the National Development Plan (2019-2024) and the FY19-22 Country Partnership Framework for Somalia (2018).
11. The resilience building will be undertaken through four primary investment pathways: i) rejuvenating Somalia's agri-livestock research institutions, seed systems, extension services, and develop community institutions that can anchor adaptation of climate smart agri-livestock practices, ii) strengthening the availability of water and improved rangelands management for resilient agriculture and livestock production, iii) strengthening the integration of the production systems to domestic and regional markets, with appropriate investments in food safety and value addition, and iv) establishing an enabling policy and institutional framework at sub-national, national and regional level capable of supporting food systems resilience for Somalia. To support these investment pathways, SFSRP comprises of five technical components in addition to the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC).
12. Somalia's 2023 deyr season brought extreme rainfall and severe flooding, driven by El Niño, resulting in total damages and losses of \$57 million, severely impacting agriculture and livestock sectors. The floods destroyed irrigation infrastructure, crops, pastures, and livestock, affecting approximately 68,000 households, particularly in 16 districts of the southern and central regions, including Jubaland, Southwest, Hirshabelle, and Galmudug states, with Beletweyne in Hirshabelle, and Dolow and Baardheere in Jubaland among the most severely impacted districts. Crop production losses, particularly of staple crops like maize and sorghum, amounted to 12,800 metric tons, while milk production losses exceeded one million liters. These disruptions significantly diminished household incomes and heightened food insecurity, with an additional 304,980 people facing food stress or crisis levels. Recovery needs for the agriculture and livestock sectors were estimated at \$60 million, as per the post disaster needs assessment (PDNA).

13. In February 7, 2024, the Federal Ministry of Finance submitted a formal request requesting allocation of US\$ 28.28 million under the CERC, to implement a range of immediate and long-term recovery interventions identified under the Contingency Emergency Response Action Plan (CERAP). Immediate actions under CERC included the provision of food and non-food items, cash-for-work programs, and emergency animal health services to stabilize affected communities. The allocation of USD 28.28 million to Component -5 (CERC) of Somalia FSRP was approved on February 29th, 2024 and implementation of activities is ongoing as per the CERAP.
14. Somalia faces persistent food and nutrition security (FNS) challenges, largely due to repeated climate shocks, and compounded by prolonged political instability and economic vulnerabilities. However, the existing response mechanisms often operate in silos, with limited government leadership, preventing timely and coordinated action. The government has now established Somalia Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plan (FSCPP), which aims to address these needs by improving coordination and ensuring rapid, well-organized responses to extraordinary FNS crises. Recognizing gaps in previous crisis management efforts, the new FSCPP provides a clear framework for the Somali government, federal member states, and international partners to collaboratively monitor and respond to emerging crises. It establishes an early warning system, integrates disaster risk financing, and sets protocols for mobilizing resources across humanitarian, development, and peace-building sectors. The FSCPP introduces a government-led, unified framework to monitor emerging crises, activate early interventions, and coordinate efforts across humanitarian, development, and donor partners. By integrating disaster risk financing and anticipatory action within the broader fiscal framework, the FSCPP aims to mitigate the financial impact of crises and strengthen national resilience.
15. The Additional Financing (AF) will serve two purposes. They are to (i) restructure the project to retroactively reflect the reallocation of US\$28.28 million to the CERC; (ii) to replenish the component funding to original allocation and provide additional resources to the MoAI to support operationalizing the FSCPP.
16. The project components, sub-components and resource allocation is outlined below:

**Table 1: Project Component**

	Component	Cost (USD million)
1	<b>Comp. 1: Agriculture and Livestock public good and services for food security</b> <b>Sub-comp 1.1:</b> Re-building Agri-Livestock Research, Extension and Seed Systems <b>Sub-comp 1.2:</b> Community engagement and Technology Transfer <b>Sub-comp 1.3:</b> Digital Farmer Solutions and data systems	40
2.	<b>Comp. 2: Sustainable landscapes for resilient food systems</b> <b>Sub-comp 2.1:</b> Strengthening water availability for agriculture and livestock <b>Sub-comp 2.2:</b> Strengthening rangeland management for agriculture and livestock	40
3.	<b>Comp 3: Regional and domestic markets for food security</b> <b>Sub-comp 3.1:</b> Developing market facing institutions <b>Sub-comp 3.2:</b> Market Infrastructure and Enterprise Development <b>Sub-comp 3.3:</b> De-risking production through credit and savings	20



4.	<b>Comp. 4: Institutions, policies and knowledge for regional food security</b> <b>Sub-comp 4.1:</b> Enabling policy and capacity building for resilient agriculture <b>Sub-comp 4.2:</b> Enabling policy and capacity building for resilient livestock	35
5.	<b>Comp.5: Contingency emergency Response</b>	28
6.	<b>Comp. 6: Project Coordination and Management</b> Sub-comp 6.1: Project Implementation and Coordination Sub-comp 6.2: Monitoring and Evaluation	15
	<b>Total</b>	150

*Component 1: Agriculture and Livestock public goods and services for food security*

This component is focused on strengthening the foundation for resilient production capacity and productivity in agriculture and livestock sector by rejuvenating Somalia's agri-livestock research institutions and seed systems, and building capacity for improved extension and advisory service delivery to small-holders at scale.

**Component 1.1: Re-building Agri-Livestock Research, Extension and Seed Systems**

This sub-component will support key agricultural and livestock research institutions at FGS and FMS level. Two flagship research institutions will be established one each focusing on rainfed and irrigated areas. Additionally, at least 1 satellite center in each participating FMS will be supported. It shall include support for upgradation of research infrastructure, development of testing and certification capacity, and technical trainings and capacity building. It further proposes to establish a National Livestock Research Institutions (NALRI) and National Genetic and Artificial Insemination Center. Conditional scholarships for technical education including doctorates, MSCs, Diplomas, Training and exposure visits will be awarded each year to bolster availability of high-quality professional resources within the sector.

The sub-components will support investments to strengthen extension infrastructure including updating of soil maps and soil testing systems, early warning systems for floods and livestock related events, upgradation of weather information systems, and market information Systems. Strengthening the livestock extension infrastructure, the sub-component will also support expansion of EDMUs and disease monitoring facilities at FGS and FMS level, and strengthen the National Referral Veterinary Lab. The sub-component will strengthen public veterinary services by supporting key investments identified through the OIE assessment supported by SCRP. Mass vaccination campaigns to safeguards against Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) will be supported and cross-border animal health surveillance systems will be strengthened.

Strengthening seed systems, this sub-component will build national capacity for introduction, testing and large-scale delivery of drought tolerant and high yielding food and forage crops varieties. The project will utilize regional institutional capacity and experience in developing climate resilient varieties in Somalia. Under the sub-component, large scale field adaptation trials will be supported for identified varieties and seed farmer groups will be developed and linked with agro-dealers. Additionally, new or existing seed certification facilities will be strengthened to

ensure input quality. Somali Agriculture Regulatory and Inspection Services will be supported to build on investments of SCRIP to strengthen seed systems. The sub-component will also support wide-spread distribution of household level kitchen garden seed kits, providing a micro-demonstration of diversification while also strengthening household nutrition.

Lastly, the sub-component will build on research focused investments and support development of a full suite of resilience enhancing climate smart agriculture and livestock technologies, innovations, and management practices (TIMPs) most suited to different regions and value chains. The focus of the TIMPs repository will be to deliver value chain specific package of practices based on proven research, amenable for large scale dissemination through public and community-based extension systems.

### ***Component 1.2: Community Engagement and Technology Transfer***

This sub-component will support investments into development of a strong institutional foundation at the community level by through mobilization of farmers, agro-pastoralists and pastoralists into common interest groups (CIGs) as platforms for collective capacity building, with high emphasis on inclusion of women and youth smallholder farmers. CIGs will comprise of 15-25 farmers and agro-pastoralists working on common value chains. CIGs will be intensively trained and supported to identify key challenges within their value chains and community based micro-project investments will be made to support adoption of CSA technology packages. CIGs will be supported to double up as local nodes for linkage with emerging producer organizations for marketing crop and livestock produce.

Secondly, the sub-component will support large scale adoption of the Farmer Field School (FFS) and Agro-pastoralists Field Schools (APFS) approach, building farmer knowledge and capacity to adopt CSA practices, through demonstration plots and deployment of community-based extension service providers. The project will support a hybrid extension approach wherein lead farmers or community-based facilitators will be identified at farmer groups level, to be further trained in facilitating FFS locally. Every FFS will be supported to develop demonstration plots and will be the epicentre of extension service delivery, training farmers on TIMPs, supporting adaptive research and field trials activities. The community-based facilitators will be supported to evolve into local agri-entrepreneurs who can anchor a range of farmer and pastoralist support services including inputs, extension, and market linkage. The project will place a strong emphasis on improving the gender mix of extension service providers at the local level and development of gender sensitive extension content and delivery mechanisms, including women focused specific TIMPs module around nutrition sensitive agriculture.

Thirdly, the sub-component will also reserve support for asset restoration post climate shocks for farmers and pastoralists including small scale animal restocking, support for seasonal inputs, and community-based assets.

### ***Component 1.3: Digital Farmer Solutions and Data Systems***

This sub-component will support investments in development of an updated national farmers and pastoralist database as a foundational to data driven policy making in agriculture and livestock. Additionally, this sub-component will support expansion of the livestock identification and traceability system initiated under DRIVE project. Building on the farmer registration, research and extension support interventions under C-1.1 and 1.2, C-1.3 will support investment in building a national digital climate advisory system (DCAS) to support real time

advisory and early warning systems for registered farmers. The project will also incubate a Disruptive Agriculture Technology (DAT) platform by mapping various emerging digital solutions in Somali Agriculture and Livestock sector and supporting these solutions to scale their operations by linking with the national farmer registry and DCAS. Furthermore, the TIMPs content developed under C 1.2 will be suitably adapted for delivery through digital channels.

The DCAS will also be linked to regional advisory and surveillance platforms to ensure real time information sharing and coordination for proactive response to pest and disease outbreaks, potential climate shocks, and regional and global price trends. Enhanced access to agro-advisory for women farmers will be a key focus area for digital solutions. In addition to demand based and customized agro-advisory services, DAT solutions will be deployed to support provision of digital financial services, including bundled credit and insurance services, ultimately de-risking production for small-farmers and pastoralists.

## **Component 2: Sustainable landscapes for resilient food systems.**

This component will be implemented in close coordination with other ongoing Bank-funded projects aimed at strengthening the availability of water and improvement rangelands management for resilient agriculture and livestock production.

### *Component 2.1: Strengthening water availability for agriculture and livestock*

This sub-component will focus on improving water availability for agriculture and livestock through rehabilitation of dilapidated irrigation infrastructure in potentially high impact riverine areas while supporting complementary investments in water points and catchments in rainfed areas. In riverine areas, the sub-component will support rehabilitation of barrages, water gates, and canals, mainly through co-investment with SCRP for already identified and assessed canals. In rainfed areas, the project will focus on leveraging ongoing water point investments in Biyoole and Horn of Africa Groundwater project and support irrigation solutions for bringing water to Ag fields from water points while also making need based additional investments in water harvesting and water catchment structures. In improved irrigation zones, the project will support farmer led fodder production through solar energy solutions, spate irrigation, and contour bunding and terracing. Across all project areas, the sub-component will strengthen operations and maintenance of multi-use water points by building capacity of Water use associations. Renewable energy solutions for pumping will be utilized as a climate smart and cost optimization option.

In addition, since water infrastructures such as berkads and dams are highly vulnerable to evaporation and siltation, the project will introduce ways of reducing evaporation losses from open reservoirs by learning from good local practices, such as growing various plant laid over and supported by structure made from metal wires or plant poles and/or using corrugated iron sheets.

The choice of the infrastructure to be supported in each states shall be treated on case-by-case basis depending on the comparative advantages, relevancies and appropriateness. Equally, determination of site specific water infrastructure typologies shall be identified through enhanced technical assistance (TA). To this end, the sub-component will have a strong project planning/design, implementation and O&M capacity building elements (incl. TA support) with focus on community-led infrastructure development, restoration and management to improve water availability for crops and livestock including multi-purpose uses.

### *Component 2.2: Strengthening rangeland management for agriculture and livestock*

This component will focus on strengthening the livestock sector through restoration of degraded rangelands through soil and land improvement practices, reforestation around pastoral and agro-pastoral settlements, and promotion of feed and fodder enterprises including via incentives and adoption of climate resistant seeds, and establishment of fodder storage structures.

Large scale afforestation drive and re-seeding of pastures will be anchored under this component with greater focus on fast growing, nutritive grasses and new age forage varieties identified and validated under Component-1. CIGs and other community institutions will be engaged to improve the capacity of communities (including women and youth) to sustainably manage their natural resources, to support rangeland rehabilitation and improve availability of fodder. Technical assistance for reforestation and afforestation, the reseeded of pasturelands, the planting of drought-resistant and fast-growing grasses and legumes, as well as the use of micro-catchments to enhance water filtration and various flood control technologies.

Secondly, the sub-component will support introduction of sustainable rangeland-based livelihoods including green charcoal production, and sustainable tapping practices for gum and frankincense. The project will support expanded use of the invasive *Prosopis juliflora* tree (mesquite or, in Somali, *garaanwa*), including for charcoal and commercial livestock feed. Enterprises and private sector players looking to undertake this activity will be provided incubation support and technical assistance to develop viable business models. The subcomponent will support applied research to analyze and recommend suitable pathways for rangeland rehabilitation including opportunities for resting pasture land/deferred (delayed) grazing and spatial/temporal distribution of water points (location/quantity) to avoid overgrazing. For protecting the health, productivity and sustainability of frankincense, myrrh, and gum arabic production in Puntland and Somaliland, the FSRP will support promotion and enforcement of sustainable tapping methods, new private investments in processing for value addition, and quality standards that are important for the export market.

Thirdly, the sub-component will support rangeland compatible water management and fodder production. This includes community driven enforcement of rotational grazing, distribution of fodder seeds and development of food production groups and enterprises, increase fodder and feed productivity and reducing production costs through capacity building, aggregation, increasing storage capacity and processing capacity, and achieving economies of scale. The sub-component will support investments in modern post-harvest technologies including upgraded long-term storage for feed and fodder to mitigate drought risks for livestock. Community based fodder storage structures will be established in high production clusters to minimize losses associated with poor harvesting and storage practices.

### **Component 3: Regional and domestic markets for food security.**

This component will build on the agriculture productivity and farmer institutions development investments made under components 1 and 2 to strengthen the orientation of the production systems to domestic and regional markets, with appropriate investments in food safety and value addition.

#### *Component 3.1: Developing market facing institutions*

This sub-component will support investments in strengthening new and existing Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and value chain enterprises that can anchor key market facing services including supply of high quality inputs, aggregation, value addition and market linkage. The project will provide collective grants to FPOs to support

operational expansion and inclusion of more small-farmers and pastoralists, to incubate agri-business and value addition activities, and to support digitization of FPO operations.

In the livestock sector, the sub-component will support PO level investments in value addition for livestock products including promotion of chilled and frozen meat export, milk processing including pasteurization, yogurt, cheese, and long shelf life milk, and investment under PPP arrangement in hatcheries and chicken feed meat.

To catalyze sustainable long term finance from private sector and financial institutions, the project will provide small scale seed capital and matching grants to POs, as well as capital investment support to build their capacity for value addition, marketing, and branding. In addition to Producer Organizations, this sub-component will also provide strategic investment and technical assistance support to select value chain enterprises that exhibit the potential to significantly impact the quality of production and market linkage services for small-farmers and/or are leading innovators within their value chains in supporting farmer extension, market linkages and resilience building. Support to such enterprises will be in Public-Private partnership mode (PPP) clearly outlining the shared vision of food systems resilience and roles for each party.

### *Component 3.2: Market Infrastructure and Enterprise Development*

This sub-component will support enhanced marketability of crop and livestock produce through systemic investments in improving food safety, traceability, and value addition. The project will adopt the One Health approach to investments in market infrastructure that focus on enabling improved handling of crop and livestock produce, and adherence to SPS standards. These may include investments into cold chain infrastructure for livestock produce, grading, sorting and processing facilities for crop produce, and improved storage infrastructure to reduce post-harvest losses and aflatoxin contamination. In addition, the subcomponent will support rehabilitation of selected prewar trunk and rural feeder roads having strategic importance to address critical transportation bottlenecks for improved input/output market.

This sub-component will focus on upgradation of market infrastructure in key market centers of regional importance, with a strong focus on investments in improving the quality and safety of food produce. The project will support wide scale capacity building of value chain stakeholders in complying with the sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS), with structure training and certification programs for farmer groups, agro-processors and exporter. The sub-component will support investments in improvement of animal health certification for inbounds at borders and out-bounds at four export ports. Strategic cold chain investments will also be supported for perishable commodities such as milk, and meat. For agriculture produce, the sub-component will support PO level investments in aggregation, grading, and sorting and will test and validate low energy cooling solutions for horticulture produce. Finally, this sub-component will also identify and support high impact investments in market support infrastructure such as feeder roads for market access, holding grounds with associated services (including veterinary and feed) for live animal trade, and PPP based investments in common processing facilities.

Infrastructure investments at market level will be undertaken in the PPP mode to the extent possible and will focus on creating new jobs for local communities. These may include investments into feeder road construction and rehabilitation, common testing facilities, warehousing facilities, and cold chain storage. Considering the primacy of livestock in exports, the project will support establishment of a national livestock identification, registration and traceability system, that can later be also expanded to all livestock products. This system will build on the national

farmer and pastoralist registry developed under C-1.2 and will help ensure animal health and quality and safety of animal products and thus to sustain and expand both exports and domestic demand. The focus of project support will be to ensure inclusion of small farmers especially women farmers engaged in production of these commodities but lacking the negotiating skills and linkage capacity to export oriented clusters.

*Component 3.3: De-risking production through credit and savings.*

This sub-component will build the capacity of small farmers and pastoralists to leverage formal finance by supporting group level savings and collateral free small credit for agri-livestock production. Group level revolving funds will be provided through a matching grant mechanism, catalysing regular savings at the community level. Group level support for small loans will focus on provision of resources for member farmers to adopt TIMPs developed under the project. The sub-component will support intensive financial literacy training for project beneficiaries and to the extent possible, financial transactions at CIGs and above will be digitized to develop credible performance metrics for small farmers and pastoralists. For the purpose of supporting access to climate smart inputs, the project will also explore financial support to select FPOs that will enable advance collective purchase of key inputs and services.

***Component 4: Promoting a Greater Focus on Food Systems Resilience in National and Regional Policymaking:***

This component will focus on establishing an enabling policy and institutional framework at sub-national, national and regional level capable of supporting food systems resilience for Somalia.

*Component 4.1: Enabling policy and capacity building for resilient agriculture*

This sub-component will focus on intensive capacity building of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at FGS and corresponding line ministries at the FMS level, thus enabling them to play sectoral leadership roles in inclusive provision of agriculture support services. The sub-component will support technical capacity building of ministry through sponsored Doctorates, Master, Diplomas, Short courses and exposure visits. Additionally, the sub-component will support a comprehensive capacity assessment and undertake needful investments in areas of infrastructure upgradation, staff training, onboarding of new technical specialists to plug capacity gaps, and knowledge partnerships with prominent sectoral institutions.

The sub-component will support a national agriculture policy assessment to analyse and identify policy gaps and subsequent technical assistance to formulate new or updated policies and accompanying action plans for roll out.

This sub-component will also support crucial investments in building regional knowledge sharing partnerships with institutions of regional prominence. These partnerships will form the foundation of technical capacity enhancement for MoAI at FMS and FGS level and will also be leveraged to crowd in investments from other multi-lateral donors as well as private sector players.

The AF will enable additional allocation of USD 1.72 million to Component 4.1, specifically focused on building the capacity of MoAI. The additional allocation will support provision of necessary resources for operationalizing FSCPP, with MoAI expected to play a key coordinating role in building synergies across line ministries and external development partners in delivering coherent and proactive response to tracking, assessing, and addressing food and nutrition security crises in Somalia

## **Component 5: Contingency Emergency Response Component**

Originally US\$ 0, USD 28.28 million was allocated after CERC activation. This component is financing eligible emergency response expenditures in countries where the component has been triggered upon request of the government. Under Somalia FSRP, the component received allocation of USD 28.28 million after formal request from Federal Government of Somalia.

## **Component 6: Project coordination and knowledge management:**

Investments under this component will ensure effective implementation and coordination of the project at all levels.

### *Component 6.1: Project Implementation and Coordination*

This sub-component will support establishment and strengthening of National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU) in line with the agreed upon implementation arrangements. The sub-component will support all full time staff costs, support for office infrastructure, operations and coordination. The sub-component will also support for FMS level NPCUs including dedicated staffs and consultants to support project implementation. Additionally, the sub-component may provide support for onboarding of third-party implementing agencies to support project implementation and build FMS capacity for long term sustainability

### *Component 6.2: Monitoring and Evaluation*

This sub-component will support investments towards establishment of a full-fledged Management Information System (MIS) with requisite data collection and analysis systems and digital dashboards for decision support at all levels of implementation. The sub-component will also provide investment support for onboarding of competent technical agency to conduct impact evaluation of the project, and technical assistance and capacity building of project staffs and stakeholders for data driven decision making and performance management.

## **1.3 Project beneficiaries**

17. The project will directly benefit an estimated 350,000 small farmers, agro-pastoralists and nomadic pastoralists, of which at least 30 percent will be female. In addition, the project will support value chain stakeholders including women-owned agri-business enterprise, financial services providers, Disruptive Agriculture Technology organizations, and agriculture research and extension institutions. Additionally, the project will support investments for building inclusive POs, and infrastructure investments to upgrade value chains. Integration of ICT and digital agriculture solutions is an essential cross-cutting element in the project.

18. Farmers, livestock herders, government institutions departments, ministries, research centers and communities country-wide will benefit from improved system performance and a greater focus on enhanced agricultural productivity, food security, date and technology driven farming methods, land and resources conservation outcomes.

## **1.4 Objectives of the SEP**

19. The SEP seeks to define a structured, purposeful, genuine and culturally appropriate approach to consultation and information disclosure. The FGS recognises the diverse and varied interests and expectations of project stakeholders and seeks to develop an approach for reaching each of the stakeholders in the different capacities at which they interface with the project. The aim is to create an atmosphere of understanding that actively

involves project-affected people and other stakeholders leading to improved decision making. Overall, this SEP will serve the following purposes:

- i. Identify and analyze different stakeholders at different levels;
- ii. Plan engagement modalities through effective communication, consultations and disclosure;
- iii. Outline platforms for stakeholders to influence decisions regarding the project;
- iv. Define roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the SEP;
- v. Define reporting and monitoring measures to ensure the effectiveness of the SEP and periodic reviews of the SEP based on monitoring findings;
- vi. Define roles and responsibilities of different actors in implementing this Plan;
- vii. Elaborate the GM for the project;
- viii. Outline the dissemination of relevant project materials, including explanations of intended project benefits and, where appropriate, the setup of a project website; and
- ix. Document stakeholder consultations on proposed project design, environmental and social risks and impacts, mitigation measures, the proposed SEP, and draft environmental and social risk management instruments.

### **1.5 World Bank Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement**

20. This project is being prepared under the World Bank's Environment and Social Framework (ESF). As per the Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 10 on Stakeholders Engagement and Information Disclosure, the implementing agencies are required to provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. Effective stakeholder engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation.
21. Stakeholder engagement is an inclusive process conducted throughout the project life cycle. Where properly designed and implemented, it supports the development of strong, constructive, and responsive relationships that are important for successful management of a project's environmental and social risks. Stakeholder engagement is most effective when initiated at an early stage of the project development process, and is an integral part of early project decisions and the assessment, management, and monitoring of the project's environmental and social risks and impacts.
22. ESS 10 defines the requirements for stakeholder engagement as follows:
  - Establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that helps Borrowers; identify stakeholders and maintain a constructive relationship with them;
  - Assess stakeholder interests and support for the project and enable stakeholders' views to be taken into account in project design;
  - Promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life-cycle;
  - Ensure that appropriate project information is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner;
  - Develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts needs to be developed by the Borrower;



- The Borrower will maintain and disclose as part of the environmental and social assessment, a documented record of stakeholder engagement

## **2 Legal and Regulatory Framework**

### **2.1 National Legal and Institutional Framework**

23. Currently, policies and legislation with respect to stakeholder consultation are yet to be developed. Article 32 of the Provisional Somalia Constitution, 2012 elaborates the Right to access Information held by the state, or held by another person, and is required for the exercise or protection of any other just right. There is need for the Federal Parliament to enact laws to ensure the right of access to information is enjoyed by all. Other relevant provisions applicable to the project include:

Art. 11 provides that all citizens have equal rights, regardless of sex, and that the State must not discriminate against any person on the basis of gender.

Article 24(5) stipulated that all workers, particularly women, have a special right of protection from sexual abuse, segregation and discrimination in the work place. Every labor law and practice shall comply with gender equality in the work place

24. The Code stipulates that workers have the right to submit complaints and the employer must give the complaints due consideration. Remuneration must be adequate in view of the quality and quantity of the work delivered, and must be non-discriminatory in regards to age, gender and other aspects. Maximum number of working hours per week are 8 hours per day and 6 days per week.

### **2.2 World Bank Requirements**

25. The World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)'s Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 10 "Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure", recognizes 'the importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice'. Specifically, the requirements set out by ESS10 are the following:

- Borrowers will engage with stakeholders throughout the project cycle, commencing such engagement as early as possible in the project development process and in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design. The nature, scope and frequency of stakeholder engagement will be proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts. Borrowers will engage in meaningful consultations with all stakeholders.
- Borrowers will provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. The process of stakeholder engagement will involve the following, as set out in further detail in this ESS: (i) stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) planning how the engagement with stakeholders will take place; (iii) disclosure of information; (iv) consultation with stakeholders; (v) addressing and responding to grievances; and (vi) reporting to stakeholders.
- The Borrower will maintain and disclose as part of the environmental and social assessment, a documented record of stakeholder engagement, including a description of the stakeholders consulted, a summary of the feedback received and a brief explanation of how the feedback was considered, or the reasons why it was not.

- A Stakeholder Engagement Plan proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts needs to be developed by the Borrower. It must be disclosed as early as possible, and before project appraisal, and the Borrower needs to seek the views of stakeholders on the SEP, including on the identification of stakeholders and the proposals for future engagement. If significant changes are made to the SEP, the Borrower must disclose the updated SEP. According to ESS10, the Borrower shall also propose and implement a grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns and grievances of project-affected parties related to the environmental and social performance of the project in a timely manner.

*Table 2: Gap Analysis between the National Legislation and World Bank*

No	World Bank	National Legislation	Gaps	Gap Filling Options
1	The Objectives of ESS 10 are: To establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help Borrowers identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular project-affected parties.	Provisional Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia. Article 32 stipulated that every person has the right of access to information held by the State. The Federal Parliament shall enact a law to ensure the right of access to information.	The national legislation has no provision for the development of a specific stakeholder engagement plan.	The project will rely on the relevant provisions of the WB requirements.  The project will carry out a comprehensive consultative process with project stakeholders as being required through public disclosure meetings, individual consultations and public consultations.
2	To assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project and to enable stakeholders' views to be taken into account in project design and environmental and social performance.		The national legislation has no provisions that allow citizens to make complaints and register grievances other than the judicial system.	The NPCPU will ensure that a grievance mechanism for the project is in place, in accordance with ESS10 as early as possible in project development to address concerns from affected communities.  The project will apply the WB standard and allow anonymous submission of grievances and complaints.
3	To promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life-cycle on issues that could potentially affect them.			SEP shall be disclosed to all stakeholders and made available to the stakeholders in public areas,
4	To ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner and format including the vulnerable groups		The national legislation does not have special provisions to address the concerns of the vulnerable groups during the consultation process.	SEP will ensure that all stakeholders are not only identified, but that their information disclosure needs are also identified to guide information disclosure to each stakeholder category as appropriate

No	World Bank	National Legislation	Gaps	Gap Filling Options
5	To provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances, and allow Borrowers to respond to and manage such grievances		The national legislation does not provide for provisions to establish a Project specific GM.	The Project specific GM will be established for all stakeholders at each stage of the Project, including GM for all project workers

### 3 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 3.1 Project stakeholders

26. Project stakeholders are defined as individuals, groups or other entities who are interested in the Project at different levels. Engagements with the project affected communities will be conducted upon project effectiveness and will be sustained throughout project implementation and closure. For effective engagement, project stakeholders are categorized into three main groups, as described below.

- a) **Affected Parties:** persons, groups and other entities within the Project Area of Influence (PAI) that are impacted or likely to be impacted directly or indirectly, positively or adversely, by the project. Such stakeholders are directly influenced (actually or potentially) by the project and/or have been identified as most susceptible to change associated with the project, and who need to be closely engaged in identifying impacts and their significance, as well as in decision-making on mitigation and management measures. For this project, the direct beneficiaries are small farmers, agro-pastoralists and nomadic pastoralists, the MoAI and MoLF and other government agencies and departments' staff that will be involved in service provision at the federal and FMS level and other actors engaged in the livestock value chain from production, marketing and processing of livestock products and services .
- b) **Other Interested Parties (OIP):** constitute individuals/groups/entities whose interests may be affected by the project and who have the potential to influence project outcomes. OIP may not experience direct impacts from the Project but they may consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the project and/or who could affect the project and the process of its implementation in some way. Such stakeholders include CSOs and NGOs who may become project partners. Others include business owners and service providers including providers of services, goods and materials within the project area who may be considered for the role of project's suppliers; mass media and associated interest groups, including local, regional and national print and broadcasting media, digital/web-based entities, and their associations, among others. The partners whose interests may be affected include CSOs and partners engaged in the agricultural sector in the country, development partners supporting the agricultural sector, business companies and entities that may be involved in the provision of services and the media and interest groups.
- c) **Marginalised and Vulnerable Groups:** persons who may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by the project as compared with any other groups due to their vulnerability and that may require special efforts to ensure their equal representation in the project consultation and decision-making processes. The vulnerable groups identified for this project include the pastoralists, persons with disabilities, IDPs, returnees, minority groups, etc.

#### 3.2 Identification of stakeholders

27. There are several categories of people and institutions with an interest in the Project at different levels that will need to be consulted and engaged in the project activities, as summarized in Table 2 below

Table 3: Stakeholders description and areas of interest

#	Stakeholder	Description	Areas of interest	Level of Analysis H-High M-medium L-Low	
				Interest	Influence
1.	Small scale farmer, agro-pastoralists and nomadic pastoralists.	The small scale farmers, agro-pastoralists, and nomadic pastoralists will be spread across 6 FMSs of Somalia: Jubbaland, South-West, Galmudug, Hirshabelle, Puntland, and Somaliland covering 6-8 selected districts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement on the project design;</li> <li>• Clear and transparent selection process of the targeted districts.</li> <li>• Affirmative action in the support to women based groups and farms and focus on the neediest and those with special needs, including those with disabilities.</li> <li>• Equitable access to project benefits across the selected district including access of small scale farmers to seed capital and matching grants</li> <li>• Upgrading of the infrastructures; and</li> <li>• Improved market infrastructure and ecosystem facilitation and trade infrastructure;</li> </ul>	H	M
2.	Communities that will receive support from the project	Community members, and extension workers including vulnerable groups representatives, women led groups farmers and pastoralists community associations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meaningful community engagement in the project design and implementation</li> <li>• Collect views of lessons learned in the previous or related project,</li> <li>• challenges, social risks, and their mitigation measures in the community;</li> <li>• Community capacity building technological transfer</li> <li>• community level GRM</li> </ul>	H	M
3.	Ministry officers at the Federal Government level	MoAI is the overall responsible in managing all the components of the project closely working with MoLFR . It will also work closely with the corresponding MoAI in the FMS receiving project support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoAI identifies and meaningfully engages with partners in all aspects of the project</li> <li>• Project design</li> <li>• Identification of potential beneficiaries and areas.</li> <li>• Project fiduciary processes.</li> <li>• Environment and social risk management,</li> <li>• capacity building and technological transfer</li> <li>• Technical assistance</li> <li>• The coordination between the Federal and States is done in a transparent and accountable manner</li> <li>• Principles of engagement are observed in all aspects of consultation at the different levels</li> </ul>	H	H
4.	Ministry officers at the Member State and District levels	The MoAI and MoLFR s at this levels will be responsible for the implementation of the project activities and policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The selection of districts to be supported is based on a transparent criterion.</li> <li>• The coordination between the State and districts is done in a transparent and accountable manner</li> <li>• Technical assistance;</li> <li>• Establishment of research institutions or</li> </ul>	H	H

#	Stakeholder	Description	Areas of interest	Level of Analysis H-High M-medium L-Low	
				Interest	Influence
			branches of the federal ones; • Equitable distribution of scholarships and training slots. • Principles of engagement are observed in all aspects of consultation at the different levels		
5.	Other ministries: Finance; livestock, fisheries and range, Energy and Water Services; Public works; Infrastructure and Reconstruction; Posts, Telecom and Technology; Interior and Federal Affairs; and the National office for Environment	The other Ministries will be involved in as far as the implementation of specific activities and linkages with ongoing interventions: Public works – feeder road construction and rehabilitation construction of Posts, Telecom and Technology –development of technological infrastructure and data protection policy and legislation. Interior and Federal Affairs – ensure security of project workers and investments	• Principles of engagement are observed in all aspects of consultation at the different levels • Information is shared in a timely manner and feedback is used to inform further engagement on the project; • Participation in project implementation • Clarity on terms of engagement is provided from the beginning	M	M
	Staff of the involved ministries	These are staff working in the respective ministries that will take part in the project activities like the MoAI and MoLFR.	• Equitable treatment • Information disclosure • Clear terms of engagements	H	M
	Women owned enterprises	These are enterprises that are led by women who are supposed to benefit from the project.	• Disclosure of activities • Inclusion in the project activities • Accountability in the project benefits allocation • Proper participation in project activities	H	H
	Research centers	These are research centers that will be participating in project to enhance the quality of agricultural products.	• Proper disclosure of project activities • Principles of engagement are observed in all aspects of consultation at the different levels • Technical assistance	H	H
	Members of academia	These are researchers who will be participating in the project activities within the research centers	Principles of engagement are observed in all aspects of consultation Technical assistance; There is transparency and accountability in all aspects of the engagement	H	H
7.	CBOs and NGOs operating in the identified project districts	Most development activities in rural and remote parts of the country are led by NGOs and CBOs funded directly by	• The CBOs/NGOs receive information and provide feedback in a timely manner • There is transparency and accountability in all aspects of the engagement	M	L

#	Stakeholder	Description	Areas of interest	Level of Analysis H-High M-medium L-Low	
				Interest	Influence
		donors and religious bodies. They have social capital that the project can tap into.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principles of engagement are observed in all aspects of consultation</li> <li>Utilize their social capital to create awareness and community buy in.</li> </ul>		
7.	Development Partners	Most of the agricultural activities are supported by donors who tend to fund the activities separately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principles of engagement are observed in all aspects of consultation.</li> <li>Information is shared in a timely manner</li> <li>Learning from the past experiences</li> </ul>	H	L
8.	Media and online platforms of communication	The role of the media is key in keeping people informed about the project. Media can also be used to share grievances and complaints on project activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information shared by the media will be accurate</li> <li>Complaints and grievances shared on social media platforms will be picked and addressed as necessary</li> </ul>	H	L

### 3.3 Stakeholder engagement principles

28. Stakeholder analysis generates information on the perceptions, interests, needs, and influence of actors on the project. Identifying the appropriate consultation methodology for each stakeholder throughout the project lifecycle is necessary. In order to meet best practice approaches, the project will apply the following principles for stakeholder engagement.

*Openness and life-cycle approach:* public consultations for the project will continue during the whole project lifecycle from preparation through implementation. Stakeholder engagement will be free of manipulation, interference, coercion, and intimidation.

*Informed participation and feedback:* information will be provided and widely distributed among all stakeholders in an appropriate format; conducted based on timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information related to the project; opportunities provided to raise concerns and ensure that stakeholder feedback is taken into consideration during decision making.

*Inclusivity and sensitivity:* stakeholder identification will be undertaken to support better communication and building effective relationships. The participation process for the project will be inclusive. All stakeholders will be encouraged to be involved in the consultation processes. Equal access to information will be provided to all stakeholders. Sensitivity to stakeholders' needs is the key principle underlying the selection of engagement methods. Special attention will be given to vulnerable groups, particularly learners and those with disabilities, and the cultural sensitivity of diverse groups in the project area.



#### 4 SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

29. The project team held several meetings leading up to the development of the various instruments, including this SEP, the ESMF, and LMP.
30. The engagements and consultations on the project design and the planned activities and implementation arrangements have been done with key institutional stakeholders including the relevant government Ministries and implementing agencies.
31. The FGS and FMSs representatives in the MoAI and MoLFR discussed the concept note for the project and a presentations on the areas of development focus and elaboration of components of the proposed project. In these presentations by FGS and each of the five FMSs, the discussion focused on:
- A brief outline of the achievements in the particular reform area.
  - Reform priorities going forward, and
  - Challenges to be addressed by the reform priority.
32. The subsequent consultation was held on 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022 as part of project scoping and subsequent separate preparatory meetings with all the respective ministry representatives, local public administrations, as well as other government stakeholders and development partners. This was an important stage to allow stakeholders to understand better the scope, impact and risks of the Project, and potential opportunities; to make available Project-related information as early as possible. A series of discussions were held with sector authorities and other key stakeholders to (i) determine key elements of the project design, including costing of activities for all components; (ii) develop an initial results framework; (iii) assess safeguards and fiduciary capacity of the assigned implementation unit; (iv) discuss project readiness requirements related to Environmental and Social Standards; and (v) initiate assessments on utility performance, gender and citizen engagement, and a positive feedback was received from all stakeholders during the meetings.
33. A series of stakeholder meetings were carried out across all the FMSs on diverse dates between January 28<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> 2023. The meetings were attended by the key stakeholders including representatives of the MoAI, MoLFR, private sector players, women groups, representative of the vulnerable groups including disadvantaged among others. The aim was to provide input to the broad content areas of E&S, social and environmental risks and how to mitigate them, legal and policy environment, stakeholders' engagement mechanisms, and handing of project related grievances. The list of participants and part of the photos of the participants is attached as annex I and annex II respectively.
34. During the El Nino emergency, the NCPU conducted high level stakeholder engagements including inter ministerial meetings, and meetings with Implementing Partners, humanitarian organization and other government agencies to facilitate the CERC planning and activities. These meetings took place on diverse dates between Dec 2023 and February 2024.

35. The AF stakeholder engagements took place on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Where the participants were briefed about the project its benefit and potential risks including E&S risks associated with AF. Summary of the stakeholder meeting is presented in the annex.
36. The stakeholder engagement is a continuous activity throughout the project cycle. The project plans to put more effort in ensuring diverse representation of stakeholders from all categories of the project affected person and beneficiaries with emphasis given to the vulnerable and the marginalized in the community like women, youth, elderly and minority clan members and the IDPs. To this end, The project will engage in wide community mobilization leveraging on the existing systems and channels from other project in the agricultural and livestock sectors. Communities in rural areas, IDP camps, nomadic communities and the women driven enterprises among others will be given priority in ensuring that engagements are done in accessible environment that will not affect their economic activities.
37. Representatives from these groups will also be approached to help simplify the project components and activities and make the engagement more robust. As part of accessibility, the project will translate project activities into local languages in every localized engagements and have people from the community who can pass the information in a more refined and simplified manner.

#### **4.1 Summary of the Findings of Stakeholders Engagement During Preparation:**

30. Key highlights of the meeting was:
- Consultations with stakeholders identified several constraints facing pastoralism as an economic activity. These include frequent, severe, and prolonged droughts; exposure to violent conflicts; limited access to financial services; poor market infrastructure limiting participation in markets; and rangeland degradation.
  - Livestock represents a major source of income to the people and improving the process that will make exports more profitable is a great step.
  - Climate related problems have affected farm output and many farmers are left with limited options, the availability of water through rehabilitation and building of new pans will save many farmers in water conservation during rainy seasons and help mitigate the water shortfall challenge.
  - The stakeholders insisted on continuous involvement of people to create trust and enable women to have a say in the project. Also the project should consider the marginalized and ensure information is spread to all beneficiaries.
  - Security is the major obstacle or impediment to the success of the project due to the lack of strong government presence in all regions of Somalia.
  - The stakeholders mentioned the need to build capacity at all levels especially at the community level where most farmers reside and help the local authority to have some role in reaching the beneficiaries through their groups.
  - Lack of human capital and experts especially among the youth and, lack of collaboration between stakeholders, including national and sub-national institutions. The issue of inclusion of women and other vulnerable groups were raised and the stakeholders insisted to have mechanism to develop proper inclusion.
  - There is need for continuous stakeholder engagement especially reaching religious and traditional leaders

to create an understandable environment by using social mobilizers to make outreach to the remote villages as well.

- Chalnges affecting the CERC implementation including accrssibility challenges
- Inclusion of all affected persons, especially in hard to reach areas, where most farmers reside and major framing activities happen

Most stakeholders mentioned that there is potentially no obvious negative impact from the project, however it would be important to create awareness on all project components to the pastoralists, small scale farmers in the village in order to increase acceptability.

## **5 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM AND DISCLOSURE**

### **5.1 Purpose and Timing of Stakeholder Engagement Program**

38. Stakeholder engagement is an inclusive process that must be conducted throughout the project life cycle. The purpose of the SEP is to present a strategy for engaging stakeholders of the project to ensure that they understand the project and can provide their feedback and input to the project. This SEP describes the nature of the anticipated stakeholders as well as their information requirements, timing, and methods of engagement throughout the lifecycle of the project.
39. During the Project preparation phase, the MoAI will engage stakeholders as early as possible and will continue the engagement throughout the implementation of the Project preparation activities, particularly during surveys and baseline data collection, and preparation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Assessment, and project SEP. This process will continue under the Parent and AF Project, starting from planning, mobilization, implementation stages, and until the Project is eventually closed. At this stage, the decisions on public meetings, locations, and timing of meetings have not yet been made. The stakeholders will be notified before and during the implementation of the Project preparation activities. However, the nature and frequency of follow-up consultations will differ depending on the project components and activities and the potential stakeholders.
40. MoAI will disclose project information to allow stakeholders to understand the risks and impacts of the project, and potential opportunities. MoAI will provide stakeholders with access to the following information, as early as possible before the Bank proceeds to project appraisal, and in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design:
- i. The purpose, nature, and scale of the project;
  - ii. The duration of proposed project activities;
  - iii. Potential risks and impacts of the project on local communities, and the proposals for mitigating these, highlighting potential risks and impacts that might disproportionately affect VMIG and describing the differentiated measures taken to avoid and minimize these;
  - iv. The proposed stakeholder engagement process highlights how stakeholders can participate;
  - v. The time and venue of any proposed public consultation meetings, and the process by which meetings will be notified, summarized, and reported; and
  - vi. The process and means by which grievances can be raised and will be addressed.

Table 4: Stakeholder Engagement Plan During Project Preparation & Implementation

Target Stakeholders	Aspects to be considered	Topic (s) of Engagement	Method (s) used	Location/frequency	Responsibilities
<b>All stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project design and implementation</li> <li>Employment opportunities,</li> <li>Stakeholder concerns on the entire project prior to roll out;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall project design,</li> <li>Anticipated environmental and social impacts and proposed mitigation measures in ESMF (including GBV Prevention and Response plan), SEP and LMP, RPF.</li> </ul>	Public consultations, meetings, through community action groups, Emails, and public meetings	Prior to project appraisal at accessible public spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPCU</li> </ul>
<b>Project-Affected Persons</b> include local communities, community members (Vulnerable households) and other parties that may be subject to direct impacts from the Project activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Impacts on community livelihoods,</li> <li>Benefit to both businesses and household incomes,</li> <li>Inclusion mechanism for the vulnerable</li> <li>Potential environmental and social risks and mitigation measures in place.</li> <li>Grievance mechanism and channels available</li> <li>Community safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More site-specific environmental and social impacts and mitigation measures in ESMP (including GBV Prevention and Response Plan), LMP and SEP.</li> <li>Awareness-raising on the GM process</li> <li>ESMF, ESMP, SEP disclosures.</li> <li>Ways to expand and access inclusive engagement with vulnerable groups, and rural illiterate persons.</li> <li>Meaningful community engagement in the project decisions</li> <li>Ways of overcoming social stigma mainly for IDPs</li> </ul>	<p>Public meeting, individual meetings during preparation and implementation of instruments</p> <p>Disclosure of written information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brochures,</li> <li>-posters,</li> <li>-flyers, ( in local language),</li> <li>-websites (Social Media Communication)</li> <li>-Face-to-face meetings; social gatherings, -separate meetings specifically to affected vulnerable groups and individuals; Grievance mechanism Communication</li> </ul>	Monthly/quarterly meetings in affected municipalities and villages;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPCU social and Environmental safeguards and GBV specialist</li> </ul>
<b>Affected communities-</b> People who will benefit from employment opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment opportunities and related requirements,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selection criteria and ToR for employment opportunities;</li> <li>Environmental laws and regulations;</li> </ul>	Group meetings with the host community and support groups to engage vulnerable groups; and Focus group meetings;	Prior to start of project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPCU</li> </ul>

Target Stakeholders	Aspects to be considered	Topic (s) of Engagement	Method (s) used	Location/frequency	Responsibilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal compliance of the project,</li> <li>Extent of the project (including the potential beneficiaries)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project scope, rationale and E&amp;S principles</li> <li>Grievance mechanism process and appropriate reporting methods</li> <li>Discrimination in recruitment and at work place.</li> </ul>			
Other Interested Parties – Community groups and actors engaged in the livestock keeping farming, agro processing and value chain from production, marketing and processing of livestock products and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder sensitization on the potential benefits/ impacts as well as the enhancement/ mitigation measures.</li> <li>Increased participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ways enabling outreach to vulnerable groups and address their concerns and interest</li> <li>Ways to include women groups in project implementation.</li> </ul>	Individual meetings; focus group meetings; Emails; public gatherings and local radio	Prior to start of project activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPCU</li> </ul>
<b>Other Interested Parties -</b> External Ministries (Federal/FMS) Academic institutions; Local Government Units; General public; Women organizations; and Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Input in the design of the project</li> <li>Project compliance with the legal provisions</li> <li>Disputes or concerns raised by the various stakeholders where the project is to be undertaken</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical details on project design,</li> <li>Compliance with national regulations and collaboration with relevant programs,</li> <li>Identification of vulnerable groups of people relevant to the project Compliance with legislations and regulations,</li> <li>GM Process</li> </ul>	Official/Public meetings, workshops; Social Media Communication; Disclosure of written information – Reports ; Brochures; Posters; Flyers; website; Information desks - In all project areas.	As needed (and continued throughout the project life)	NPCU

## 5.2 Project Information Disclosure

41. Information will be packaged and shared with the key stakeholders using different methods. The NPCU through NPCU will be responsible for ensuring that the information gets to the stakeholders in a timely manner. Feedback from stakeholders will be taken into view and improvements will be made to ensure robust and consistent information flow. Table 5 below presents a summary of the information disclosure for the project. The SEP is a living document that may be modified and changed following input and suggestions from project stakeholders. The MoAI will provide stakeholders with access to the following information, as early as possible and in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design:

*Table 5. Information Disclosure Plan at different stages of the project cycle*

Information to be disclosed	Method used	Target stakeholders	Responsibilities
<b>Before appraisal</b>			
Disclosure of project documents (SEP, ESCP, ESRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Websites - MoAI and WBG</li> <li>Brief summaries of the main features of the project SEP,</li> </ul>	<b>All key stakeholders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPCU</li> </ul>
<b>After appraisal</b>			
Publicity on project approval and roll-out plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audio-visual messages on project information (radio, TV in different local languages)</li> <li>Newspaper stories/supplements</li> <li>Printed materials on project information</li> <li>Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp)</li> <li>Emails</li> <li>Press releases</li> <li>Speeches</li> <li>Websites (FGS and FMS, WBG)</li> </ul>	All key project stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPCU</li> </ul>
Disclosure of the project documents: ESMF, RPF, Updated SEP, LMP, GBV Protection and Response Action Plan,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Websites - MoAI and WBG</li> <li>Brief summaries of the main features of the project SEP</li> <li>Audio-visual messages on the project (radio, TV in different languages)</li> <li>Newspaper stories/supplement</li> <li>Social Media (twitter, Facebook, Instagram WhatsApp)</li> <li>Emails</li> <li>Press releases</li> <li>Speeches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoAI and all partners involved in the project</li> <li>Open access to all interested parties</li> <li>Distribution of printed flyers to schools and other institutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPCU</li> <li>WBG Team</li> </ul>
<b>During implementation</b>			
Prepare and disclose ESIA where necessary and ESMPs. Roll-out of direct support to farmers, agro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key informant interviews with key stakeholders</li> <li>Community discussions (through public meetings and call-in radio sessions/activations)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmers</li> <li>Patriotists</li> <li>Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPCU</li> <li>Communication expert</li> <li>Safeguards officers</li> </ul>

Information to be disclosed	Method used	Target stakeholders	Responsibilities
pastoralists, pastoralists and livestock herders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newsletters</li> <li>Newspaper stories/supplement</li> <li>Social Media (twitter, Facebook, Instagram WhatsApp)</li> <li>Emails)</li> <li>Press releases</li> <li>Speeches</li> <li>Mobile phone block messages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community organization</li> <li>Communities</li> <li>Implementing partners</li> </ul>	
Highlights on project activities, achievements and lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TV/Radio spots/activations and announcements</li> <li>Print materials (newsletters and flyers)</li> <li>Town hall meetings</li> <li>Newspaper stories/supplement</li> <li>Social Media (twitter, Facebook, Instagram WhatsApp)</li> <li>Emails</li> <li>Press releases</li> <li>Speeches</li> <li>Mobile phone block message</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Project beneficiaries (learners, teachers, CECs)</li> <li>-Implementing partners</li> <li>-Other interested parties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Safeguards Officers</li> <li>-Communication experts</li> </ul>
Update on project process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Print materials (newsletter, flyers, etc.)</li> <li>Project progress reports</li> <li>Town hall meetings</li> </ul>	All stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPCU</li> </ul>
Complaints/Compliments about the project implementation	Logs and reports from the national GM focal person, State GM focal persons (GM complaints points in communities, and project areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receivers of information and services</li> <li>Information or Data managers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCPU and Safeguards Officers</li> </ul>
	Surveys and direct observations of the project beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different stakeholders</li> <li>Vulnerable populations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication Officer</li> <li>M&amp;E Officer</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring and reporting</b>			
Feedback of effectiveness of different modalities of engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Semi-structured interviews</li> <li>Online surveys</li> <li>Satisfaction surveys</li> </ul>	Project primary beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoAI and MoLFR</li> <li>Safeguards Officers</li> <li>M&amp;E Officer</li> </ul>
Quarterly	Progress reports including summaries of complaints and resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoAI, MoLFR offices at the Federal and State level offices</li> <li>Implementing partners</li> </ul>	M&E officer



42. The current security realities in Somalia might make some stakeholders activities challenging. However, the security challenge is not constant neither is it widespread in all the project area. In addition, and as per the table above, the project has proposed multiple methods to disclose and reach out to the communities. Where necessary, the project will ensure that appropriate methods are used to protect the communities and the project personnel. Also, the project will highly leverage on the community level coordinations and leadership for stakeholder enagement which, wield substantial power and protection even against the militants.
43. The MoAI and the NCPU will provide appropriate background and relevant technical information to stakeholders whose feedback is sought on various project issues with sufficient advance notice (7-10 business days) so that the stakeholders have enough time to prepare to provide meaningful feedback.

## **6 Inclusion Plan**

44. In addition to focusing on the most underserved areas, the project will give special consideration to vulnerable and marginalized groups. These include:
- i. Traditional ethnic minorities
  - ii. Internally displaced persons;
  - iii. Those who live in remote rural areas or areas characterized by violence that are bereft of social services and amenities;
  - iv. Nomadic pastoralist communities.
  - v. Female headed families;
  - vi. Elderly persons;
  - vii. Illiterate persons; and
  - viii. Returnees and their families
45. There are social, economic and physical barriers that prevent vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups from participating in projects, which include lack of financial resources, inaccessibility of meeting venues, social stigma, lack of awareness and/or poor consultation. For instance, people living with disabilities are often not effectively engaged in consultations due to lack of access and social stigma and cultural beliefs that they are not able to participate or considered to have limited productive roles in society. In this regard, the project will deploy viable strategies to engage target communities and other stakeholders and overcome social stigma and encourage inclusion. Also, discussions should be conducted in a simplified manner to ensure the illiterate and people with no or limited financial literacy understand the project and its components. In addition, efforts will be made to promote diversity in staffing (see Labor-Management Procedures (LMP) and Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

### **6.1 Engaging marginalized and vulnerable groups**

46. The project will take special measures to ensure that members of disadvantaged and marginalized groups have equal opportunity to project benefits. This will include ensuring that they are involved in consultations on project siting and design, and implementation process. The participation of disadvantaged and marginalized groups in the selection, design, and implementation of project activities will largely determine the extent to which the Inclusion Plan will be achieved. Where adverse impacts are likely, the NCPU will undertake prior and informed consultations with the likely affected communities/ groups and those who work with and/or are knowledgeable of the local development issues and concerns. The primary objectives will be to:
- Understand the operational structures in the respective communities;
  - Seek their input/feedback to avoid or minimize the potential adverse impacts associated with the planned interventions;
  - Identify culturally appropriate impact mitigation measures; and
  - Assess and adopt measures that could be promoted to complement the measures required to mitigate the adverse impacts

47. Consultations will be carried out broadly in two stages. First, prior to commencement of any project activities. The NPCU will arrange for consultations with community leaders, and representatives of disadvantaged and marginalized groups about the need for, and the probable positive and negative impacts associated with the project activities. Secondly, after the initial roll-out of the project activities, a rapid assessment will be conducted to ascertain how the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in general, perceive the interventions and gather any inputs/feedback they might offer for better outcomes, which would inform the project delivery.
48. Stakeholder and community engagement will be key in the sensitization of community level structures and means by which complaints and grievances related to the project will be received, handled and addressed. The understanding is that communities know their own vulnerabilities than external actors and the engagement of local structures is most effective in such projects where administrative capacity is limited. The NCPU will:
- i. Facilitate broad participation of disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups with adequate gender and generational representation; community elders/leaders; and CBOs;
  - ii. Provide the disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups with all relevant information about project activities including on potential adverse impacts;
  - iii. Organize and conduct the consultations in forms that ensure free expression of their views and preferences; and
  - iv. Document details of all consultation meetings, with disadvantaged and marginalized groups on their perceptions of project activities and the associated impacts, especially the adverse ones;
  - v. Share any input/feedback offered by the target populations; and
  - vi. Provide an account of the conditions agreed with the people consulted
49. The following issues will be addressed during the implementation stage of the project:
- Provision of an effective mechanism for monitoring implementation of the Inclusion Plan;
- i. Development of accountability mechanisms to ensure the planned benefits of the project are equally received by disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and groups;
  - ii. Involve suitably experienced CBOs/NGOs to address the disadvantaged and vulnerable people's through developing and implementing action plans;
  - iii. Ensuring appropriate budgetary allocation of resources for the Inclusion Plan;
50. Once the disadvantaged and marginalized individuals and groups are identified in the project area, the provisions in this Inclusion Plan will ensure mitigation measures of any adverse impacts of the project are implemented in a timely manner. The project should ensure benefits to the disadvantaged and marginalized by ensuring that they are consulted, have accessible and trusted complaints mechanism and benefit from project activities.

## 7 RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

51. The social specialists, embedded in the NCPU at MoAI-FGS, is in charge of stakeholder engagement activities, together with the communications officer. There will be a social specialist assigned to each PCU at the state level recruitments of which are underway. The social specialists will work together to ensure that the SEP is fully implemented. Table 6 below presents a tentative budget for implementing the SEP.

**Table 6: Estimated budget for implementing the SEP**

Item	Unit Cost, USD per year	No. of years	Total cost (USD)
Training of all staff and contractors on GM	20,000	1 year	20,000
Continuous stakeholder engagements	20,000	5	100,000
FM radio press conferences and call ins (one per year at FGS and FMS levels)	10,000	5 years	50,000
Communication materials (leaflets, posters on project and GM, GM forms, registers in Somali)	20,000	5 years	100,000
GM implementation	20,000	4	80,000
Sub Total			350,000
Contingency	5%		17,50
<b>Total</b>			<b>367,50</b>

### 7.1 Project Management Structure, functions and responsibilities

52. A National Project Coordination Unit (NPCU) has been established in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at the federal level as the lead ministry and at the respective ministries at the state level. At the federal level, the project strategy will be guided by the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC). The NPSC is proposed to be comprised of Honorable Ministers and Director Generals (DGs) from the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation (MoAI), Ministry of Forestry, Livestock, and Range (MoLFR), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC), and Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development (MoPIED). Additionally, the NPSC is also proposed to have representation from MoAI and MoLFR from FMS level. The NPSC is envisaged

to be the apex body for strategic guidance and support to the project and to ensure integration with national development priorities and flagship investment programs.

53. The NPCU will have thematic specialists to support various project components including but not limited to Crop Production Specialists, Animal Health Specialists, Financial Inclusion Specialist, Digital Agriculture Specialist, Private sector specialist and Gender specialist, Environmental and Social Safeguards, finance, security, gender, procurement, communication and monitoring and evaluation. Detailed ToRs will be developed for each of these positions. NPCU positions be filled primarily through secondment from stakeholder ministries and departments. In case of unavailability of such suitable staff, recruitment will be undertaken for engagement under the project. The project has hired social and environmental specialist, while, some of E&S positions in South west, Jubaland and Hirshelbe are almost filled, others are still under recruitment and should be complete by the time of implementation of the AF project.
54. At the state level, the implementation arrangements will mirror the national level with a state level project steering committee (SPSC) and project coordination unit (PCU). At the community level, the project will engage existing as well as newly mobilized community institutions including Common Interest Groups (CIGs), Community Driven Development Committees (CDDCs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) as key implementation stakeholders. Somaliland will equally have steering committee that will resemble the state steering committee (SPSC) together with a project cordication unit (PCU). The SPSC will have the overall responsibility in ensuring SEP is well implemented across all project areas across Somaliland.
55. The SEP will be implemented and monitored by the NPCU. The direct responsibility of its implementation will be designated to the Social Safeguards Specialist within the FGS. The Social and Communications Specialists will work with other ministry-level and state-level social safeguards officers to ensure that the objectives of the plans are met and with the appropriate allocation of the necessary resources for its implementation. Adequate budget for stakeholder engagement will be allocated from the overall project cost, which will include cost for organizing meetings, workshops and training, hiring of staff, field visits, translation and printing of relevant materials, and operating GMs.
56. The SEP implementation process will closely follow the project activitie launch. As project activities will be undertaken at different stages and in sequenstial manner, the SEP will equally follow, under the social specialist will prior and during the project launch have a wide consultation with the project affected. This will enable the team to have efctive engagement at the right time.

## **8 GRIEVANCE MECHANISM**

### **8.1 Requirements for GM**

57. Under the World Bank ESSs, Bank-supported projects are required to facilitate mechanisms that address concerns and grievances that arise in connection with a project. One of the key objectives of ESS10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure) is ‘to provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances and allow borrowers to respond and manage such grievances’ . The Project GM will facilitate the Project to respond to concerns and grievances of the project-affected parties related to the environmental and social performance of the project. The S-FSRP provides mechanisms to receive and facilitate resolutions to such concerns. This section lays out the grievance mechanisms (GMs) for the S-FSRP.
58. As per World Bank standards, the GM operates in addition to a GBV/SEAH Prevention and Response Plan, which includes reporting and referral guidelines (see GBV/SEAH and Child Protection Prevention and Response Plan). It also operates in addition to specific workers’ grievance redress mechanisms, which are laid out in the LMP.
59. The GM is designed to capture the high potential for conflict in Somalia. There is concern that there may be disagreements over local level planning and implementation processes. Furthermore, the project itself may cause grievances, or existing community and inter-community tensions may play out through the project. The source of grievances in relation to project implementation can also sometimes be the very nature of local governance or power distribution itself. It will therefore be key in the fragile environment of Somalia to ensure that grievances and perceived injustices are handled by the project, and that the project aides mitigating general conflict stresses by channeling grievances that occur between people, groups, government actors and beneficiaries and project staff, NGOs, CSOs or contractors/suppliers. Aggrieved parties need to be able to refer to institutions, instruments, methods and processes by which a resolution to a grievance is sought and provided. The GM provides an effective avenue for expressing concerns, providing redress, and allowing for general feedback from community members.
60. The GM aims to address concerns in a timely and transparent manner and effectively. It is readily accessible for all project-affected parties. It does not prevent access to judicial and administrative remedies. It is designed in a culturally appropriate way and is able to respond to all needs and concerns of project-affected parties.
61. The GM has not been fully developed yet, only an online web based channel is in use, and once fully developed the system will enable the effective resolution of any grievances of the project stakeholders, including civil servants and communities where services will be provided. The main objective of a GM is to assist to resolve complaints and grievances in a timely, effective and efficient manner that satisfies all parties involved. Specifically, it provides a transparent and credible process for fair, effective and lasting outcomes. It also builds trust and cooperation as an integral component of broader community consultation that facilitates corrective actions.

62. Specifically, the GM will:

- Provide an effective avenue for aggrieved persons/entities to express their concerns and secure redress for issues/complaints caused by the project activities;
- Promote a mutually constructive relationship among community members, PAPs, the FGS and FMS MoAI/ MoLFR and the World Bank;
- Prevent and address community concerns;
- Assist larger processes that create positive social change; and
- Identify early and resolve issues that would lead to judicial proceedings.

63. Types of grievances: Complaints may be raised by partners, consultants, contractors, beneficiaries - members of the community where the programme is operating or members of the general public, regarding any aspect of project implementation. Potential complaints may include:

- i. Fairness in contracting;
- ii. Fraud or corruption cases;
- iii. Inclusion/exclusion;
- iv. Inadequate consultation;
- v. Negative social and environmental impacts;
- vi. Payment related complaints;
- vii. Quality of service issues;
- viii. Poor use of funds;
- ix. Workers' rights;
- x. GBV/SEAH;
- xi. Forced or child labour; and
- xii. Threats to personal or communal safety.

64. The MoAI NPCU will continuously train all its staff, and the staff of the line ministries at FMS level, on the GM procedures and formats to be used including the reporting and resolution processes. A public awareness campaign will be conducted to inform all communities and staff on the mechanism. A one-pager will be developed providing summary details on the GM, while a poster and leaflet will be produced for ease of reference. Various mediums will be used to sensitize the communities on the project GM including social media and FM radio to reach out to communities at the different project locations, including call-ins with panels including community and government representatives. The radio stations will be strategically selected to reach different groups within project target communities. The GM details will also be published on the FGS MoF website indicating a phone number, email address and physical address for further information. The GM will be represented in simple visual formats as needed.

65. A grievance committee (GC) will be established at the national level chaired by the Project Coordinator for the NPCU, and the relevant staff will be included as necessary depending on the complaint (procurement, finance, M&E, GBV advisor, E&S and communication). The social specialists will compile minutes for the meetings and follow up the grievance resolution process. The GC will

meet monthly to review minor complaints, progress on complaints resolution, review the development and effectiveness of the grievance mechanism, and ensure that all staff and civil servants are aware of the system and the project. Immediate meetings will be held in case of significant complaints to be addressed at the NPCU level. For serious or severe complaints involving harm to people or those which may pose a risk to the project reputation, the Project social specialist should immediately inform the head of the NPCU, who will inform the World Bank within 48 hours as per the Environmental and Social Incident Reporting (ESIRT) requirements.

66. The GM will provide an appeal process if the complainant is not satisfied with the proposed resolution of the complaint. Once all possible means to resolve the complaint has been proposed and if the complainant is still not satisfied then they should be advised of their right to legal recourse. The GM will include the following

## **8.2 Project GM implementation steps**

### **Step 1: Grievance receipt and processing**

67. There will be multiple channels available for aggrieved parties to file their complaint, grievance, or feedback including: phone number, help desk, assigned personnel, and suggestion box. The aggrieved party must be presented with the most efficient and accessible means of filing a grievance, and must be able to circumvent partial stakeholders in the Project, which may be implicated in the complaint. He or she must further be able to bypass some grievance channels that are perceived as potentially not responsive or biased. While grievances can be submitted anonymously, the more information is made available, the better the Project can respond to the grievances, investigate the matter where necessary, or provide feedback to the aggrieved party. The grievance receipt process will be equally guided by principles of confidentiality and at no point would the details of such an aggrieved person be shared without prior consent.

### **Step 2: Sort and Process**

68. All registered grievances will be transferred to the GM Focal Point at the respective department at state or national level – either by the Hotline Operator, local personnel, or the Help Desk Officer. The GM focal point will categorize the complaint accordingly. Worker-related grievances will be handed over to a workers' GM. Where grievances are of sexual nature and can be categorized as GBV/SEAH or child protection risk, the relevant department has to handle the case appropriately, and refer the case to the GBV reporting protocols and referral system, defined in the GBV/SEAH and Child Protection Prevention and Response Plan. Dedicated training on how to respond to and manage complaints related to GBV/SEAH will be required for all GM operators and relevant project staff.
69. For grievances handled under the general Project GM, the GM Focal Point will determine the most competent and effective level for redress and the most effective grievance redress approach. The focal point will further assign timelines for follow-up steps based on the priority of the grievance and



make a judgment and reassign the grievance to the appropriate staff or institution. The person will exclude grievances that are handled elsewhere (e.g., in court). The focal point should offer the complainant option/s for resolution of their grievance.

70. The GM Focal Point will also transfer the grievance information into a more comprehensive grievance register. All relevant departments must maintain a grievance register. The format should be similar for ease of reporting to the PCU. The PCU will maintain a central grievance register for the logging, management and monitoring of grievances. Where IPs wish for complainants to remain confidential, they only have to share the nature of the case and the outcome/resolution with the PCU. It is likely that at the local level, IPs will use books to maintain a record of grievances. The information will then be migrated to a digital platform at IP headquarters or when reported to the PCU. The GM will then be linked to the Project MIS. All cases will be treated confidentially.
71. Severe incidents will be reported by the IP - within 24 - to the PCU and the World Bank. All staff involved and relevant departments will be trained in the detection of 'incidents' and in how to report an incident, including severe incidents.

### **Step 3: Acknowledgement and Follow-Up**

72. The respective relevant department will decide whether a grievance can be solved locally, with local authorities, contractors, and whether an investigation is required. At all times, the GM Focal Point will provide feedback promptly to the aggrieved party (unless the case was filed anonymously), within 5 working days after the grievance is filed. Feedback can be provided through the phone, in writing or through the community facilitators. Feedback is also communicated through stakeholder meetings and beneficiary meetings during Project activities. For sensitive issues, feedback is given to the concerned persons bilaterally.

### **Step 4: Verify, Investigate and Act**

73. The GM Focal Point will then undertake activity-related steps in a timely manner. The activities will include: verifying, investigating, redress action and plan.

#### **Verification**

- Check for eligibility (objectively based on set standards and criteria) of complaint in terms of relevance to the project. Refer to the FSRP PAD, POM, EMSF, ESMPs/ESIAs, sub-project agreements or other documentation to determine the validity of the grievance.
- Escalate outright grievances that require high level interventions within the relevant department.
- Refer outright grievances that are outside the IP jurisdiction (e.g. refer to PCU or relevant external institution).

#### **74. Investigation**

- GM Focal Point to appoint an independent investigator (Safeguards Experts, Professional outside the Implementing institution) who is a neutral investigator with no stake in the outcome of the investigation.

- Collect basic information (reports, interviews with other stakeholders while ensuring triangulation of information, photos, videos).
- Collect and preserve evidence.
- Analyze to establish facts and compile a report.

#### **75. Grievance Action Plan**

Based on the findings

- determine the next steps and make recommendations: (i) direct comprehensive response and details of redress action; (ii) referral to the appropriate institution to handle the grievance, where the IP has no jurisdiction.
- Undertake mutually agreed follow-actions.
- Update of complainant relevant department GM team.
- Provide users with a grievance redress status update and outcome at each stage of redress, update the relevant team on grievance redress across the GM value chain.

#### **76. Monitor, Evaluate and Provide Feedback**

The relevant department will report on its GM to the NPCU on a monthly basis. Monthly reporting to the NPCU should provide information on the grievance and how it was handled as well as all information from the grievance register. However, it can omit the names of the aggrieved parties where necessary.

#### **77. The NPCU will undertake the following monitoring actions:**

- develop indicators for monitoring the steps of GM value chain;
- track grievances and assess the extent to which progress is being made to resolve them;
- conduct a stakeholder satisfaction survey for the GM services;
- conduct analysis on the raw data on the following: average time to resolve grievances, percentage of complainants satisfied with action taken, and number of grievances resolved at first point of contact;
- provide a report on grievance redress actions pertaining to the steps of GM value chain.

#### **78. The NPCU will evaluate the GM by:**

- analyzing grievance data to reveal trends and patterns,
  - sharing GM analysis in management meetings; and
- taking corrective action on project implementation approaches to address the grievance

#### **79. Survivors of Gender-based Violence or Sexual Exploitation and Abuse are generally encouraged to report all GBV/SEA cases through the dedicated GBV/SEA referral system and complaints resolution mechanism in line with the GBV Prevention and Response Plan and Code of conduct. This will be made explicit in all community awareness sessions, as well as be part of the publicly disclosed information. The GBV/SEA referral system will guarantee that survivors receive all necessary services, including survivor centered manner, medical, legal, counseling, and that cases are reported to the police where applicable.**

80. If such cases are reported through the Project GRM, the GRM Operator needs to report the case within 24 hours to the NPCU, as the NPCU is obliged to report any cases of GBV/SEA to the World Bank within 48 hours following an informed agreement by the survivor. Furthermore, cases need to be reported to the NPCU, if it concerns a direct worker or a worker from a sub-contractor, or even a community worker following a survivor-centered approach. The Grievance Officer are in charge of monitoring that the courses for contractors regarding the Code of Conduct obligations and awareness-raising activities to the community are in place. The information gathered would be monitored and reported to the NPCU and the World Bank. All reporting will limit information to the survivor's wishes regarding confidentiality and in case the survivor agrees on further reporting, information will be shared only on a need-to know-base, avoiding all information that may lead to the identification of the survivor and any potential risk of retribution.

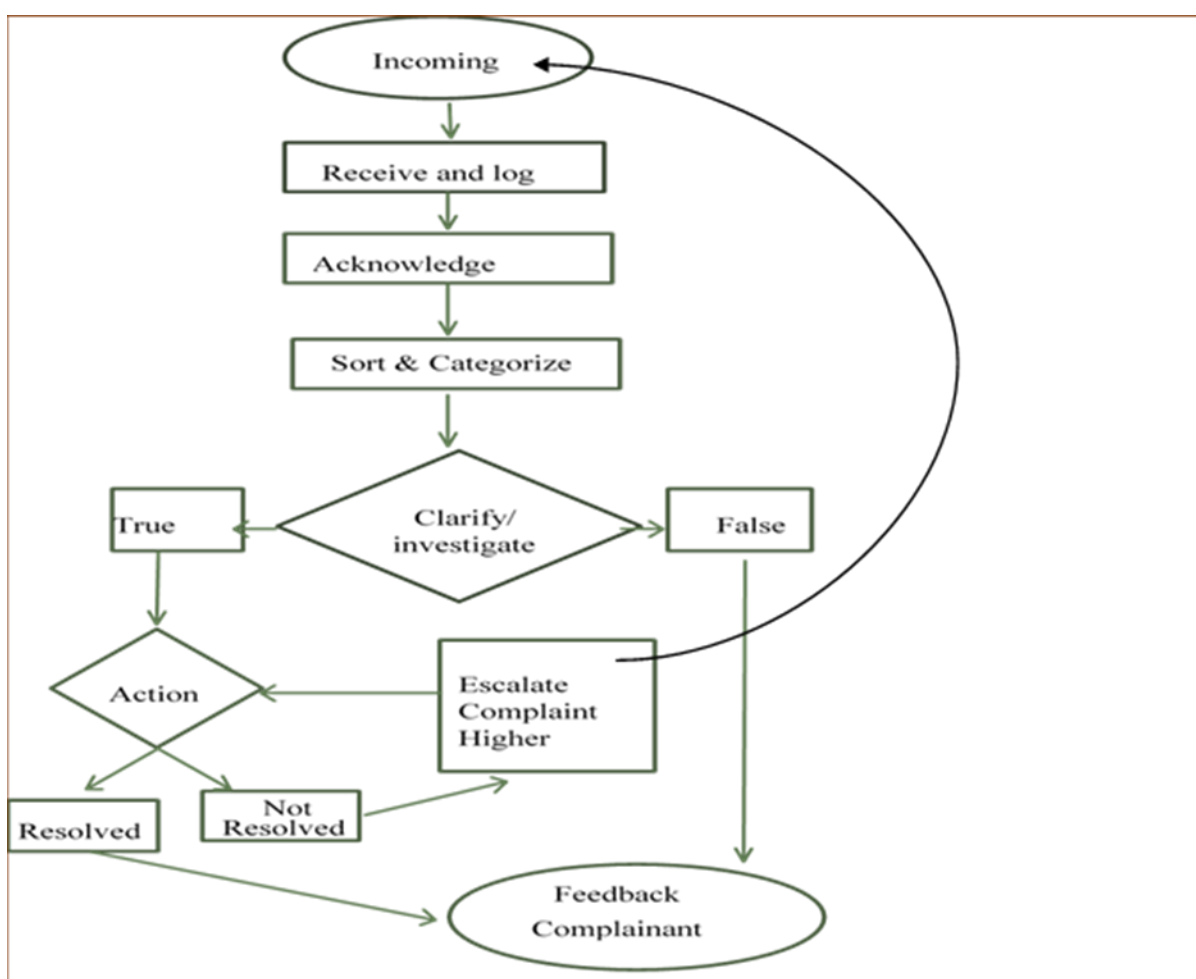


Figure 1: Grievance Redress Mechanisms Flowchart

### 8.3 Interim Grievance Mechanisms

81. Pending the establishment of a specialized project GM email and hotline, , the office of the NPCU has been responsible for managing project-related complaints through the communication department and online/web based grievance channel. The Project has delayed in establishing a functional GRM due to the lengthy procurement process affecting the recruitment and onboarding

of E&S specialist and other key NPCU personnel to help manage the complains effectively. Now that almost all team members have been recruited, the NPCU will expedite the creation of separate GRM channels to recieve complaints Once the GM system is fully established and running, information on the GM focal points and guidance on how to channel complaints will be shared broadly and at all levels. Currently, the following contact has been in use:

Email: [communication@fsrp.gov.so](mailto:communication@fsrp.gov.so) and Tel:+252907729929

## **9 MONITORING AND REPORTING**

83. The Project will establish a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System that is participatory, which will utilize indicators that are sensitive to concerned stakeholders. Furthermore, the project will involve affected parties by gathering their observations to triangulate scientific findings and involve them in participatory discussions of external monitoring and evaluation missions.

### **9.1 Involvement of stakeholders in monitoring activities**

84. The NPCU will monitor the SEP per the requirements of the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) including changes resulting from changes in the design of the project or project circumstances. The extent and mode of Stakeholder monitoring concerning environmental and social performance would be across all project activities and areas. The stakeholders will have different forums and channels to raise their concerns and observations as the project progresses. The project cordiantors wil ensure regular stakeholder engagements take place epically where there are any changes in the project design or implementation arrangement.
85. The following M&E actions will be undertaken regarding stakeholder interests in line with the environmental and social performance of the project, which will include:
- i. Conducting stakeholder engagement in a consultative manner, following the SEP and building upon the channels of communication and engagement as established with stakeholders;
  - ii. Collection of feedback from stakeholders on the environment and social performance of the project, and on the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the ESCP on a bi-annual basis.
  - iii. Periodic reviews of compliance with requirements of the legal agreement, including the ESCP.
86. Where appropriate, engaging stakeholders and third parties such as independent experts, local communities, or non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to complement or verify projects stakeholder monitoring information.
87. Where other agencies or third parties would be responsible for managing specific project activities including risks and impacts and implementing mitigation measures associated with the project activity, the Project M&E efforts would be supplemented with procured third parties monitors to establish and monitor such mitigation measures.

### **9.2 Reporting back to Stakeholder Groups**

88. The stakeholder engagement process will aim to support the development of strong, constructive, and responsive relationships among the key Project stakeholders for successful management of the project's environmental and social risks and preparing stakeholders for the Project. Effective stakeholder engagement between the Government and project stakeholders improves the

environment and social sustainability of projects, enhances project acceptance, and makes a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation.

89. All stakeholder engagement meetings will have minutes, which will be stored in the project stakeholder engagement database; this will be to ensure that (i) there are records that can be referred to and that all views raised are taken into consideration, and (ii) commitments made are delivered upon. In addition, the outcomes of the stakeholder engagement activities with comments that have been considered will be reported in the ESCP and monitoring progress reports by all parties. Despite this being for internal use only, it will result in an annual report on stakeholder engagement under the project.

## Annexes

## Annex I Focus Group Discussions Summary from the AF discussions.

Key themes to cover	Responses
<b>Perception about the project</b>	<p>The usefulness of the project cannot be over emphasized. The project has come to alleviate challenges caused by draught and flooding and help the farmers, livestock keepers and other players in the value chain to improve the livelihood. solution for the drought and other natural disasters that repeatedly affect pastorals, it also lifts up the living standard of those beneficiaries, similarly, this will ease trade for pastorals for both domestic and internationally. The project creates employment opportunities, stimulates the volume of collection of national revenues and, to the economic growth of the country.</p> <p>In general, lack of trust and security is the main impediment to the success of the such project. Lack of human capital and experts, lack of collaboration between stakeholders, including national and subnational institutions, the timing of the project shall be consistent with the inventive planning of the project. Competition among the government representatives, Poor management and lack of transparency will be among the biggest risks.</p> <p>These risks will be prevented or mitigated to set up a joint committee whose principal task would be to create a bridge between recipients and donors and also receive grievances and complains from the pastoralists to resolve. Establishment Independent monitoring and evaluation team, holding a regular meeting between stakeholders, putting in place communication channels.</p>
<b>Exclusion during project design and implementation</b>	<p>Women, IDPs, and persons with disabilities are among the most marginalized segments of the society. This would be exacerbated if one is from the marginalized clans. Most of them do not have access to education, training and thus remain deprived of gainful employment. Therefore, there are more likely to be excluded from participation and benefits of the project, however, creating adequate opportunity of development programs and engaging them in the project design and implementation is more effective and helpful way to upgrade their lifestyle.</p>
<b>Stakeholder engagement</b>	<p>Mobilizing influential members of the society including clan and religious leaders and appropriate medium to reach the target groups in remote areas. Women are mostly left out these engagements due to their nature of work at home, there should be reasonable methods and mediums to incorporate women and have separate dates for their engagement.</p>

Key themes to cover	Responses
<b>Labor-related risks</b>	Project work should also be given to women and other vulnerable groups. There is risk of exclusion of marginalized groups in the project work. Issues of child labour might occur and the government should take charge to ensure no such issues arise.
<b>Security issues and conflicts</b>	Security remains a challenge. There are efforts to address the security challenge but, remote areas in South West, Jubbaland and Hirshebelle are under control of the al shabab. Other local militias also have considerable presence, posing a great threat to the project activities.
<b>Gender-Based Violence (GBV)</b>	Cases of GBV are mostly reported to the local administrator but some are settled through local clan mechanism.
<b>Occupational Health and Safety</b>	<p>The expected waste from the use of pesticide needs to have a proper way to manage. The private entities have been using pesticide and the outcome is not good to the communities and people around. Waste management is important to make sure the project does not turn out to be a problem especially now that the project will cover most parts.</p> <p>Also, some participants highlighted that contractors might sometimes be reluctant to make sure adequate safety tools are in place, and sometimes workers might also not be willing to wear safety gear. Participants suggested to enhance awareness of both contractors, workers and communities on the importance of using safety measures to mitigate potential risk.</p>
<b>Grievance mechanisms</b>	There are local mechanisms to raise and address grievances. Other projects have used the community based mechanism and the authorities augment it with administrative structures. The GM should be accessible to all and confidential.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize occasional workshops and training</li> <li>- Continuous engagement with all stakeholders</li> <li>- increase community awareness, which will make it easier to implement the projects.</li> <li>- Women in rural areas should participate in the project work at a rate of more than 30%.</li> <li>- there needs to be an administrative action to punish safety measures.</li> <li>- The importance of being more transparent was stressed in all of the procedures</li> <li>- Increase inclusivity of the project beneficiaries.</li> </ul>



**ANNEX II: Grievance Registration Form (GRM/001)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Grievance Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Plaintiff: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Village: \_\_\_\_\_

Chiefdom: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Grievance Category (e.g. land, house, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

Grievance location (Village, Ward, District): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Description of grievance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Recording Officer: \_\_\_\_\_

*NB: The information and details provided herein will be kept and remain confidential and anonymous and under no circumstances will the details be revealed save for instances of victim protection only.*

### ANNEX III: Acknowledgement Receipt (GRM/002)

Complaint no.: ..... Date of issuing complaint: ..... (dd/mm/yyyy)

**Place of issuing complaint:**

Village/Town/City/Area: ..... District: .....

**Details of the Complainant:**

Name: ..... Age: .....

Address: ..... Gender: .....

Email address: ..... Phone no. ....

**Supporting documents submitted:**

- i. ....
- ii. ....
- iii. ....
- iv. ....
- v. ....

**Summary of complaint:**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
...

Name of Officer receiving Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Officer receiving Complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

***All information and details of the parties must be kept confidential and anonymous.***

**ANNEX IV: Meeting Record Structure (Grievance Redress Committee & Other Meetings)  
(GRM/003).**

Date of Meeting: ..... Complaint no.: ..... Venue of Meeting: .....

**List of participants:**

Complainant Side	Grievance Redress Committee Members
1)	1)
2)	2)
	3)

**Summary of Grievance:**

.....  
.....

**Key discussions:**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

**Decisions Made/Recommendations by the Grievance Redress Committee:**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

**Status of Grievance (tick where applicable):**

<b>Solved</b>		<b>Unsolved</b>	
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Chair person's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair person's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date (dd/mm/yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

*All information and details of the parties must be kept confidential and anonymous.*

**ANNEX V: Grievance Investigation Report (004)**

PARTICULARS OF THE GRIEVANCE			
Name of Complainant:			
Grievance Reference Number:			
Grievance Category :			
Grievance Description:			
Grievance location (District, Ward, Village):			
TYPE OF INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED			
Field or Site Visit: Yes. ( ) No. ( )	Desk Review: Yes. ( ) No. ( )	Date Conducted:	
Key people consulted/interviewed:			
Description of the scope of the investigation:			
Summary of the findings:			
Recommendations			
Responsible/Investigation Officer Name:			
Signature:			
Designation:			
Date:			
FMS:			
Province			
District			

*All information and details of the parties must be kept confidential and anonymous.*

## ANNEX VI: Quarterly Report of Registered Complaints (GRM/005)

Location ..... Date (dd/mm/yyyy) ..... Period (Quarter ending) .....

### i. Details of Complaints Received:

Place of issuing complaint	Name & Address of complainant	Location of complaint/concern	Date of Receipt	Complaint no.

### ii. Details of Grievance Redress Meetings:

Date of meeting	Venue of meeting	Names of participants	Decisions/Recommendations made

### iii. Details of Grievances addressed:

Date of issuing complaint	Category of complaint	Category of grievance	Brief description of grievance	Date of complete resolution

*(Note: Copy to be submitted to the Project Coordination Unit)*