

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK'S CLIMATE PROOF WATER 4 FOOD (W4F) PROGRAM IN GAMBELLA REGION, ETHIOPIA

1. INTRODUCTION

The African Development Bank is pleased to open this invitation to tender to conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the African Development Bank (AfDB) funded "Climate Proof Water 4 Food" (W4F) program to be implemented in Gambella region, Ethiopia. This ESIA Terms of Reference details the context, requirements, objectives and scope of work, key deliverables and reporting schedule, and application process, in line with AfDB's Integrated Safeguards System (ISS) and the E&S Operational Safeguards (OSs)

Project Information	
Consortium lead	African Development Bank
Project countries	Ethiopia
Intervention areas	Gambella region in Ethiopia
Main donor	African Development Bank

2. The African Development Fund Climate Action Window

To help fill the significant climate finance gap in Africa, the African Development Fund (ADF) established a **Climate Action Window** under its 16th replenishment cycle, and it is proactively rallying partners from the public and private sectors around its operationalization. The Climate Action Window includes Mitigation and Adaptation Investment Sub-windows that will support projects across six thematic sectors: agriculture and food security; water security; climate information and early warning; green transport and infrastructure; green energy and energy efficiency; and green finance. The Climate Proof Water 4 Food (W4F) program has been identified for funding under the Adaptation Sub-Window. The program will be implemented by Plan International.

3. CONTEXT

The Climate Proof Water4Food program will take place in 5 woredas in Gambella region in Ethiopia. W4F seeks to increase adaptation to extreme weather events and climate change within the agriculture and the water sectors leading to a doubling of food production, increased food security and increased access to water and sanitation, through the following two components; Component 1: Climate-smart agriculture and value chain
Component 2: Inclusive, gender transformative, integrated flood-and drought-adapted water resource management and access.

Challenges of safe water supply, sanitation, and hygiene in flood-affected five woredas of Gambella Region, Ethiopia

Flood-affected woredas: Gog, Abobo, Abol, Itang & Lare in the Gambella Region face severe challenges in ensuring safe water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), leading to increased risks of waterborne diseases and poor public health conditions. The major WASH challenges in these areas include: the inadequacy of WASH infrastructures at a minimum standard, the contamination of water sources is the major one, as floodwaters mix with latrines, liquid and solid wastes on the surface, polluting wells, shallow wells, and rivers. The recurrent flooding in Gambella disrupts livelihoods, damages infrastructure, and threatens public health. Floodwaters contaminate drinking water sources, destroy sanitation facilities, and increase the spread of waterborne diseases. Agricultural lands are frequently submerged, leading to food insecurity and economic losses. The destruction of roads and health facilities limits access to essential services, worsening the impact on vulnerable populations. Furthermore, displacement resulting from flooding often leads to overcrowding in temporary shelters and worsening issues related to hygiene and protection. Without resilient infrastructure and effective flood management strategies, communities remain highly vulnerable to repeated disasters.

The water infrastructure such as shallow wells, handpumps, and pipelines often suffer flood-related damage, reducing access to safe drinking water. Many communities also lack proper water treatment capacity, making it difficult to purify contaminated water, while seasonal water scarcity further exacerbates the problem after floods recede. Also, those areas are known by the Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

Sanitation is another critical issue, with floods washing away pit latrines and causing overflow, leading to open defecation and spreading diseases. Poor drainage and waste management create stagnant water, which serves as a breeding ground for mosquitoes and worsens sanitation conditions. Public institutions such as schools and health centers often lack flood-resistant latrines, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups, including women, children, and persons with disabilities.

Hygiene challenges further compound the crisis, as floods disrupt supply chains, making essential items like soap, menstrual hygiene products, and water treatment materials scarce. Displacement and overcrowding in temporary shelters increase the risk of disease transmission due to poor hygiene practices. Additionally, limited access to clean water prevents proper handwashing, further heightening health risks. Addressing these challenges requires flood-resilient WASH infrastructure, emergency water treatment measures, hygiene promotion, and inclusive sanitation solutions to protect public health in affected communities.

4. REQUIREMENTS

The consultant must adhere to the following policies and guidelines in carrying out the ESIA:

- Plan International's Gender Transformative Approach (GTA), encompassing the six elements of gender transformative programming;
- Plan International's Child and Youth Safeguarding Policy and ethical MERL framework;
- AfDB's environmental and social policies;
- AfDB's environmental and social guidelines;
- AfDB's Environmental and Social Assessment Procedures;
- National legislation and regulations regarding environmental and social assessment;
- International environmental/social agreements signed by the borrowing country;
- Co-financier requirements regarding environmental and social assessment.

5. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF WORK

Major tasks of this ESIA will include:

- Describing the proposed project by providing a synthetic description of the project relevant components and presenting plans, maps, figures and tables.
- Identifying the policy, legal and administrative framework relevant to the project, with particular attention paid to relevant, existing gaps in services and legislation.
- Defining and justifying the project study area for the assessment of environmental and social impacts.
- Describing and analysing the physical, biological and human environment conditions in the study area before project implementation. This analysis shall include the interrelations between environmental and social components and the importance that the society and local populations attach to these components, in order to identify the environmental and social components of high value or presenting a particular interest. It should refer to Plan International's Gender Transformative Marker Section A (Situation Analysis), identifying which groups participating in the project are most vulnerable to environmental and social risks. It should unpack why these gaps and inequalities exist, and how they affect participants differently based on unique, compounding identity factors (e.g. gender, age, host vs refugee status, disability, ethnicity, etc).
- Presenting and analysing alternatives to the proposed project, including the "without project" option, by identifying and comparing the alternatives on the basis of technical, economic, environmental and social criteria.
- For the selected alternative, identifying and assessing potential importance of beneficial and adverse environmental and social, direct and indirect, short and long-term, temporary and permanent impacts, on the basis of a rigorous method.
- Defining appropriate mitigation/enhancement measures to prevent, minimise, mitigate, or compensate for adverse impacts or to enhance the project environmental and social benefits, including responsibilities and associated costs. These measures should consider how gender roles and norms may create different risks and/or adverse impacts for boys/girls/young men/young women, and should be tailored to the different groups of participants, referring to Plan International's 6 elements of Gender Transformative and Inclusive Work.
- Addressing potential cumulative effects taking into account other initiatives planned in the study area.
- Developing an environmental and social monitoring program, including indicators, institutional responsibilities and associated costs. The program should describe how collected data and information on beneficiaries will be disaggregated (by sex, age, and other identity factors relevant to project scope and context); and include resources allocated to gender and climate-specific technical expertise.
- As appropriate, preparing an environmental hazard plan including an analysis of the risk of accident, the identification of appropriate security measures and the development of a preliminary contingency plan. Please refer to Plan International's Environmental Assessment tool, section 4-6 (environmental risk screening)

- Identifying institutional responsibilities and needs for capacity development if necessary to implement the recommendations of the environmental and social assessment.
- Carrying out consultations with primary and secondary stakeholders in order to obtain their views on and concerns about the project. These consultations shall occur during the preparation of the ESIA Report to identify key environmental and social issues and impacts, and after completion of the draft ESIA Report to obtain comments from stakeholders on the proposed mitigation/enhancement measures. Aligned with Plan International's Child and Youth Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct, the ESIA shall explain how appropriate, safe, non-discriminatory participation of all stakeholders will be ensured, how special attention will be paid to the needs of youth and other vulnerable groups, and how confidentiality and anonymity of participants will be guaranteed.
- Preparing an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) according to the contents presented in Part A. This management plan shall be presented as a distinct document from the ESIA Report.

6. KEY DELIVERABLES AND REPORTING SCHEDULE

The maximum period for carrying out the assignment will be 30 days. Expected deliverables are as follows:

- i. Inception Report—an inception report describing the methodology to be employed in pursuing the assignment; propounding steps/actions to be taken towards achieving desired goals shall be submitted one week after signing of the contract. This report shall summarize the initial findings and give defined proposals covering the methodologies to be employed for different tasks for the detailed ESIA study and a detailed work program and state of mobilization of all major activities of the assignment. The inception report preparation will include literature review.
- ii. Draft ESIA Reports (2 reports)— shall submitted to the client 4 weeks after signing of the contract for review. The consultant shall comply with country's ESIA reporting requirement and regulations as well as the AFDB's environmental and social safeguards requirements
- iii. Final ESIA Reports (2 reports)— the final report shall be submitted in hard and soft copies 6 weeks after signing of the contract to the client for review and approval including onward submission to the AFDB thereafter for review and approval.

The content for an ESIA report shall be outlined as:

- i. A non-technical executive summary in English. The summaries shall be short but clear. It should include description of the proposed project, methodologies involved, resources required, outcomes/benefits, major significant impacts with their mitigation/enhancement measures, recommendations, and conclusion.
- ii. Introduction including objectives of the study, rationale, outline of the report, description of methodologies and data sources used in the assessment.
- iii. Description of the proposed activity including its location; size; components; scope of services and production; a rough quantification of resources used; emissions and wastes generated; analysis of alternatives; and decommissioning.
- iv. Description of the baseline conditions at the site and affected area, including relevant socio-economic, biophysical, heritage and cultural aspects.
- v. Stakeholder's engagement in the process including perceptions about the proposed activity, views, concerns, and recommendations.

- vi. Description of the Policies, Legal and Institutional context of the activity, including relevant environmental and socio-economic safeguards that apply and their implications for the activity.
- vii. Assessment of potential impacts from socio-economic, biophysical, heritage and cultural perspective for different phases of development.
- viii. Mitigation measures considered and an evaluation of their effectiveness in addressing impacts identified and rationale for proposing measures.
- ix. The Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), including institutional arrangements, responsibilities, and budgets needed.
- x. Conclusion and recommendations.
- xi. Annexes which shall include a reference list, list of the experts involved with their Curriculum Vitae, maps, drawings, list of stakeholders consulted (including photos during consultation with public), proceedings of stakeholders meeting if any.

7. TEAM OF EXPERTS AND LEVEL OF EFFORT

An expert consultant or team of consultants, with expertise in environmental and social disciplines will be favoured. We expect expertise requirements to be defined as precisely as possible by the consultant team to ensure that key issues for project assessment are handled by appropriate specialists, such as a gender specialist when gender issues are determinant and a hydrologist as water management is central to the project success. Specific qualifications and experience of the desired expert consultant or team of consultants are outlined below:

Environmental and social risk Specialist

- At least a Master's degree in environmental or social science / Engineering / Planning.
- A minimum of 10 (ten) years relevant professional experience particularly in Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) studies in water supply projects at World Bank and Africa development Bank projects.
- Experience in conducting RAP/RAP for water supply projects in African Development Bank projects
- Demonstrated experience in development of ES safeguard instruments, especially addressing impacts on vulnerable or diverse groups (e.g., people with disabilities), land acquisition and resettlement, Indigenous Peoples, etc.
- Experience in conducting similar study and possess an Environmental consultancy certification from EPA, and/or relevant environmental management systems.
- Professional Experience in gender mainstreaming and developing and assessing SEA/SH guidelines, management systems, checklists, and training courses on SEA/SH in post-disaster contexts.
- Knowledge of the Project operation areas is advantageous.
- Familiarity with the environmental and social safeguards policies and instruments of the Government of Ethiopia and the African Development Bank.
- Excellent writing skills in English.

8. REPORTING

The ESIA Report shall be presented in a clear and concise manner and focus on relevant and significant environmental and social issues that assist in understanding the project and its impacts. The ESIA Report shall describe the scientific approach adopted to carry out the studies. In particular, the models, methods and criteria used in the studies shall be presented and explained. The Report shall also include maps and drawings at the appropriate scale and refer to all consulted documents.

The detailed ESIA Report needs to be prepared in English. The ESIA Executive Summary needs to be written in English and in a dominant local language if necessary. To be useful for consultations, the ESIA Executive Summary shall be concise and written in a non-technical language.

9. TIMEFRAME

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Environmental and Social Management Plan will be completed by May 8th, 2025. The Consultancy Team conducting this assignment should submit as per the agreed work plan.

10. TERMS OF PAYMENT

- 25% of total amount payable upon submission of integrated work plan and inception report
- 20% of total amount payable upon submission of draft of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report to the W4F Team and AfDB
- 30% of total amount payable upon submission of final draft of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment to the Government Team, as well as the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Ministry of Water and energy and Ministry of agriculture in Ethiopia
- 25% of total amount payable upon submission of final comprehensive Environmental and Social Impact Assessment after validation and incorporation of final comments to the Ministry of Water and Energy

11. APPLICATION PROCESS

Deadline for submission: March 25 at 5:00 PM (EAT)

Submit applications to: N.OGAL@AFDB.ORG
