

Zimbabwe

Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

Mid-term Review

Mission Dates: 16/11/2020 04/12/2020

Document Date: 19/01/2021

Project No. 2000001233

Report No. 5638-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division
Programme Management Department

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AWPB	Annual Workplan and Budget
DOI	Department of Irrigation
EMA	Environmental Management Authority
FAAB	Farming as a Business
FFS	Farmer Field School
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IMC	Irrigation Management Committee
MLAWRR	Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Settlements
MOFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRMF	Natural Resource Management Facility
OFID	OPEC fund for International Development
O&M	Operation & Maintenance

PCU	Programme Coordination Unit
PIM	Programme Implementation Manual
PP	Procurement Plan
RPSF	Rural Poor Stimulus Facility
SACP	Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project
SECAP	Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures
SIRP	Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme
ToR	Terms of Reference
VC	Value Chain
WA	Withdrawal Application
WEAI	Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index
WUO	Water User Organization

A. Project Overview

Region:	East and Southern Africa Division	Project at Risk Status:	Potential problem
Country:	Zimbabwe	Environmental and Social Category:	B
Project Name:	Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme	Climate Risk Classification:	2
Project ID:	2000001233	Executing Institution:	Ministry of Finance
Project Type:	Irrigation	Implementing Institutions:	Ministry of Finance
CPM:	Jaana Keitaanranta		
Project Director:	not available yet		
Project Area:	<p>The Smallholder Irrigation Revitalisation Programme is targeting 20 districts in the provinces of Manicaland, Masvingo, Matabeleland South, and Midlands which lie in agro-ecological regions III, IV and V. The districts include: Manicaland (Chipinge, Chimanimani, Buhera and Makoni), Matabeleland South (Gwanda, Beitbridge, Insiza, and Mangwe), Masvingo (Masvingo, Chiredzi, Mwenezi, Zaka, Gutu, Chivi, and Bikita), and Midlands (Kwekwe, Zvishavane, Chirimanzu, Gweru and Mberengwa).</p>		

Approval Date:	22/09/2016	Last audit receipt:	29/06/2020
Signing Date:	18/11/2016	Date of Last SIS Mission:	04/12/2020
Entry into Force Date:	18/11/2016	Number of SIS Missions:	8
Available for Disbursement Date:	29/05/2017	Number of extensions:	0
First Disbursement Date:	31/05/2017	Effectiveness lag:	2 months
MTR Date:	16/11/2020		
Original Completion Date:	31/12/2023		
Current Completion Date:	31/12/2023		
Financial Closure:	not available yet		

Project total financing

IFAD Financing breakdown	Debt Sustainability Framework	\$25,456,158
Domestic Financing breakdown	Beneficiaries	\$2,869,000
	National Government	\$7,909,000
	National Government Cash	\$100,000
Co-financing breakdown,	Rural Poor Stimulus Facility	\$699,999
	OPEC Fund for International Development	\$15,000,000
Project total financing:		\$52,034,157

Current Mission

Mission Dates:	16/11/2020 04/12/2020
Days in the field:	n/a

Mission composition: Jaana Keitaanranta, Team Leader, Marco Marzano De Marinis, Technical Specialist, Mawira Chitima, Global Water Specialist, Lead Technical Specialist, Edith Kirumba, Climate Change and NRM Specialist IFAD Kenya, Putso Nyathi, Regional Agronomist, Alessadra Casano, Knowledge management Consultant, Andrew Macpherson, Senior Value Chain and Management Specialist, Consultant, Joylyn Ngoro, Targeting and Social Inclusion Specialist & IFAD Country Programme Liaison, Consultant, Grace Nakanjako, Monitoring & Evaluation and Knowledge Management Specialist, Consultant, Richard Batamanye, Financial Management Specialist, Consultant, Rym Ghazzali, Procurement Specialist, Consultant

Field sites visited: Mayorca and Exchange irrigation in Midlands province and Rupangwana, Banga and Guyo irrigation schemes in Masvingo province.

B. Overall Assessment

Key SIS Indicator #1	Ø	Rating	Key SIS Indicator #2	Ø	Rating
Likelihood of Achieving the Development Objective		4.03	Assessment of the Overall Implementation Performance		3.67

Effectiveness and Developmental Focus	4	Project Management	4
Effectiveness	3	Quality of Project Management	3
Targeting and Outreach	4	Knowledge Management	5
Gender equality & women's participation	5	Value for Money	3
Agricultural Productivity	N/A	Coherence between AWPB and Implementation	3
Nutrition	5	Performance of M&E System	3
Adaptation to Climate Change	4	Social, Environment, and Climate Standards requirements	5

Sustainability and Scaling-up	4	Financial Management and Execution	4
Institutions and Policy Engagement	4	Acceptable Disbursement Rate	2
Partnership-building	4	Quality of Financial Management	4
Human and Social Capital and Empowerment	4	Quality and Timeliness of Audit	5
Quality of Project Target Group Engagement and Feedback	4	Counterparts Funds	3
Responsiveness of Service Providers	3	Compliance with Loan Covenants	4
Environment and Natural Resource Management	4	Procurement	4
Exit Strategy	3		
Potential for Scaling-up	3		

Relevance	4
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C. Mission Objectives and Key Conclusions

Background and Main Objective of the Mission

The Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme (SIRP) was approved by the IFAD Executive Board in September 2016 and the Financing Agreement between IFAD and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe was signed on 18 November 2016. SIRP is financed by the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ), programme beneficiaries, IFAD and OFID. IFAD will finance 50% (US\$25.5 million) of overall programme costs on grant terms, under the Debt Sustainability Framework. The Government will finance taxes and duties (US\$7.7 million), representing 15% of total costs. Beneficiaries will contribute 6% of total programme costs, US\$3.3 million, in the form of financial contributions to operation and maintenance for rehabilitated infrastructure, cost sharing of post-harvest technologies, and in-kind contribution to soil and water conservation activities. OFID will finance 29% (US\$15.0 million) of programme costs, covering civil works related to irrigation rehabilitation and road improvement. The Loan Agreement between OFID and the Government of Zimbabwe was signed on 8 March 2018. SIRP is being implemented by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement (MLAWCRR) over a period of seven years. A start-up workshop was held in August 2017 and the programme was launched officially on 10 November 2017. Its completion date is 31 December 2023 and the closing date 30 June 2024.

The overall goal of SIRP is that rural households achieve food and nutrition security and are resilient to climate change effects and economic shocks in the programme districts. The programme development objective is that rural households sustainably increase their income in schemes and adjacent rainfed areas supported by the programme. The programme goal will be achieved by revitalizing existing high potential irrigation schemes and their adjacent rainfed areas (sub-catchment areas), which will result in: (i) an increase in production and productivity of selected commodities; (ii) an increase in annual household incomes; (iii) increased market integration; and (iv) a smallholder agricultural production system that is better adapted to climate change.

SIRP will revitalize 6,100 hectares (ha) in about 125 existing smallholder irrigation schemes, located mainly in communal and old resettlement areas in the semi-arid sections of natural regions III, IV and V in the provinces of Manicaland, Masvingo, Matabeleland South, and Midlands. The programme's target area contains about 47% of the country's estimated total irrigation-equipped area of about 13,000 ha.

The programme consists of two components as follows: Component 1: Sustainable smallholder irrigation development; and Component 2: Climate-smart agriculture and market access.

The recruitment of SIRP staff took place in 2017. The start-up workshop took place in August 2017. The mission has received five full scale supervision missions and several technical implementation support missions that took place from 2017 to date. The latest full-scale supervision mission took place in December 2019 and a partial remote implementation support mission took place in May 2020.

From 16 to 30 November 2020, IFAD fielded a midterm review mission to Zimbabwe on SIRP. The objectives of the mission were to assist the Government (i) in assessing the project performance and the progress towards the project objectives, (ii) identifying issues in project implementation and possible solutions, (iii) identifying lessons that could be used to improve the programme implementation, and (iv) assess compliance with fiduciary aspects. The midterm review provides an opportunity to propose modifications to the implementation strategy if considered necessary.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and travel restrictions, the MTR was conducted virtually. The mission would like to thank the Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement, Dr. A J. Masuka, for his opening remarks. The MTR consisted of zoom meetings with SIRP team, key Government counterparts in the MLAWRR and MOFED and service providers. Two local consultants were able to undertake a field visit to the following Irrigation schemes: Exchange, Mayorca, Banga, Rupangwana/Fungai, Gudo. During the field visits, IFAD team members were linked via zoom or WhatsApp so that they could follow discussion with the framers. The project also presented videos in order to share the views of beneficiaries and their testimonies with the mission.

Key Mission Agreements and Conclusions

The performance of the project at midterm falls short of targets on the key indicators on outreach and outputs. The outreach at midterm is 4,529 smallholder farmers, representing 74% of the midterm target and only 16% of the end of project target of 27,500 farmers. Irrigation development has been slow with less than 7% of project target at midterm and development costs more than double the estimated costs at design. Moreover, despite some farmer training, the application of business principles by farmers in rehabilitated schemes is inadequate, prejudicing their commercial success. Unless corrective actions are taken, these challenges put the project at risk of not achieving the development objectives. The mission recommends that senior MLAWRR officials and IFAD continue to meet periodically to review progress of the project and implementation of the agreed actions.

The project has managed to prepare a good pipeline of projects of 56 irrigation schemes, covering 6,424ha. The pipeline of projects will require an estimated US\$42 million, which is more than double the available funding under the project. The progress on irrigation rehabilitation remains an area of significant concern. While the implementation of civil works was

affected by COVID-19 pandemic, there are issues around capacity in contract management and capacity of contractors to execute the works timeously that require attention urgent from the project. The project has prioritised the schemes (3800ha) to be developed with the available budget. The Government of Zimbabwe will consider options for additional financing for the project for the remaining schemes to meet the project target of 6100ha^[1].

The project should start piloting different models of irrigation scheme management, after consultation and agreement with the farmers. Starting the piloting early will give time for learning lessons and adjusting the models and approaches.

Implementation of some project activities has been affected by the inadequate capacity of government implementing agencies, especially in the areas of rural finance and business development. The recruitment of service providers to assist with irrigation feasibility studies has helped with implementation progress. The mission implores the government to strategically recruit these service providers, to ensure that rehabilitated schemes are both technically and financially viable. The mission advocates the following services providers to be urgently engaged: a) business development service provider's recruitment process to be finalised; b) implementation of the NORAD-nutrition and RPSF grant; c) irrigation scheme construction and d) construction supervision.

SIRP identified high impact project to be implemented under Natural Resources Management Facility matching grant. The mission recommends strengthening of the business case to enhance the quality and sustainability of interventions.

SIRP is experiencing delays in approvals of withdrawal applications at Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, delays in accessing designated account bank statements to facilitate bank reconciliations and preparation of withdrawal applications and delays in accessing funds disbursed by IFAD at the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. These internal processes are creating cash flow challenges at the project with negative impact on implementation with a risk that IFAD grant funds currently disbursed at 24% will not be absorbed by programme completion. Addressing these challenges will be key in facilitating disbursements.

There is a shortfall in Government counterpart financing to pay taxes having received and spent equivalents of USD 61,394.89 during the year 2020. As of 31 October 2020, USD 45,764.86 was due to suppliers in respect of VAT, and USD 254,583.00 had been committed for payment by 31 December 2020 giving rise to a total liability of USD 300,347.86. Settlement of this liability is urgently required to mitigate against possible litigations by suppliers as VAT cannot be paid using IFAD grant resources.

The Internal Audit Department of the Ministry of MLAWRR conducted an internal audit exercise and recommended several actions to improve internal control systems of the programme. The mission commends the efforts of internal audit in providing assurance and improving systems. In support of these efforts, a verification mission will be fielded by IFAD to check progress made in implementation of these recommendations.

The high-level coordination meetings between MLAWRR, SIRP and IFAD carried out after the May 2020 partial supervision mission, have proved to be successful in follow up, in identifying key issues and defining jointly milestones and responsibilities. These meetings should continue to be held regularly.

The mission takes note of the written MLAWRR comments, on the MTR report, which were received on 10 December 2020, after the wrap up meeting. The mission agrees on the suggestion to maintain the 6,100-ha target area on rehabilitation of irrigation schemes. The mission acknowledges Government's effort to reduce the cost per hectare. However, this applies to schemes that are still to undergo evaluation phase, for instance Musaverema Irrigation Scheme. In the case of Mayorca and Banga Irrigation Schemes, IFAD has given a NO Objection and the awarded firms have been informed. Any changes in the costs of the components will result in restarting the bidding process which means a delay.

The next supervision mission will analyse how far Government would have managed to reduce the rehabilitation cost per hectare. In the meantime, the mission has tentatively identified areas of cost savings to be moved for rehabilitation, to include: (i) rural finance budget line that had been repurposed for a revolving fund, (ii) costs for the 5 vehicles which will no longer be procured; (iii) road rehabilitation costs and (iv) part of the funding under the WUO strengthening budget line. The mission agrees with the secondment of Government staff for the two PCU positions: for M&E and KM assistants.

^[1] The Project Design Report states 5,000 ha as the overall size of the target area for rehabilitation. The financing agreement mentions 6 100 ha instead, indicating a difference in the target area size without amending the total cost.

D. Overview and Project Progress

Component 1: Sustainable smallholder irrigation development The objective of the component is to transform low-performing 6100ha of irrigated lands on irrigation schemes in natural regions II, IV and V to be fully functional, water user organisation (WUO) managed. The focus of the rehabilitation is improved water management and low-cost operational costs. The WUO will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the schemes.

Pipeline of irrigation schemes for rehabilitation: After a slow start, the project has managed to prepare a good pipeline of projects of 56 irrigation schemes, covering 6,424ha. The pipeline of projects will require an estimated US\$42

million. As the funding requirement is much higher than available funding under the project, some of the schemes will be put in reserve of investment schemes for future sources of finance.

Scheme Development Phase	Number of schemes	Area (ha)	Estimated cost (US\$)
Feasibility study	28	3,206	22,380,677
Detailed Engineering Designs	11	844	7,529,138
Bidding	9	1473	7,889,785
Construction	8	910.8	4,498,143
Rehabilitation complete	3*	200	
Total	57	6,433.8	42,297,743

* - Part of Musikavanhu Cluster Block (A1,A3, B1, B3&B5), hence not added to totals.

Feasibility studies preparation: The project has a target of feasibility studies for 8100ha of irrigation schemes. Of this, 6100ha will be rehabilitated under the project and 2000ha will form an investment ready bank of projects. Feasibility studies for 3,218ha have been completed from a total of 6434ha and the rest are planned for completion by end of December 2020. The feasibility studies were undertaken by the DoI, Arup Consultants and SWS Consultants. The mission recommends that, with the reduction of area to be developed under the project, the project should not undertake any new feasibility studies but complete the ones started.

Consultants	Number of Schemes	Total new area (ha)	Cost at feasibility (US\$)
Arup	26	3482.5	
DoI	18	2070.8	
SWS	13	880.5	
Grand Total	57	6433.8	

Rehabilitation/construction of existing schemes: Eight irrigation schemes, with 900ha, have on-going construction works. Musikavanhu A1, A3 and B5 (200ha) are completed. All on-going contracts have not been completed on time (6 months) and are now almost double the period of performance. The slow progress in rehabilitating schemes has been because of:

- the unavailability of feasibility studies and detailed engineering designs. The anticipated 'low hanging fruits' schemes, were not ready for construction as they did not have feasibility studies.
- impact of covid-19 pandemic – the lockdown imposed on the country affected construction activities as contractors had to adjust
- poor contract management practices that cause delays in payment and contract variations – delayed payments caused by lack of understanding of contract conditions, no contract extensions after expiry. there is need for the project to have a clear procurement implementation plan for each scheme that will inform the project procurement plan.
- poor performance of contractors.

Introduction of new technologies: In rehabilitating the schemes, some new technologies have been introduced as follows: a) The main canals at Banga irrigation scheme (62ha) will be converted to pipes; b) Eight irrigation schemes

(1,000ha) will be converted from diesel pumps to solar electricity and one from grid electricity supply to solar; c) Four irrigation schemes in Chipinge will have a hybrid energy supply (Grid and solar combined); d) Centre pivots will be introduced at two irrigation schemes.

Improved smallholder irrigation management: The project has trained 1592 farmers (from 5 irrigation Schemes) in operation and management from five schemes. The training was led by DoI staff from head office and provinces. Irrigation management committees' members (117) were also part of the training. Youth (42) were trained in irrigation maintenance and repair. One positive factor observed is that irrigation farmers are now paying some amounts into the scheme O&M funds. The level of funding was not ascertained but these contributions are very likely to be far below actual costs.

Key implementation issues:

- **Irrigation rehabilitation costs:** The cost of irrigation scheme development is averaging about US\$7,500 per ha. This cost is significantly above the estimated average cost at project design, which were estimated US\$3050 per ha for rehabilitations (about 4,000ha), US\$4,500 per ha for rehabilitation with expansion (800ha) and US\$7800 for rehabilitation with solar installation (200ha). The high investment costs can be due, in part, to the increase in the number of solar installations that the project is targeting, 1000ha, the macro-economic conditions in Zimbabwe, and the unforeseen derelict state of some of the schemes. The mission is concerned at the high capital costs for rehabilitation of irrigation schemes as it may have high operational costs and affects the viability of the schemes in the long-term.
- **Prioritising irrigation schemes for available budget:** With the irrigation development costs at about double the estimated costs at design, there is need to prioritise the schemes to be developed to fit within the available budget of about US\$20 million. The mission recommends the following criteria for prioritising schemes.
 - Schemes that have the potential for impact on poverty alleviation and outreach.
 - Not finance solar power for schemes where grid-electricity is available, saving about US\$500,000.
 - Limiting the number of schemes that will be converted from diesel to solar to 500ha.
 - Include schemes from the most vulnerable areas in Natural Regions III, IV and V, and as foreseen during design, saving the allocation for Romsely Irrigation Scheme.
 - Limit the number of schemes that include area extensions.

The mission estimates that this prioritisation the area for irrigation development with available resources is about 3800ha, with total investments of about US\$22 million.

- **Need identify additional resources to cover funding gap:** At the average cost of irrigation development, the required funding to rehabilitate 6100 is about US\$42million compared to about US\$20 million at design. To close the funding gap, the following strategies will be implemented:
 - the members of the scheme will install fencing for the irrigation schemes.
 - the DoI engineers and TA engineer in PMU will intensify review of all designs to identify items that can be adjusted or eliminated without affecting scheme performance.
 - for smaller schemes (<50ha), the DoI can be considered for use force account for construction, subject to meeting the procurement requirements indicating proper accounting and internal controls are in place and reviewed by IFAD.
- **Arrangement for Operation and management of new technologies:** The mission welcomes the introduction of new technologies that aim to improve water management, reduce operational costs, and aim for low carbon schemes. The viability and sustainability of the introduced technologies should be adequately analysed to ensure long-term viability and sustainability. Introduction of these new technologies should be accompanied by adequate capacity building for operation and management. The mission notes that farmers are not aware of the costs of scheme rehabilitation and the potential operation and maintenance costs, especially for the new technologies. The mission is concerned with the solar installations that are to be managed by farmers, as it they may require skills and supply chains that are not yet developed in the communities.
- **Progress of construction works:** Construction of irrigation works has been much slower than anticipated. While covid-19 had a significant impact on performance, the mission is of the view that the delays in completion of the tenders awarded in December 2019 and January 2020^[1], cannot be explained by covid-19 delays alone. There are capacity gaps with the contractors and within the DoI in contract management. The project needs to adequately review the contractor's experience and capacity to undertake the works before award of tenders, especially where a single contractor is awarded multiple contracts.
- **Construction supervision and contract management:** As the volume of construction works increases in 2021 and 2022, there is need to support the capacity of DoI to effectively supervise. The use of Arup and SWS consultants for construction supervision will assist greatly. In addition, as indicated in the last supervision mission report, the project should assist the department to be able to undertake follow up supervisory work by ensuring that they have adequate transport to go to construction sites as required. The PCU should prepare a plan to have effective supervision of the planned volume of construction work and capacity building DoI staff in contract management.
- **Irrigation management models.** The mission notes that the project is implementing the rehabilitation without piloting any new irrigation management models. New ways of managing irrigation schemes will help in transforming the schemes to viable commercial entities, through a more commercial orientation. The mission recommends that the project consults farmers to implement some of the identified 5 models.

Component 2: (Climate-smart agriculture and market access) aims to achieve sustainable crop production and farm competitiveness and profitability through improved market access, improved cropping intensities, increased adoption of improved varieties, improved access to inputs, better access to financial services, adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices and technologies for increased productivity, value addition and improved Natural Resources Management (NRM). The component targets both irrigation schemes and rainfed areas located adjacent to the irrigation schemes.

Component 2.1 Climate Smart Agriculture: The project has cumulatively only reached 18% (1840) and 9% (1402) of farmers trained in rain-fed and irrigation schemes, respectively. SIRP is currently providing extension support to 13 irrigation schemes and surrounding dryland farming communities with a plan to increase to 24 schemes in the coming year in schemes where feasibility studies were completed. SIRP established 32 FFS out of a yearly target of 33, trained 1173 farmers out of an annual target of 1836 (64%) in dryland areas, and 122 irrigation committees out of a target of 140. SIRP also established nine demos out of a planned 16 in irrigation schemes. Training of farmers at irrigation schemes achieved 56% of annual target of 1862 farmers. Current interventions promoted in the project include fodder production, drought tolerant crops, high nutrition crops and small stock enterprises. The mission however, noted limited promotion of high value crops in irrigation schemes. Although the implementation has improved in 2020, cumulative achievements are still very low.

The mission noted that demos and FFS fields focused more on GAPs than on CSA and agro-ecological practices and there were no tailored technologies for resource poor farmers that encourage low use of external inputs, such as push-pull for control of fall armyworm, green manure cover crops in conservation agriculture for rain-fed farmers and encouraging water use efficiency through mulching in irrigated farming. Demos of crops in irrigation schemes should be informed by markets, and should provide information on comparative financial outcomes for farmers. The project is planning to link farmers to input markets through seed fairs and promoting seed multiplication in partnership with a local seed company, Zaka Super Seeds, to address currently weak input linkages. SIRP is promoting labour-saving technologies through demonstration of the two-wheel tractor. Procured. A concept note for the two-wheel tractor was shared with the mission. There needs to be a clear business plan for this and all mechanisation to sustain equipment use. The project has begun collecting production data from FFS fields and demonstration plots through field extension staff. However, there is no systematic data collection for the different schemes nor reporting on adoption status of technologies promoted by the project. For consistent data collection, the M&E should develop a template for use by extension staff. Extension staff should be supported with tablets to assist in data collection.

Capacity building of extension staff: A training needs assessment of agriculture extension staff was completed, and the assessment report shared with the mission. SIRP has trained 139 extension staff out of an annual target of 250 on various topics, which included conflict management, post-harvest management, GALS, nutrition. This figure is still ways below the MTR target of 500 extension staff. The programme also trained 78 farmer field school facilitators out of a target of 30 surpassing the target. The mission reviewed extension materials used for training farmers and noticed that although there are a wide range of relevant technical training materials, the project had no CSA manual. The mission was informed that a CSA manual is in the final stages of production through another government initiative and should be available for use by the project soon. CSA training should commence as soon as the manual is available. Two policy briefs have been produced on improving market access and rural finance support for smallholder farmers. No exchange visits for extension staff were conducted to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Nutrition: SIRP trained 1,635 out of 14,000 farmers in nutrition education and 1,671 out of 5,000 farmers benefited from nutrition gardens. In response to cyclone Idai, SIRP established 10 one-hectare nutrition gardens of which 3 are completed and the rest in progress. SIRP achieved good implementation progress on nutrition interventions in 2020 despite the COVID restrictions. Implementation of the 2-year grant of USD 456,000 to complement SIRP nutrition sensitive interventions will commence in 2021. In addition, SIRP will also receive \$700, 000 grant under the one-year IFAD Rural Poor Stimulus NORAD Facility (RPSF), aimed at increasing production to keep the food supply chains open in the face of COVID 19 shock.

Gender: SIRP organised International Women's day commemorations and virtual learning workshops that have been instrumental in raising awareness of policy makers on issues affecting rural men, women and youth. Two virtual learning workshops were conducted to exchange experiences exchange experiences on: (i) the Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) between SIRP and SMLP Eswatini, and (ii) gender mainstreaming among different national organisations. A total of 146 GALS champions were trained, and training is being rolled out to communities. With regards to reduction in workloads, SIRP has introduced tsetse stove. Women are confident to speak out at public meetings and on average 3 to 4 women are elected to the IMCs. Women received training and have been allocated irrigation plots. Women's economic empowerment will further be enhanced through the NRMF matching grant income generating projects.

Component 2.2. Market Access and Rural Financial Services

Broad-based training in agri-business development and marketing: The viable application of business principles is central to ensuring the sustainable operation of revitalized irrigation schemes. Agritex has continued, with modest outreach, to provide training for farmers in business related topics. Business skills training for irrigating farmers has been provided to a total of 2,283 farmers, from a target of 15,220. Similarly, general business skills training for rain fed farmers has been

provided for 2,944 farmers from a target of 10,000. In depth Marketing Training has been provided to 132 people, but the overall target has not been reported.

However, it is noted that there is so far no significant impact of this training. Most farmers continue to produce in their previous manner, with little or no inter-action with markets. They have not used business planning to guide their production. A further observation is that irrigation farmers have no knowledge of the capital costs of the rehabilitation of the schemes, nor of the actual or likely operation, maintenance, and depreciation (O, M&D) costs. It is most important that all farmers, including greater scheme farmers, are effectively enabled to calculate and analyse the business factors pertaining to their cropping production systems, and make production decisions based on calculated costs and revenues. Included in this will be analysis of options for simple value addition, including aggregation, storage for deferred sales, grading and packaging of produce.

Business Linkages: SGRP initiated several business linkages for schemes to engage off takers and services which are expected to enhance increased production and profitability of irrigation farmers. This also include linkages for dry land farming systems. Targeted linkages include off takers, input suppliers, financial services, information service providers among others. Most of the business linkages are at initiation or negotiation stage. Some of the organisations to which linkages have been initiated are Celfre, Cairns foods, Kacholo (peri peri), Matanuska (fruit), UNKI Mine/Technoserve, Zim Super Seeds, and CBZ (Red Sphere Finance).

It is imperative that these and other business linkages are realised for the mutual benefit of the SGRP farmers and the businesses themselves. There needs to be emphasis provided that SGRP provides businesses with new opportunities for profitable engagement with smallholders; and in parallel, that smallholders develop trusted and profitable relationships with businesses. This work can be greatly facilitated by the BDSP and RFSP, working in conjunction with Agritex and other IPs. The outcome should be that there is greatly enhanced income generated from commercial engagement between smallholders and businesses.

Post-Harvest Management and low-cost assets: To date, a total of 2379 farmers have been trained on post-harvest management both irrigators and non-irrigators inclusive against a target of 3568 farmers. The content of the training includes post-harvest handling of horticultural crops, with special emphasis on tomatoes and onions, on how to avoid losses and provide value addition for these crops.

The programme has finalized a post-harvest needs assessment study for project operational regions, especially for all "low hanging fruit" irrigation schemes. Key recommendations include a) Sheds to grade and market produce; b) Groundnuts processing and packaging; c) Multi-crop thresher; d) Storage demonstration units such as metal silos; e) Chaff cutter to process livestock feed. Procurement is in progress for these technologies.

The project will be demonstrating solar driers under USADF partnership and establishing a multipurpose post-harvest centre for horticultural crops. The mission notes that these interventions need to be in harmony with the development of irrigation schemes and supported with viable business plans. Simple, low-cost value addition approaches where farmers cooperate on production scheduling and marketing, storage, grading and packaging, to meet market standards should be emphasized. In addition, the project will work with an IFAD grant financed project implemented by SunDanzer, to introduce solar chilling facilities at irrigation schemes.

Recruitment of a Engagement Business Development Service providers (BDSP): As the performance of the previously engaged BDSP was not considered to be as required or expected, it was previously agreed that the programme will engage a firm/organization to lead activities under business development. The mission is pleased that the process of engagement of the BDSP is underway, with bids to be received by 26 November 2020.

The proposed approach for the BDSP and the expected outputs are in line with requirements. It will be vital that the BDSP is able to impart the methodology and tools for application of a comprehensive Farming as a Business (FaaB) approach to the relevant Agritex officers and through them, to SGRP farmers. It is noted that two firms are being recruited, but it is unclear how many expert personnel each firm will be deploying. It is essential that sufficient qualified BDSP field staff are deployed to ensure that adequate training and mentoring is available to Agritex and to SGRP farmers.

Rural Financial Services: A total of US\$715 000 is available to provide revolving credits to smallholder irrigators and farmers in the greater scheme area, through approved financial institutions. To date the programme has conducted meetings with three potential banks to roll out this facility and understand available options. CBZ, Agribank and Stanbic Bank were approached, and the following options are available for the programme: a) Setting up a revolving fund to be run by the bank; b) Setting up a guarantee fund and the bank uses its fund to extend loans to farmers; c) SGRP and Bank Co- financing to establish a loan facility. The implementation modality will be in line with the proposed Smallholder Agricultural Cluster Programme's matching grant for Agricultural Producer Groups (APGs) and will be implemented with the assistance of the BDSP.

[1] e.g. Turn key rehabilitation of boreholes: Musikavanhu, awarded 05/12/2019; Canal rehabilitation. Awarded 06/12/2019 (6month contracts that are still on-going)

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
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Recruit short term consultant to undertake value chain assessments as part of scheme feasibility studies	PCU	01/2019
Develop and appraise business plans to guide project investments in off-farm businesses	PCU	01/2019
Mobilise provincial based BDS TA in a phased manner starting with Manicaland	PCU	04/2019
Annual Audit Annual Audit To be conducted and submitted to IFAD	PCU & Audit Firm	07/2019
Procurement Training IFAD to provide procurement training for SIRP personnel	IFAD & PCU	08/2019
Technical Assistance Support Investigate and report on strategy for provision of longer-term technical support for Irrigation Engineer, Nutrition, Gender, NRM, BDS and Post-Harvest.	PCU	08/2019
Capacity building for Agritex Frontline staff Agritex agrees on a schedule for systematic capacity building in line with the outcome of training needs assessment	PCU and Agritex	12/2019
Accelerate project implementation Provincial and district teams will lead field level implementation with backstopping from national agencies	PCU, IPs	12/2019
Expediate implementation of the NRMF Identify, develop and implement high impact income generating projects with a strong NRM conservation element (range of \$100,000 to \$200,000) Expediate implementation of the NRMF Identify, develop and implement high impact income generating projects with a strong NRM conservation element (range of \$100,000 to \$200,000)	PCU, Agritex	05/2020
Construction supervision Provide the necessary resources for DoI engineers to be effective in construction supervision	PCU	05/2020
Use of DoI construction units Assessment of eligibility and construction of schemes less than 50ha by DoI construction units, after IFAD no objection.	Doi	06/2020
Working under covid-19 Project to have guidelines for consultants and contractors working in the field under covid-19 conditions	PCU	06/2020

Recruit Environment, Climate and Safeguards Officer Complete TORs, obtains N.O. from IFAD and recruit the TA	PCU	06/2020
Recruit BDSP TA Complete TORs, obtains N.O. from IFAD and recruit the TA	PCU	06/2020
Training and mentorship for AGRITEX staff Accelerate training, especially in FaaB	PCU, Agritex, BDSP	06/2020
Quality of feasibility studies Improve quality of feasibility studies by a) confirming water availability; b) separating the non-irrigation scheme investments to be analysed separately	Doi	07/2020
Selection of schemes for construction Reviews all feasibility studies with investment costs above \$10,000 per ha, to lower the investment costs	Doi	07/2020
Contract administration and construction supervision Training of DoI engineers in contract management and construction supervision	PCU	07/2020
Repurpose Funding for Productivity Improvements Appoint a committee to design a delivery mechanism for the repurposed \$715,000. -, for productivity improvement taking into account the country's macroeconomic context, findings from SACP design, and best practices from other countries.	PCU, BDSP	08/2020
Reduce cost per hectare for irrigation scheme rehabilitation and identify budget lines to augment costs for rehabilitation and construction to achieve the 6,100-ha target	PCU/DOI/Agritex	11/2020
Fast tracking construction works Department of irrigation to undertake construction works for completion of rehabilitation of schemes less than 50ha with completed feasibility reports	Doi	12/2020
Finalise on going feasibility studies to a maximum of 6424 ha and discontinue with undertaking any new feasibility studies	DOI/PCU	12/2020
Feasibility Studies Speed up Implementation of FS	PCU	
Feasibility Studies Develop and Operationalise more concise and focussed FS methodology	PCU/DOI with IFAD support	

Application of Participatory Approach Full participation by Farmer/Clients in FS, Design and Construction	PCU/DOI & Agritex	
Farmer Equity Contributions Contribution of at least 10% of scheme investment cost in kind and/or cash	PCU/DOI & Agritex	
Intensify extension support to greater scheme areas with complete feasibility studies and consider these activities as 'no regret'	AGRITEX	
Develop business plans for the two-wheel tractor and post-harvest equipment and expedite procurement	AGRITEX and PCU	
Scheme O, M & D Costs be carefully calculated and fully disclosed to irrigation farmers at Feasibility stage, and these updated and communicated during construction	DOI & Agritex, and BDSP	
Scheme Feasibility Studies to develop realistic business plans to justify capital and O, M&D costs	DOI, Agritex and PCU	
All NRMF investments to have viable business plans to ensure sustainability	Agritex, BDSP and PCU	
Component 2 activities will be implemented on all areas with completed feasibility studies	AGRITEX	

E. Project implementation

a. Development Effectiveness

Effectiveness and Developmental Focus

Effectiveness

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 3

Justification of rating

Development effectiveness is confirmed as moderately unsatisfactory. Implementation of all component targets remains slower than expected. At the current implementation pace, it is unlikely that all project targets will be met by the end of project implementation and that development outcomes will be achieved. Delays have been registered in the delivery of irrigation infrastructure and associated farmer training and capacity building outputs. There is need to therefore expedite implementation of all SIRP components to enable the project progress towards attainment of the development objectives. In addition, the annual outcome survey is still ongoing, constraining further empirical assessment of development outcomes, hence the need to expedite its finalisation

Log-Frame Analysis & Main Issues of Effectiveness

At midterm implementation, SIRP performance remains below target for most of the development targets. Available data is mainly on output level and very minimal reporting on some outcomes related to production and productivity. The annual outcome survey that would otherwise provide empirical evidence on progress towards achieving outcome targets is yet to be completed. There is need to improve on outcome level data tracking and reporting in order to assess the validity of the project theory of change.

The SIRP experienced a slow start and has continued to experience a lag in its Implementation constraining the effective achievement of expected project targets. Overall outreach of project interventions is currently 4529 direct project beneficiaries, representing 74% of the midterm target and only 16% of the end of project target. Current progress against SIRP key performance indicators remains below project targets as well as midterm targets. Optimal progress has only been achieved in market access and post-harvest training (60 % of midterm target), capacity building of government staff

in irrigation scheme management (52%) as well as production and market access (68%). Only 440 (24%) out of the midterm target of 1840Ha of irrigation infrastructure has been achieved, and 1657 (33% of midterm target of 5000) of participating irrigators have been trained in irrigation management to ensure well managed schemes. Slow progress has been achieved in enhanced capacities of farmers and their organisations through training on GAPs, nutrition education and Natural resource management (39% of midterm target). No progress has been made with access to rural finance (0%), delivery of value addition and post-harvest processing equipment (0%) which are currently under procurement

At the current pace of implementation, it is unlikely that the project targets will be fully met. There is need to critically review and assess the factors constraining implementation, with a view to accelerate progress towards achieving project targets and development outcomes.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Develop a master plan for the project activities In collaboration with the different implementation partners, the project needs to prepare a master plan for all project activities with clear milestones until the end of 2022 considering the delays encountered. This will require a more strategic focus on key activities that need to be fast tracked (mainly feasibility studies and the pipeline for works), procurement processes and corrective actions that need to be in place.	PCU and implementing partners	01/2019
FS Quality Control Supervise feasibility studies to ensure quality	PCU and IPs	
Accelerate progress at implementation Increase focus on results as well as accelerate implementation to attain expected results	PCU	

Development Focus

Targeting and Outreach

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

SIRP targeting criteria is in line with its targeting strategy, in terms of geographical targeting, self-targeting, direct targeting and community targeting. The project is also consistent with targeting men, women and youth. The targeting is validated at community level where measures are taken to rectify inconsistent targeting of beneficiaries. The project outreach is low, compared to the expected targets at midterm mainly due to start up delays, the quality of the information regarding targeting is reliable. The target reached at midterm is 4,529 smallholder farmers (1,217 M; 3,312F; 586 youth), which is below the midterm target of 7600 farmers (74%) and the end line target of 27,500 farmers representing 16%.

Main issues

SIRP completed 440 ha out of 6100 ha, which is 7% of the appraisal target. The project reached 4,529 households out of the midterm target of 10,000 households (60%) and 16% achievement towards the end line target. For the irrigators, the outreach was 1657 out of 15,000 households representing 33% towards the midterm and 11% towards the achievement of the end line target. The greater scheme targets were 2,872 out of 12,500 households representing 94% towards achieving midterm target (3,049) and 23% towards the end line target. For the youth, out of the 323 out of 2000 youths were trained (170 male and 153 female youths) equivalent of 16% of end line target. The extension staff training target has been exceeded with 440 staff out of the 500 trained, which represents 88% of the end line target.

The project recruited a rural sociologist TA for six months and this position has been replaced in November 2020 by a seconded rural sociologist and social inclusion staff from the GoZ. The implementing partners were trained in use of the targeting strategy, which has been used for the poverty categorisation of beneficiaries into Category A, B1, B2 and C according to resource endowments. The M&E is using a participatory approach and data is disaggregated according to sex and age. The percentage poverty categorisation for the 4,529 households is 17 % Category A, 38% B1, 35% B2 and 10% B3. NORAD grant will target 6000, vulnerable households in category A of the 8 SIRP districts among the overall target of 27,500 households. The RPSF intervention is targeting 7,000 food deficit households in SIRP target area. The new interventions include irrigation schemes that are under rehabilitation and those with feasibility studies in place, but implementation is still to take place. The mission recommends SIRP to start the process of selection of districts and beneficiaries for both RPSF and the NORAD grant.

Project targeting and outreach has been affected by (i) the project's focus on low hanging fruit schemes in the first 2 years of project implementation. In April 2020, new feasibility studies were completed, that paved way for implementation to take place on additional schemes. (ii) synchronisation of component 1 and component 2 activities has been guided by the fact that component 2 activities can only be conducted after component 1 has been initiated. It is only recently that component 2 activities have moved ahead of component 1. Overall, it is quite evident that outreach is determined by the number of irrigation schemes under rehabilitation therefore the delays in implementation of additional schemes will affect the overall outreach.

Youth: SIRP trained 259 youth (125 M and 134 F) in apiculture and construction of metal silos under component 2 and 64 (19F and 45 M) in canal construction under component 1. In total 323 youth out of the 2000 (16,15%) have been trained. The skills training for youth should incorporate entrepreneurial training for sustainability. In order to expedite youth training, it is recommended that the youth sufficient budget allocations are made for youth to be trained in vocational training colleges in the next two years.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Provide a breakdown of beneficiary categories Give a breakdown of beneficiaries according to the target categories (B1, B2, C, youth, women).	IPs, M&E officer	01/2019
Engage youth beneficiaries Engage stakeholders such as agriculture education department on ways to involve youth in agriculture	PCU	01/2019
Review the targeting strategy for main project activities Expedite the recruitment of Rural Sociologist to review the current draft targeting strategy for the main project activities.	PCU	02/2019
Targeting and social inclusion strategy Review the targeting and social inclusion strategy with IPs to familiarise with its practical use	TA, PCU and IPs	12/2019
Beneficiary registration Complete the beneficiary registration for the low hanging fruit schemes and use participatory methods to categorise them in wealth groups	TA, M&E specialist	12/2019
Youth inclusion Explore 2 or 3 concrete areas from the youth strategy to attract the participation of youth in agriculture	PCU and IPs	12/2019
Pilot the targeting Strategy Pilot the targeting strategy and use outcomes to refine the strategy. Raise awareness of IPs on the targeting strategy. Include the targeting strategy in PIM together with mitigatory measures for elite capture	Agritex/DOI	05/2020
Support for production inputs Provide support to poor farmers to facilitate adoption of new GAPs and technologies	Agritex/PCU	05/2020

Sex disaggregation of Youth and target groups Disaggregate youth data to male and female. Continue to investigate innovative ways to attract youth participation in the project e.g. by creating a youth window under the NRMF	PCU	05/2020
Secondment of the Rural Sociologist Secondment of a permanent rural sociologist to SIRP	PS	06/2020
Categorisation of farmers into poverty groups Carry out the poverty group categorisation of farmers in the 16 irrigation schemes into poverty groups (A, B1, B2 and C). Ensure that the current ongoing feasibility studies include categorisation of farmers into poverty group Align targeting figures to the 68 schemes without compromising the appraisal targets	Agritex/DOI	07/2020
Projection for outreach Provide a realistic projection for the target to be achieved	PCU/IPs	07/2020
Select the districts and targeted beneficiaries for RPSF and NORAD grant	AGRITEX	01/2021
Select and categorise beneficiaries according to their resource endowments Select and categorise beneficiaries according to their resource endowments (category A, B1, B2 and C) for the remaining targeted irrigation schemes with completed feasibility studies.	AGRITEX	06/2021

Gender equality & women's participation

Rating: 5

Previous rating: 5

Justification of rating

SIRP has contributed to the development of gender sensitive policies through multi-stakeholder learning platforms for discussing issues affecting rural women and men. The highly attended discussion forums have resulted in strategic recommendations to tackle women's workloads burden, the enhancement of participation of women leadership positions and economic empowerment. Participation of women in SIRP activities offered economic empowerment through increased access to project opportunities. Gender mainstreaming has been observed across project components and an increase in women in leadership has been recorded. Through GALS, SIRP is addressing women's workload drudgery, access to and control of resources, and women in leadership. At midterm, the proportion of women is 73.1% (of a total of 4,529 households).

Main issues

SIRP has actively promoted learning partnerships with the aim of sharing lessons to promote policy influence on gender equality and women's empowerment. The Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) learning event was held between SIRP and SMLP in Eswatini, to exchange experiences in conducting and implementing WEAI results. The conclusion was that women were disempowered in the areas of workload and leadership. A follow up visit to Eswatini on WEAI is planned in 2021. In addition, SIRP also conducted a gender virtual learning workshop to share experiences and best practices on gender mainstreaming with national organisations including the Ministry of Women Affairs. SIRP has consistently been holding International Day of Women in March or International Rural Day of Women in October where various issues that affect women and men such as economic empowerment, workload balance, leadership, nutrition etc, are discussed in order to raise awareness of policy makers. These platforms have attracted high level participation and the mission recommends the continuation of these events.

Through the Gender Action Learning System (GALS), implemented in partnership with FANCHIG, SIRP trained 146 GALS champions (91 F, 65M) who are working with women and men in targeted households on visioning their plans for household decision making and control of assets, mobility, roles and representation, workload and benefit sharing. The

trained Champions include staff of the Ministry of Women. The mission field visit revealed that GALS is improving the situation of men and women in the project area, including the reported reduction in gender-based violence and more workload balance at household level. The mission recommends the project to speed up rolling out of GALS to communities. SIRP is commended for sharing GBV preventative messages on social media platform after experiencing a spike in GBV in country during the COVID lockdown period and should continue this pathway. The project's GEWE has also been strengthened through the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Promotion (SHEP) that emphasises a household as a farm management unit and couples partners for better management. The project is leveraging on Agritex staff that have received training on SHEP through JICA. Although GALS and SHEP are quite similar, SIRP needs to ensure harmonisation of the two processes document emerging outcomes.

SIRP's M&E incorporates gender disaggregated targets and gender responsive indicators. WEAI has provided adequate gender analysis to assist with the review of the gender and social inclusion strategy to capture WEAI results. The rural sociologist TA has been replaced by a permanent government seconded staff. Gender focal points exist within the project implementing agencies and gender awareness training was conducted for PCU and IP staff in the context of Training for Transformation, WEAI and GALS. The project has seen an increase in women representation in the Irrigation Management Committees (IMC). The mission observed that on average each IMC consisted of 4 men and 3 women, with Rupangwana and Exchange Irrigation schemes, having elected women to chairperson positions. 17 Banga irrigation scheme women were trained in leadership and conflict management. There is need to assess the adoption rate of tsotso stove, introduced to reduce the workload for women in fetching fuelwood as well as curb deforestation. At Musikavanhu, 57 farmers (42F, 15 M) were trained in the tsotso stove technology. In terms of control and access to resources, in Rupangwana, the 38-ha expanded irrigation area will benefit 48 smallholder farmers (22 M, 26 F, 13 youth). The beneficiaries for nutrition garden in Exchange consist of 68 F and 20 M. The NMRF matching grant provides an opportunity to boost women's economic empowerment (50% women quota).

Youth focus. SIRP has a 30% youth quota for all project activities. At midterm, SIRP reached 347 youth out of the midterm target of 760, representing 45.7% toward midterm and 12.6% towards the end line target. The outreach included the 2000 youth targeted with specific vocational training in irrigation and post-harvest training and other youth who are involved in other project activities beyond the targeted interventions for youths. SIRP trained 259 youth (125 M and 134 F) in apiculture and construction of metal silos under component 2 and 63 (21F and 42 M) in canal construction under component 1. Youth selection criteria and process is transparent. The skills training for youth should incorporate entrepreneurial training for sustainability. The main reason for the low progress is because youth training has been tied to the number of schemes that are under implementation. Therefore, the number of youths trained will be low due to the low number of schemes under implementation. At design, it was anticipated that youth training would take place in vocational training colleges. The current training modality is not efficient leading to delays and postponement of training. For the remaining project period, the mission recommends that youth training will be conducted by specialised vocational training centres in the targeted provinces. Youth should be selected in all the identified schemes and trained in batches in the next 2 years as per project design report.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Gender sensitisation Training Develop gender training manual and conduct gender mainstreaming and sensitisation training for all IPs and PCU and other stakeholders Partner with NGOs to train women and men In IMC on leadership skills.	MLAWCRR lead gender and IP gender focal points /partnerships	02/2019
Workshop on WEAI Organise a workshop in Eswatini to exchange experiences on WEAI results.	M&E and Coordinator	02/2019
Implementation of gender Specific activities Design a plan and implement the activities.	MLAWCRR lead gender and IP gender focal points	05/2019
Women's and Youth Participation Effective application strategy and entry points to enhance the participation and allocation of land within new/expanded schemes to women and the youth to undertake cropping activities	PCU	08/2019

Identify a set of suitable entry points Identify a set of suitable entry points for youth inclusion in SIRP implementation strategy, considering aspects as postharvest, technologies, enterprise development	PCU, TA Rural sociologist	09/2019
Gender Sensitisation Training Conduct gender sensitisation training for IPs and PCU that includes all approaches including SHEP and GALs	PCU	12/2019
Resource allocation Allocate NRMF resources to specific women and youth groups to increase their participation and economic empowerment.	Mechanisation, PCU	12/2019
WEAI WEAI Organise a workshop on WEAI between SIRP Zimbabwe and SMLP Eswatini to share ideas and experiences on WEAI results and how to use the results to consolidate and finalise the gender and youth strategies	PCU	02/2020
Women Leadership Training Conduct women leadership training programme for women in irrigation management committees and other rural committees	PCU	03/2020
Promote the tsotso stove technology to remaining irrigation schemes	AGRITEX	06/2021
Speed up the rolling out GALs to communities with the help of GALs champions	Gender Specialist	06/2021
Allocate sufficient budget for youth training at vocational training institutes Select youth to be trained in all the identified schemes, divide them into batches that will be trained at vocational training institutes in the next 2 years	ARITEX	06/2021
Apply a quota for both women and youth inclusion in selected activities Apply a quota for both women and youth inclusion in selected activities	PCU	

Agricultural Productivity

Rating: N/A

Main issues

Although farmers seemed knowledgeable of the GAPs in production, the mission noted limited documentation by the SIRP application of new techniques by farmers. The mission interacted with farmers in Mayorca and Exchange irrigation in Midlands and Rupangwana and Guyo irrigation schemes in Masvingo provinces. In Exchange, where extension support has been provided for more than a year, farmers reported increased incomes and productivity due to the support from the project- training on GAPs, market led production and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes that increased access to water. This is however in contrast to the yields reported by the project, particularly for sugar beans, when production was lower than potential yield in 2019. In Guyo, Rupangwana and Mayorca, application of new technologies in irrigation schemes visited by the mission was very limited. In these irrigation schemes, no demonstrations have been conducted due to water

challenges as the schemes are in the process of rehabilitation. These findings indicate the necessity for consistent data collection and reporting by the project

Demonstrations on fodder production using lablab were also established in Gwanda, Matabeleland South but no data was provided on production or uptake of this initiative. Discussions with field-based officers for the province highlighted increased interest in fodder production in the province and that currently, 15 farmers were reported to have taken up fodder production outside the demo. Score Against Poverty, a project in Mwenezi District, is promoting green manure cover crops, including lablab. The project can consider organizing a visit to Mwenezi district, to learn more about multiple uses of lablab and other green manure cover crops.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Application of WUE in Irrigation Schemes Apply ICRISAT Techniques to farmers fields	Agritex with support from ICRISAT	06/2020
Provide Funds for Increased Commercially Viable Production & Productivity. Re-purpose fund to provide revolving credits through approved financial institutions	PCU with IFAD support	06/2020
FFS and Demonstration Plots Operationalised Ensure these are made relevant to farmers in both rainfed and irrigation areas. Application of inputs, access to finance, markets and FaaB	Agritex with BDSP	10/2020
Application of CA Techniques in FFS & Demos Apply techniques relevant to farmers, including zero tillage, mulching, accurate fertilisation and appropriate cultivars and crops	Agritex with support from Research,, ICRISAT etc	10/2020
Organize a farmer exchange visit to Score Against Poverty project in Mwenezi to learn more about lablab, push pull technology and GMCCs in general	AGRITEX	04/2021
Begin consistent reporting on productivity and adoption by scheme, by crop by production cycle and by farmer categories for both irrigated and rain-fed areas	AGRITEX	06/2021
Include CSA technologies in FFS research activities and select demo crops for irrigation based on market needs/market assessments	AGRITEX	06/2021

Nutrition

Rating: 5

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

SIRP made positive progress in the implementation of nutrition sensitive- interventions to improve cumulative performance. Farmers are well positioned to provide healthy diets for their families. Previous mission recommendations were addressed: nutrition specialist recruited, logframe nutrition indicators updated, nutrition strategy reviewed and modules on basics of nutrition prepared. In 2020, 13 out of 16 cooking demonstrations, 18 out of 24 nutrition gardens, 18 out of 24 Nutrition Education sessions conducted and 10 one-hectare nutrition gardens implemented, with 3 completed. SIRP received an additional US\$456, 000 NORAD grant to intensify nutrition impacts. The mission recommends the recruitment of an external implementing organisation to implement part of the NORAD grant activities.

Main issues

SIRP, through the partnership agreement with Harvest Plus, provided biofortified crops (vitamin A orange maize and high iron beans), technical training and delivered nutrition education to targeted households. Cumulatively, SIRP implemented 19 out of 125 (16%) food fairs and cooking demonstrations, 24 out of 125 (19%) nutrition demonstration gardens were established and 25 out of 250 (10%) nutrition education sessions were held. Most of the progress has taken place in 2020.

SIRP used in-house capacity to develop a nutrition strategy this has been reviewed by the nutrition specialist. Implementation of nutrition interventions is expected to increase with the recruitment of the nutrition specialist. Implementation of the original nutrition activities at design should be rolled out to all the identified schemes with approved feasibility studies.

The project is establishing 10 nutrition gardens: 2 in Exchange, 1 in Rupangwana, 1 in Sebasia and 1 in Chikwarakwara and 5 in Manicaland. The gardens were established as response to cyclone Idai and the prolonged drought. The nutrition garden will target vulnerable people. Nutrition dense crops such as rape, sugar beans, Amaranthus, butternut etc will be grown and healthy corner demo plots will be established in these gardens. The mission observed the high cost of the implementation of nutrition gardens, for instance, Exchange irrigation greater scheme nutrition garden was established for US\$ 27,000 and do not think they are a good value for money. At such high costs, the nutrition gardens cannot be easily scaled to many villages. Ideally farmers should be involved in the establishment of the nutrition gardens with activities such as fencing, which increases the ownership and lowers costs. There is interest from MLAWRR to replicate nutrition garden under the Horticulture Recovery and Growth Plan.

The NORAD grant will commence in January 2021 and interventions are targeted at 6000 poor households, including women, child and elderly headed households, in 8 among the most food insecure districts attended by SIRP. The grant is integrated to SIRP and its aim is to increase the availability of diverse and nutritious foods for consumption, increase access to nutritious foods from the markets, improve knowledge, attitudes and practices on healthy eating habits and care giving practices and strengthened capacities to implement nutrition projects. The mission recommends the recruitment of external implementing partner (firm/NGO) to a package of the following activities: (i) elaboration of Social Behaviour Change Strategies; (ii) strengthen the capacities of extension workers on nutrition to promote social behaviour changes; (iii) implement nutrition education and SBCC with target communities; (iv) carry out workload analysis for rural women and (v) promote labour saving technologies for women. The operating costs for the external implementing partner have been included in the grant. It is recommended to recruit one external implementing partner in order to lower the overhead costs with no objection from IFAD.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Update the nutrition TA expected deliverables/ tasks to fit purpose Update the nutrition TA expected deliverables/ tasks to fit purpose	PCU	07/2019
Review and modify the nutrition indicators Review and modify the nutrition indicators as per the recommended ORMS and compendium of indicators for nutrition-sensitive agriculture	PCU	08/2019
Review Nutrition Mainstreaming strategy /action plan Review Nutrition Mainstreaming strategy /action plan	PCU	09/2019
Develop nutrition situation analysis products to inform schemes feasibility studies Develop nutrition situation analysis products to inform schemes feasibility studies	PCU	09/2019
Identification of Regional Nutrition Deficiencies Liaise with the Food and Nutrition Council to identify nutritional deficiencies in project regions and propose appropriate food production and diet measures	PCU	12/2019
Log-frame Nutrition Indicators Establish project level baselines and monitoring protocols for log-frame indicators on nutrition	PCU	01/2020
Recruitment of TA on Nutrition Recruitment of TA on Nutrition	PCU	06/2020

Revision of the Nutrition Strategy Including implementing arrangements and coordination with key stakeholders	PCU/ Nutrition Specialist	07/2020
Log-Frame Nutrition indicators Establish project level baselines and monitoring protocols for log-frame indicators on nutrition	PCU	07/2020
Prepare and Introduce modules on basics of nutrition in TA Prepare and Introduce modules on basics of nutrition in TA	PCU/ Nutrition Specialist	08/2020
Review MOU of Harvest Plus to include operational budget	SIRP/Nutrition specialist	12/2020
Recruit an implementing organisation to assist with implementation of the NORAD grant activities	SIRP Nutrition specialist	03/2021
Review the costs for nutrition gardens which are very high	AGRITEX/PCU	12/2021
Roll out nutrition education to all the identified schemes with approved feasibility studies in place	SIRP Nutrition Specialist	

Adaptation to Climate Change

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

SIRP has made some progress in enhancing climate adaptation in the schemes and in the greater scheme areas. The project's key interventions contributing to adaptation include GAPS, rehabilitation of irrigation schemes, catchment rehabilitation, conservation agriculture, tree nursery establishment and agroforestry, solar use in irrigation, drought tolerant varieties and piloting biogas and energy saving stoves. The project is encouraged to develop operational indicators to assess the adoption of renewable energy and outcomes of technology use. There is need to liaise with MLAWRR and the Met Department to strengthen the provision of climate and weather advisories to SIRP farmers, and to identify a sustainable financing model for the same.

Main issues

SIRP is enhancing climate adaptation through its components and interventions such as: promotion of climate smart agriculture practices such as CA and GAPS; rehabilitation of irrigation schemes; training irrigators and government staff on irrigation management and O&M; measures to enhance water use efficiency; catchment rehabilitation in the greater scheme areas; agroforestry and tree nurseries establishment; promotion of drought tolerant varieties and piloting biogas and energy stoves with a view to generating demand among farmers. Feasibility studies are considering climate risks affecting irrigation schemes and dryland farmers and proposing some mitigation actions. This is encouraged.

The mission was pleased to note that SIRP has begun introducing solar powered pumps within the scheme (200ha so far), thus reducing the reliance on diesel energy. This move is encouraged in the operationalisation of all irrigation schemes as part of the project's contribution to climate mitigation and application of renewable energy. Notably, the project has also started the promotion of biogas and energy saving stoves (tsotso stoves). The initiative is based on ongoing renewable energy initiatives promoted by government and NGOs in the country. It is expected that the demonstrations will generate demand and that farmers will take up these renewable energy measures on farm. The project reports that the energy saving stoves have received good traction with farmers appreciating their portability and reliance on locally available material. To reduce the initial capital investments required for biogas, the project will promote the use of locally available materials and train local youth on the construction and O&M aspects, in turn creating green jobs at local level. There is need to ensure that biogas promotion is informed by the existing national biogas installation guidelines and criteria and that there are good local level supply chain linkages for fittings and materials. The project should develop indicators within the operational M&E framework to measure outcomes realised from the adoption of these technologies.

Some project areas are experiencing drought conditions this season and thus the need for the project in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Meteorological department to strengthen the outreach of downscaled climate and weather advisories to farmers in project sites and within the irrigation schemes. This would also require the identification

of a sustainable financing model. The mission further noted the need to strengthen the capacities of extension staff in downscaling climate and weather advisories and sharing the same with farmers. There is need for closer follow up of group nurseries that are being established in the project sites, to ensure that they are functioning optimally and that the requisite measures are in place to strengthen group dynamics and commercial orientation in order to ensure sustainability.

The mission was introduced to the Africa Risk Capacity who made a presentation on the work they are doing with regards to disaster risk management and financing in the region as well as progress on what they are doing in Zimbabwe. The mission agreed to follow-up with GoZ and ARC later, to explore the potential partnership and financing arrangements.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Ensure concrete climate change considerations are mainstreamed into all project decision-making tools	PCU/IPs	01/2019
Development of GCF Concept Note Develop a GCF concept note on climate proofing irrigation schemes and strengthening dryland adaptation and submit to IFAD	PCU, partners, TAs	02/2020
Propose in the feasibility reports, climate proofing measures that can be taken up in the schemes and rainfed areas Propose in the feasibility reports, climate proofing measures that can be taken up in the schemes and rainfed areas	PCU, DOI	06/2020
Engage the Met department to assist the project in downscaling of weather and climate information and embedding it into the extension service provision Engage the Met department to assist the project in downscaling of weather and climate information and embedding it into the extension service provision	PCU	06/2020
Apply climate modelling/scenarios using the UCT report as a reference point, to inform climate change actions, crop models, and water demand projections in feasibility reports Apply climate modelling/scenarios using the UCT report as a reference point, to inform climate change actions, crop models, and water demand projections in feasibility reports	PCU, DOI	09/2020
Liaise with MLAWRR and the Met Department to strengthen the provision of climate and weather advisories to SIRP farmers, and identify a sustainable financing model for the same	PCU, MLAWRR, Met department	01/2021
Incorporate localised climate risk analyses Incorporate localised climate risk analyses into feasibility studies, to better understand past, present and future climate risks and to develop and mainstream appropriate mitigation measures during implementation	PCU	
Farmer Access to Climate and Weather Information Liaise with the meteorological department to ensure that downscaled climate and weather information is regularly applied to inform extension provision to farmers	PCU	

b. Sustainability and Scaling up

Institutions and Policy Engagement

Rating: 4

Justification of rating

With accumulated experience SIRP has started to have an increasing role in policy engagement. The strongest and clearest area has been related to the analysis of the irrigation models and in particular operation and maintenance (O&M) systems. SIRP has had a significant role in leading the analysis of the different models based on its experience. SIRP has also developed a solid partnership with EMA which greatly facilitates the processing of prospectuses and ESMPs. In the area of mainstreamed topics SIRP is getting recognized for strong advocacy role in gender issues. The overall implementation strategy is also giving increasing attention to nutrition and food security and with the NORAD grant SIRP will contribute to the knowledge sharing to develop capacity and operational tools for policy making on nutrition.

Main issues

The programme is commended for initiating policy discussion around the O&M of irrigation schemes. SIRP has held national and sub-regional consultation workshops on options for irrigation management models analysing the benefit and challenges of each model. These workshops resulted in 5 preferred models recommended for adoption. The recommendations have been submitted to the Attorney General for consideration and to make comments on the legal aspects of the models. There is likely to be some policy issues and legal ramifications arising out of the different models: for instances with farmer-managed schemes, there is need to provide the legal basis for WUOs and/or the need for WUOs to assume formal ownership of scheme assets. The principal driving force for institutional reform is poor O&M and the inability of the government to mobilize funds, either directly or indirectly, for even deficient service provision. The SIRP contributions will help to tackle these challenges.

The project is also commended for its close working relationship with EMA in the development of prospectuses and ESMPs for the schemes. EMA has been supporting the project through attendance of PSC meetings and also through field visits, where they provide technical support. This engagement is encouraged in order to speed up the processing of prospectuses and ESMPs, as well as in the quality control and licensing role that EMA plays in this regard.

SIRP has been very active in promoting gender issues. Since commencement, SIRP has been active in creating awareness of women's role in rural development and agriculture. SIRP has led discussions in these topics in the context of the International Day of Women in March and the International Day of Rural women in October both at the capital city and at the regional level. These events have given women confidence to speak in public which will encourage them also to seek leadership positions at different levels. These discussions have created consciousness among audience in general on the potential rural women and women in general have. The testimonies have also shared several obstacles women still face to access equal opportunities to their male counterparts. The wide media coverage of these events is sensitizing the GoZ to make better and more gender sensitive policies and strategies that promote more inclusive community development.

SIRP is carrying out 5 gender studies that will support mainstreaming of gender issues in policy formulation; these are: 1) Barriers to women's economic empowerment in irrigation schemes and rainfed areas; 2) Assessing Profitability and productivity barriers and opportunities in small scale irrigation schemes - addressing gender gaps in productivity; 3) Gender and decision making in agriculture and irrigation; 4) Understanding the socioeconomic and cognitive factors affecting adoption of climate smart technologies - including gender differences in adoption and 5) Addressing gender in value chains. The intention is to develop, based on these studies, policy briefs to be shared at gender platforms like the gender virtual platform.

In the area of nutrition, under the NORAD grant there is provision to collaborate with the Food and Nutrition Council in conducting a multi-stakeholder knowledge sharing workshop and to develop capacity and operational tools for policy making on nutrition.

In agriculture extension, AGRITEX has drafted two policy briefs that seeks to bring attention to policy makers to support market development and rural finance for smallholder farmers. These two policy briefs are yet to be validated by stakeholders.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Analysis of reasons for scheme failure Using FS information, compile and analyse reasons that irrigation schemes require rehabilitation, for use by policy-makers	DOI, PCU	06/2020

Partnership-building

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 3

Justification of rating

SIRP has strengthened its partnerships in business linkage partnerships through the signing of MOUs with Matanuska, Technoserve, CBZ, Zimbabwe Free Range Poultry Association and Zimbabwe Superseeds. The areas of cooperation include production and export of citrus, horticulture, rural financing, indigenous chicken and communal seed production.

However, the MOUs on market linkages are still to be operationalised. The project has also signed MOUs with FANCHIG on GALS on training, CCMT on conflict management and leadership training for WUOs, Harvest Plus on promotion of social behavioural and communication change, bio-fortified foods, and healthy and nutritious local foods. A partnership with the BRAZIL SSTC through the Department of Research and Specialist Service facility to promote fodder has been concluded. The MOUs with FANCHIG, Harvest Plus and CCMT have been successfully operationalised. There is need to develop partnerships to complement SIRP activities in a co-financing arrangement leveraging on bilateral organisations with ongoing programmes in SIRP area. There is need for SIRP to develop partnerships with companies providing specialist services in solar irrigation technology and cold chain facilities, as well as with prominent off-takers of high value produce, and with financial institutions interested in supporting rural value chains.

Main issues

SIRP has partnerships in that are still to be formalised, with some already operational include: Environmental Management Authority (EMA), Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Trust (ZADT); ICRISAT, and International Labour Organization (ILO), on youth entrepreneurial skills. SIRP will continue to explore partnerships bilateral partners who are already active in the project area. In light of the importance of partnerships in successful project delivery and potential for scaling up, the MTR mission has identified the additional partners who would be available to work together in the framework of SIRP:

Africa Risk Capacity (ARC): ARC is a Specialised Agency of the African Union, mandated to alleviate the effects of extreme weather events and natural disasters faced by African countries. The mission had a virtual meeting with representatives of ARC and there was agreement to facilitate further dialogue with the government to explore the possibility to make premium contribution, using SIRP. However, the partnership will be possible only after greater availability of funds from part of IFAD, probably from 2022.

Partnership for support in climate smart agriculture: GACSA is an inclusive, voluntary and action-oriented multi-stakeholder platform on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), hosted at FAO. A partnership with GACSA could be relevant to SIRP, especially for the smallholder's capacity building and vis à vis component 2 of this report.

Partnership with IFAD supplementary funds: The Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM) focuses on making risk management an integral part of policy planning and implementation in the agricultural sector in developing countries. PARM can be involved to assess which are the agriculture-related risks in SIRP (in addition to those already identified as part of the SECAP compliance) and what mitigation measures can be taken, especially at scheme level to enhance the sustainability of the rehabilitation. The involvement of PARM can also be seen in conjunction with the partnership with ARC.

IFAD's Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) is a multi-donor facility hosted at IFAD, whose objective is to leverage the impact of migrants' remittances to promote rural transformation and improve their livelihoods and those of their families back home. As remittances received from Zimbabweans abroad equal to more than 8 per cent of the country's GDP, the FFR can assist to strategize how these resources can be leveraged on the project areas to improve the living conditions of many households. To this end, the mission recommends involving IFAD's Financing Facility for Remittances (FFR) to explore opportunities to channel remittances sent by expatriates originating from SIRP's target areas to contribute to the project objectives.

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), provides project management, procurement, infrastructure and human resource services to governments, donors and UN organizations. The programme of UNOPS in Zimbabwe focuses currently on food security and resilience in Cyclone IDAI affected communities, with some overlapping with SIRP areas and close to the irrigation schemes SIRP is working with. UNOPS is working with several approaches that could be of interest for SIRP, namely: rehabilitation of communal irrigation schemes, agronomy support for smallholder farmers, value chain management and market linkages. There is an opportunity to partner UNOPS in the rehabilitation of Cashel Valley horticulture processing plant as a pilot high impact intervention to create a market for produce from smallholder schemes.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Review criteria for partnerships to emphasise key considerations	PCU	12/2018
Develop a list of potential partners from the feasibility studies and value chain analysis Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget	PCU	03/2019
Formalize the partnerships Formalize the relationships with potential	PCU	01/2020
Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget	PCU	06/2020
Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget	Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget	06/2020
Concretise partnerships that will be reviewed during the MTR Concretise partnerships that will be reviewed during the MTR	PCU	07/2020
Concretise partnerships that will be reviewed during the MTR Concretise partnerships that will be reviewed during the MTR	PCU	07/2020
Explore co-funding partnerships with bilateral development agencies that have ongoing programmes in SIRP districts	PCU	03/2021

Human and Social Capital and Empowerment

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The capacity of smallholder in both irrigation and rainfed areas has been strengthened through training on various topic offered by SIRP. The mission observed that women are being elected to decision making positions in IMCs, for instance Rupangwana and Exchange irrigation schemes have women IMC chairpersons. As per design, training of implementing agency staff was supposed to take place in the first two years of project implementation and 323 implementation agencies staff have received TOT training that is being cascaded to farmers. As per previous mission recommendation, Agritex developed a comprehensive capacity development plan to continue training and mentoring farmers after the project has ended. BDS training and refresher courses for frontline extension staff will further enhance the human and social capital and empowerment for the beneficiaries.

Main issues

SIRP has increased the human, social and empowerment for the beneficiaries in the target area. The involvement of beneficiaries in participatory feasibility designs and revitalisation plan, contribution to O&M and training, plays an important role in empowering the communities. Training in various topics was conducted that includes: FaaB, GALS,

Natural Resources Management, GAP, climate Smart Agriculture, Contract Farming, Irrigation Scheme Management, Nutrition Education, Operation and Maintenance (O&M), Conflict Management and Leadership, Training for Transformation and Good Irrigation Practices. SIRP is recruiting a BDSP to roll out business development training. However, the farmers are still to put some of the training into practice, and there is need for continued mentorship from the implementing partners and the private service providers.

Through the mission interaction with the farmers during the field visit, there is evidence of outcomes emerging from the training provided through SIRP. For instance, at Exchange irrigation Scheme, farmers confirmed that they understood their roles and responsibilities in leadership and were aware of causes of conflict and solutions. With regards to FaaB, the farmers were able to budget and keep farm records. The marketing committee has already conducted a market research to determine the type crops to grow at the scheme. For post-harvest, farmers had received training of hermetic bags and metal silo storage and they expressed interest in adopting the technologies. The farmers opened a bank accounts bank for O&M deposits and the account had a balance of US\$250 and another operational account had a balance of RTGS 4,000. - after RTGS 17, 296.- was used to settle utility bills. The amounts contributed are expected increase once the scheme become fully operational. The mission observed that in Exchange irrigation scheme, the newly elected IMC has increased the number of women elected from 3 to 4 women, with a woman elected as the chairperson of the committee. The mission recommends the project to continue with strengthening the WUO through training and collection of O&M fees for the sustainable management of the irrigation schemes.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Capacity development at local level Develop a capacity development plan for Agritex extension officers to continue training and mentoring farmers after the project has ended. This includes modernising training to include climate smart agriculture practices, value addition, mobile GPS tools for soil analysis, mechanisation, market access, nutrition, exchange visits and demonstration plots.	TA	12/2019

**Quality of Project Target Group
Engagement and Feedback**

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The field visits confirmed great enthusiasm from farmers to participate in SIRP activities. SIRP farmers have been involved in participatory preparation of feasibility studies and revitalisation plans and are contributing towards the O&M costs. However, the O&M costs are low and should ideally be guided by the scheme investment costs. Farmers are willing to take part in erecting fences, building toilets etc to enhance ownership. SIRP should expedite collecting and entering data using the beneficiary contribution framework which has been developed to capture in kind contributions both by the government and community. in the greater scheme area, beneficiaries have actively participated in NRM, nutrition demo gardens and nutrition education, FFS, GALs, and GAPs training. Participation of women is high and women have been outspoken as compared to men which shows increased confidence.

Main issues

The training in O&M has enhanced the irrigators, including their IMC, nutrition gardens and NRM committees, to understand their roles and responsibilities, components of irrigation system, operation and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure and equipment, irrigation scheduling and cycles. The mission observed that farmers were not aware of the total investment costs of their respective scheme. As a result, farmers are contributing a standard O&M amount of US\$100/hectare per year and this might be insufficient for O&M costs. While this contribution is good as a starting point, SIRP should disclose the cost of the project to the farmers and assist them to estimate the realistic cost of O&M. Farmers have opened USD denominated accounts as a mitigation measure against inflation. The farmers highlighted that by laws are helping them to deal with non-compliant farmers who fail to contribute towards O&M. There is need to budget NRM to allow proposer rehabilitation to be established. For instance, in Rupangwana. The project did not have resources to purchase wire for gabions.

In order to further enhance ownership and lower project costs, the mission recommends the project to explore the possibility of involving communities in actual scheme rehabilitation works, for instance, erecting fences. construction of toilets etc. SIRP prepared a beneficiary in kind contribution framework. The framework captures both beneficiary and government in-kind contributions. Government in kind contribution includes office rent, vehicles, plants and equipment, office space, meeting room, local materials, staff time, toll fees and tax emptions. The beneficiary contribution for 2020 is \$15,000, while the previous year contributions in RTGS have been eroded by inflation. Data collection is in progress and the mission recommend SIRP to expedite the collection and processing of data on contributions by government and beneficiaries, using the beneficiary contribution framework.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Disclose the investment costs of irrigation schemes to farmers and assist farmers with an estimate of the required O&M costs	DOI	12/2020
Capture government and beneficiary contributions using the beneficiary framework contribution	PCU	12/2020

Responsiveness of Service Providers

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The responsiveness of service providers to the project is rated moderately satisfactory. SIRP is working with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) (mainly for the validations, and training of communities) and the private sector (for civil works, feasibility studies and consultancies). The construction work is taking longer than planned, in part due to lack of capacity of contractors. Through the support of the TA irrigation engineer, the quality of feasibility studies, produced by the private sector consultants have improved. There is a need to improve supervision and contract management to assist the contractors to perform better.

Main issues

While services provided have been responsive the needs of beneficiaries, contracted works to private entities have been slow, resulting in extension of contracts. There has also been the need for contract variations due to inadequate feasibility studies for instance in the Musikavanhu nutrition gardens. At Exchange irrigation scheme, the farmers acknowledged that the private contractor for canal rehabilitation was taking long time to complete that the work, however, they appreciated the professional work that was being provided.

The project recruited various TAs to augment government capacity, however, the supervision of the TAs needs improvement in order to get value for money. The most positive TA experiences were in the areas of Training for Transformation, NRM, Training Needs Assessment, BDS, Irrigation Engineering, Gender, Targeting and Social Inclusion and Post-Harvest Management. The responsiveness of the service providers in general was satisfactory apart from the TA Water User who failed to deliver to the required standard. However, the unfinished work was taken over by DOI who has been providing training for water users as well as leading the policy dialogue and beneficiary consultations on the options for smallholder irrigation management models that has been successfully completed. Based on the first experiences with the TAs making the ToR more specific and searching for a long-term support, in 2020 SIRP has recruited a nutrition specialist and seconded a fulltime NRM and Gender and Social inclusion specialists from the Government. These three additional resources will boost project deliverables.

Contract management has not been smooth resulting in delays in the submission of certificates for payment. It is therefore recommended that DOI undergoes a refresher course in contract management and the chain of approval be streamlined to ensure efficiency in the approval process.

Environment and Natural Resource Management

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

SIRP has a strong focus on ENRM and the project is undertaking several interventions in this regard. The primary interventions include NRM training workshops, training for extension officers and farmers on GAPs and NRM, catchment conservation, promotion of soil and water conservation measures; CBNRM action plans, strengthening of environmental sub-committees, NRM exchange visits, operationalising the NRM Facility and development of NRM and soil and water conservation manuals. The mission recommends that the project caps the NRM allocation per project under the NRMF to 25-30% of total costs, and that previously approved small projects be retrofitted with an NRM focus. There is need to accelerate the NRM interventions that are below 50% performance at MTR to be on track to meet endline targets.

Main issues

SIRP is progressing well with the promotion of natural resource management interventions within the schemes and in the greater scheme areas. The project has already developed the NRM and soil and water conservation manuals, which identify the key NRM issues and propose mitigation actions at provincial levels. re-afforestation, catchment rehabilitation and gully control and rehabilitation have become key NRM priorities of the project due to the high levels of degradation and the outcomes of the NRM manuals. Communities have started establishment of nurseries to enhance reforestation and catchment conservation and are contributing labour and material towards gully reclamation efforts. Within the schemes, mechanical soil conservation works to reduce of rivers and dams which are the sources of water for the irrigation schemes are being undertaken.

The NRMF is now operational with 146,880 USD disbursed to small and high projects. To date, 8 proposals have been approved for the high impact NRM projects. These projects focus on select income generation activities, namely, indigenous chicken, apiculture, cattle fattening and goats. The proposals were developed after extensive consultations at community, district, provincial and national levels and based on past experiences with similar interventions by MLAWRR. The mission was pleased to note that economists in MLAWRR were involved in articulating their cash flow projections and that they sit in the technical committee. There is need to identify a focal point within AGRITEX to guide the technical team in strengthening their agribusiness perspectives and in ensuring there is a bankable profit-oriented business plan for each. The BoQs have been developed and submitted to procurement for review, as part of initiating the implementation process.

The proposals have identified NRM constraints prioritised based on the most pressing ones, and proposed measures to address them. The mission proposes that each submitted high impact proposal allocates 25-30% of its total project costs to NRM interventions, based on the observation that most proposals were allocating very meagre resources or none to these activities. Previously, 15 small-scale NRM proposals worth 46,000USD were approved and had no financial commitment from the fund for NRM with the expectation that farmers would adhere to their activities towards NRM. The mission recommends the retrofitting of these projects to ensure that they are addressing priority NRM issues they face. Moreover, there is need to strengthen their business cases with support from AGRITEX. There is need for the PCU and AGRITEX to learn and continue exchanging knowledge with SMLP and other similar business-oriented projects implementing the selected IGAs.

The mission takes note of the need to accelerate implementation of key NRM interventions that are facing delayed implementation at MTR, based on a review of the cumulative performance against the appraisal target. These include: training of environmental committee members on NRM (203 – 8%); number of CBNRM plans developed (22 -18%); number of farmers trained on NRM in the greater scheme areas (2559 -26%); number of people trained in GAPs, soil and water conservation etc. (3166 – 13%); and the number of IGAs supported by NRMF (23 – 6%).

The mission commends the project for taking up the recommendation from the last mission, to have a full time ENRM specialist assigned to the project and possibly seconded from a technical arm of Government. The recruitment process has been finalised and the staff member will assume duty in December 2020. The project has extended the contract of current NRM TA consultant until December 2020 and identified an NRM focal point within the Department of Mechanisation, who is working closely with the TA for a smooth handover process.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Explore the possibility of having a full-time Environment, Climate and Safeguards Officer for the Programme Explore the possibility of having a full-time Environment, Climate and Safeguards Officer for the Programme	PCU, EMA, PSC	07/2019
Ensure that the NRM facility Ensure that the NRM facility is explicit about the linkages between the IGAs and NRM interventions and that the programme undertakes a stock take of the NRM needs and priorities in each site to inform group selection	PCU	08/2019
Constitutions & By Law Development Develop written constitutions/bylaws for committees, with clearly articulated governance and benefit sharing mechanisms	PCU	02/2020
Review and finalise the NRMF project selection strategy developed by the mission, and develop viable business plans for each selected project activity Review and finalise the NRMF project selection strategy developed by the mission, and develop viable business plans for each selected project activity	PCU	05/2020
Extend the NRM TA to ensure NRM activities and follow-ups continue and that the new environment officer is well oriented by the TA once recruited Extend the NRM TA to ensure NRM activities and follow-ups continue and that the new environment officer is well oriented by the TA once recruited	PCU	06/2020
Undertake training for implementing partners and government units at provincial and district levels on identified NRM training gaps Undertake training for implementing partners and government units at provincial and district levels on identified NRM training gaps	PCU	09/2020
Retrofit the 15 previously financed small scale NRM projects under the NRMF to ensure NRM is well embedded and that their business cases are articulated or strengthened	PCU, AGRITEX	12/2020
Full-Time NRM TA Convert the NRM TA into a full-time position within the PCU	PCU and MoA	
Allocate 25-30% of the total project costs of NRMF financed projects to priority NRM interventions	PCU	

Exit Strategy

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The programme has an exit strategy that consists of the combination of building technically viable irrigation schemes, introduction of farming as a business, development of viable business linkages, application of better rainfed technology and promotion of nutrition gardens. The capacity building efforts to government extension services and the DoI enhances their ability to take over project activities and services. While all of these have the potential to be successful, it is essential to have mature functioning schemes, with completed investment in both infrastructure and capacity building, during the project implementation to learn from their performance

Main issues

The exit strategy needs to be realised through effective action, resulting in sustainability of the investments and their outcomes. For this to be achieved, the viable schemes need to be constructed in good time, and these need to be financially viable; that is, profitable, and able to meet all fixed and variable costs. At present, this is not evident in any scheme, partly because the true costs of O, M&D have not been shared with the farmers. Farmers are thus unable to accurately calculate their fixed costs, and thus their overall likely profitability. In addition to this, the effectiveness of the training and support for farmers to apply business principles to their production and marketing is well below expectations and requirements. So far, most farmers in functioning schemes do not apply the required business approach and are not likely to be operating in a genuinely profitable way. This is exacerbated by the fact that most farmers in functioning schemes have not yet achieved significant yield improvements. There are plans to address all these issues, and if successfully applied, there will be a viable exit for all schemes after programme support.

For the greater scheme areas, the farmers need to be enabled to fully apply conservation agriculture, as well as various other NRM interventions. This is as yet in its early stages of implementation. The first season of implementation will take place in the rainy season now commencing in Zimbabwe. As for the irrigation farmers, these greater scheme farmers will need to be capacitated in terms of agronomic expertise and development of a business approach and viable business linkages. This is scheduled to be implemented in the forthcoming three-year period available to the programme.

The sustainable operation of nutrition gardens has not yet been demonstrated. The basic infrastructure of some nutrition gardens has been constructed, but these are not yet active. The participants will need to develop their cropping patterns, management modalities and identify the fixed and variable costs and the means to meet these. These processes, if successfully implemented, will allow the gardens to successfully exit from programme support.

The availability of viable exit strategies for the SIRP investments needs to be validated through accurate reporting of outcomes through conduct of Annual Outcome Surveys (AOS).

Potential for Scaling-up

Rating: 3

Justification of rating

With the increased implementation, areas for scaling up are appearing. Irrigation development is in high demand and government has plans to expand irrigation development in the country. The high cost of irrigation development reduces the opportunity for scaling up, as the return on investments will be low. The conversion of diesel to solar pumps has a great opportunity for scaling up but will require financing mechanisms that will make commercial sense for the investments. The conversion of surface irrigation to drip or centre pivots is also an area that can be scaled up. Financing models, outside grant financing, are essential to catalyse the scaling up. Nutrition gardens are a scalable intervention, even though it has been around for some time. Finding an affordable water supply design and group organisation model is essential to allow scaling up. Other important areas identified for upscaling include: 1) the nutrition garden model, 2) WEAL baseline but in the form of PRO-WEAL and 3) GALS

Main issues

The high cost of irrigation development, 100% grant financing by the project may hinder the scope for scaling up this greatly needed irrigation investments in Zimbabwe. Reducing the cost of irrigation, making the irrigation investments be attractive for financing by local banks will help in scaling the irrigation development.

The MLAWRR's Horticulture Recovery and 'Growth Plan (2020) provides an opportunity for scaling up the nutrition garden model of SIRP. Under this plan, the government will establish a nutrition gardens in each of the 1592 rural wards in the country. However, the nutrition garden model used by the project requires adjustments to reduce the cost.

SIRP WEAL survey, was the first survey of that type conducted in Zimbabwe. It was limited to the project target area. However, the Ministry of Women Affairs is interested in the lessons learned of SIRP and in carrying out the survey at national level and this provides an opportunity for scaling up WEAL to inform the country gender strategies.

SIRP trained 146 GALS champions who will scale up implementation through working farmer groups and vulnerable households to move beyond ensuring women's participation and meeting quotas to help women and men work on visioning their plans, household decision-making, use and control of assets, mobility, voice and representation, workload and benefit sharing. SIRP also trained staff from the Ministry of Women Affairs who will take the training outside the SIRP target areas.

c. Project Management

Quality of Project Management

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 3

Justification of rating

The MTR mission noted a slightly improved coordination of work among the core SIRP staff, even if there are also pockets of conflict in the team. MLAWRR is monitoring the performance of PCU staff and extended their contracts up to February 2021, with further renewal subject to performance. The programme coordinator (PC) has taken more prominent role in overall coordination of the Programme and showed increased leadership, particularly in fiduciary matters. The mission recommends that the PS conduct a performance appraisal for the PC before the end of 2020. The linkages between technical teams and fiduciary teams need to be, however, further strengthened. The newly recruited staff members Nutrition specialist, Environment, Climate and Safeguards Officer and Rural Sociologist are strengthening the team. The mission identified a need to strengthen the M&E with an M&E assistant. The Programme Technical Committee (PTC) met three times this year but does not seem to have been effective in providing the technical support to the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU). The PIM has not been reviewed as agreed in previous missions and submitted to IFAD No objection. Whilst the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) and Programme Technical committees are meeting, they have not fully fulfilled the role assigned for them in the design. The contracts under the project are now signed by the Chief Director for Water and Irrigation Development and the Programme Coordinator, unlike before when the contracts were signed by the Programme Coordinator alone. This development should be captured in the PIM.

Main issues

SIRP team is having regular meetings, with minutes, which facilitate the information sharing and coordination of work. The incorporation of the Nutrition specialist in October 2020, improved the conditions of implementation of the component 2 which oversees the coordination of wide range of technical issues such as BDS aspects, post-harvest, NRM, and nutrition. The secondment of Environment, Climate and Safeguards Officer and Rural Sociologist in November 2020 is expected to further alleviate the workload and allow for efficient and specialized implementation support in these key areas. The mission identified a need to strengthen the M&E with an M&E assistant as the M&E officer is alone in charge of data management, M&E system, KM and communication. When the project operations are increasing it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage all that and lead the analytical and strategic work.

Since inception of the Programme, the PSC was chaired in most of the cases by either Chief Director Mechanisation and Irrigation Development or the Director of Department of Irrigation instead of the PS MLAWRR as per the Financing Agreement. Only the most recent PSC of October 2020 was chaired by the PS. The Chief Director and Director as heads of Implementing Agencies under the programme are actively involved in the day-to-day activities of the programme and do to necessarily provide the strategic macro approach the project needs. Two follow up meetings, took place after the May partial supervision mission, with the high-level MLAWRR participation, and with presence of IFAD, have supported the identification of some of the key implementation challenges and made it possible to address them.

Human Resources issues: The mission observed the absence of project human resources policy manual (as part of the PIM) that is in line with the MLAWRR HR policy, which details how the project will administer the following; Recruitment and selection, Payroll management and submission of all statutory payments, Termination of employment (resignations and dismissals, retirement, redemption of assets, hours of work (normal hours, over time and absence from work, leave administration, DSA and job evaluation, performance appraisal. It is important that regular performance appraisals are conducted both for the staff in PCU but also for the programme coordinator. The highlighted issues are detailed in Appendix 6. The mission observed that performance appraisals were carried out by the project coordinator for staff. The mission is recommending that all PCU staff including Programme Coordinator get performance appraisals before the end of the year. 2020 The human resources procedures, as those detailed above, but also new issues related to COVID circumstances such as teleworking, should be highlighted in the PIM.

The mission noted that performance appraisals were conducted for PCU staff, for the first time since project inception, by the PC. However, these appraisals are still in draft form and are not countersigned by staff. In addition, there will be need for the PS to conduct performance appraisal for the PC before December 2020.

Recruitment of Senior Procurement Officer: The mission took note of the recommendation of October 2019, to recruit for one year (extended if required) a senior procurement officer for the project, which has been not attended until recently when a short list was prepared by the HR of MLAWRR. At the time of the recommendation procurement had a rating 3 (partially unsatisfactory) which serious challenges to conduct basic procurement processes and repetitive mistakes in the documentation. In this MTR mission, the procurement is rated 4 (partially satisfactory). Some challenges remain, above all in the procurement planning and contract management, but the overall quality of the procurement processes has improved greatly. Due to the delays in the execution of the recommendation, the mission noted that the this had now been overtaken by events hence the terms of reference needed to be updated to reflect the new challenges. However, the mission considers that a maximum of 2 persons are enough to carry out the procurement function for the project of the size of SIRP. Since there was no budget provision for the recruitment of this function, the recruitment is only justifiable if one of the current procurement positions becomes vacant and there is need for a replacement. In addition, the mission awaits the outcome of the investigation of irregularities in procurement and follow up of the internal audit findings by the MLAWRR to guide the decisions on the way forward.

The Programme Technical Committee (PTC) met three times this year but has not been effective in providing technical support to the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU).

According to the December 2019 mission report, the PCU, IPs and TAs was to review and update the PIM by November/December 2019. The PIM has not been reviewed and submitted to IFAD No objection.

Since November 2020, the PCU moved to a new office location, but the office space is still inadequate.

The initial design of the project had not considered provision of motorcycles to extension workers supporting farmers in the rain-fed areas. Some of the motorcycles bought about 2-years ago are still in storage. These motorcycles can be assigned to staff working in CSA around the schemes, if the persons to manage the motorcycles have the required licences in order.

Vehicle allocation: The PCU was allocated 2 vehicles at appraisal stage. However, due to the increase in PCU staff numbers, the mission recommends that, of the remaining 5 vehicles, one additional vehicle is allocated to PCU. There will be no additional vehicles to be procured by the project.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Second staff to PCU MLAWCRR seconds a Project coordinator and accountant to PCU until recruitment process is finalised.	PS Agriculture	12/2018
Recruitment of Project Coordinator and Accountant Initiate the recruitment of the project coordinator and accountant as soon as possible and share with IFAD final ToRs, and recruitment process.	Director HR	12/2018
Elaborate a plan for each TA considering if additional support is needed, when the current TA is ending. Elaborate a plan for each TA considering if additional support is needed, when the current TA is ending.	PCU	09/2019
Hold Monthly Meetings Monthly meetings to be held in first 10 days of each month, with PCU, IPs PS MLAWRR and IFAD	PCU & IFAD	07/2020
Allocate motorcycles for extension staff to support farmers in rain-fed areas around project supported irrigation schemes	PCU	12/2020
Schedule meetings for PSC every quarter	PCU	12/2020
Conduct performance appraisal for the SIRP staff and the Programme Coordinator	PS	12/2020
Review and update the PIM and submit for IFAD No objection	PCU/IPs	01/2021

Knowledge Management

Rating: 5

Previous rating: 5

Justification of rating

KM in SIRP is confirmed as satisfactory. A KM and Communication strategy is in place and significant progress has been made in development and sharing of KM products. From the last supervision mission, the SIRP website has been further developed and enriched with material, particularly on cross-cutting issues such as gender and youth, in relation to trainings and events that were organized with such target groups, and newsletters disseminated. For example, workshops on lessons learned and experience sharing were organized between Zimbabwe SIRP and Eswatini SMLP in August 2020, as well as a gender virtual workshop to share experiences in gender mainstreaming. Feasibility studies on the topic were also developed and their findings were shared at a dedicated workshop. However, the human resources currently allocated on KM are not sufficient to ensure adequate updates, products development and outreach to diversified audiences. To this end, involvement of a dedicated KM support is suggested to meet such needs, and to coordinate the SIRP team effort in delivering KM products every year, as agreed

Main issues

KM is one of the tasks that fall under the responsibility of the M&E officer. However, despite many KM activities – studies, videos, stories, and the SIRP website – have been produced and significant progress has been made in response to the KM strategy, a dedicated KM officer/consultant (a specialist) should be fully on board to implement the project KM strategy and promote broader outreach of its results. The suggestion to hire an assistant/intern to the M&E and KM officer (rather a junior consultant) as already noted under the M&E section, is not sufficient to deliver impactful knowledge products. As mentioned in the previous mission report, it is true that “the KM function should be the responsibility of all technical staff, who will be required to submit one KM product each year.” However, it is one of the main duties of the KM specialist to coordinate such deliverables from the technical staff, and package them in the most suitable way to promote to different audiences, according to the project's KM strategy, to its budget and ultimate goals (including contribute to policy dialogue and highlight potential for scaling up).

Despite the above consideration, the KM strategy is in place and activities as part of the plan are being carried out. The SIRP website is well structured and includes a substantial knowledge base, including stories from the field, documents, dissemination material and past/future events. Social media accounts are also linked to the website. However, the website needs constant updates as there are outdated information and past events that are referenced. A simple update could be part of the tasks of a KM assistant/intern, but a specialist could contribute planning webinars and other virtual resources, as well as providing inputs for Communities of Practice.

The lessons learned are evidence-based and of good quality and were shared at several workshops to exchange experience and lessons learned such as Zimbabwe SIRP and Eswatini SMLP WEAL lesson learnt workshop in August 2020, gender virtual workshop to share experiences in gender mainstreaming and findings from the feasibility studies were shared at the model's workshop. The mission suggests having further opportunities for peer learning, not only with other IFAD projects in the surrounding areas, but also through contacts in other African regions and external areas (i.e., learning routes). This would allow SIRP beneficiaries to improve their knowledge on techniques, products and models, as well as inspiring others.

Additional KM products are produced and shared with different publics to enhance the visibility and understanding of the project. In addition to technical aspects of SIRP, the mission notes an enhanced focus on crosscutting issues like gender, climate change and nutrition.

With regards to a holistic approach to KM, the mission acknowledges the level of commitment of the project staff in ensuring the KM aspects of their work are not overlooked. Their data/knowledge generation is also tightly linked with the broader M&E system, both as part of the dedicated M&E officer's task, and those of each technical expert. However, each KM contribution needs to be part of a bigger plan which is coordinated by a dedicated KM specialist (different from the M&E officer), and the type of products should be agreed among the team to diversify the knowledge products and intensify efforts towards their development. In this regard, when reviewing the AWPB, the project team could consider planning for targeted KM products to different audiences, according to the final goals. Update meetings to assess status would be organized quarterly. Focus on, and participation in country-level, regional and global processes should be considered.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Elaborate the additional support needed Elaborate the additional support needed to rollout the irrigation inventory and database to include the SIRP irrigation schemes	PCU and DOI	09/2019
Develop guidelines and or templates Develop guidelines and or templates to guide the consistent documentation of best practices, lesson learned and field stories to inform policy and decision-making processes	PCU	09/2019
Recruit an Assistant KM & Communications Officer	PCU	01/2020
Initiate and finalise the Secondment of an Assistant KM & Communications Officer	PCU	12/2020
Recruit a part time KM Specialist to oversee implementation of the KM strategy in addition to the M&E officer	PCU	03/2021
Create and moderate farmers digital platforms to facilitate real-time feedback on the implementation status of the SIRP activities Create and moderate farmers digital platforms to facilitate real-time feedback on the implementation status of the SIRP activities	PCU	
Ensure all technical staff in IPs and PCU produce KM products annually	PCU	
Ensure all technical staff in IPs and PCU produce KM products annually,	PCU	
Organize quarterly team meetings to review KM products and organize virtual events/webinars	PCU	

Value for Money

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

Small scale irrigation scheme revitalisation (output 1.1) is the core investment under the programme, targeting 6,100 ha and allocated 60% of total programme funds. The physical performance against this target is 7% while the corresponding financial performance has been reported at 13%. Arising out of this slow progress, reporting has been on the basis of outputs with no outcomes reported. There are activities ongoing at different schemes with different levels of execution. While activities on improved smallholder irrigation management (enhanced capacity in government staff on irrigation service delivery) has registered 56% cumulative achievement, other outputs dependant on 1.1 still lag behind MTR targets. The comparison of input cost at design to actual cost to date for most of the implemented activities has been within target except for cost per ha under output 1.1 that has more than doubled and an anticipated cost of hired personnel as opposed to the originally envisaged in-house implementation arrangements. This, coupled with delays in concluding feasibility studies that should precede other activities could lead to an unfavourable ratio between project cost and outputs/outcomes overall as it may lead to extended period of implementation that may even necessitate extension of programme implementation period. The increase in cost per ha and increase in management cost will lead to revision of overall programme targets and call for reallocation of resources

Main issues

Coherence between AWPB and Implementation

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 3

Justification of rating

The planning and budgeting process is participatory, involving representatives from all relevant government departments/agencies (i.e. Agritex, DOI and Mechanisation department). The process is also thoroughly undertaken ensuring previous performance is benchmarked in setting annual targets. Overall progress of implementation of targets identified in 2020 is at 62%. The project will review and update the AWPB to incorporate proposals made by the MTR mission, to ensure coherence in budget and work towards reaching annual targets, as well as accelerate programme implementation.

AWPB Inputs and Outputs Review and Implementation Progress

Overall, the rate of implementation since beginning of the programme has been slow, often punctuated by cash flow challenges, delays in procurement processes, and completion of activities related to irrigation infrastructure. This has greatly constrained the progress of software activities related to capacity building of farmers through training and provision of post-harvest equipment. Overall average implementation progress for the 2020 AWPB is 62%. Major achievements have been noted in the implementation of the capacity building programme for the government staff in irrigation management and O&M, and the training farmers on nutrition education. Other key output targets remain lagged and the project should devise ways of expediting their implementation including close monitoring to ensure they are accelerated.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Revise the AWPB 2019 Prepare a more realistic AWPB for 2019 with clear justification and key actions that will be put in place to accelerate the implementation of activities and ensure budget execution of at least 80%.	PCU/Implementing partners	12/2018

Performance of M&E System

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The performance of the M&E system is confirmed as moderately satisfactory. An M&E manual is in place and is used to guide M&E processes. Data collection, verification, analysis and reporting requirements are in place and being fulfilled regularly. Output indicators are well tracked and disaggregated by gender and age. However, at midterm, the project has not yet adequately started reporting on its outcomes. The Annual Outcome Survey that would otherwise provide empirical evidence on the performance of development outcomes is still ongoing, yet to be completed. An electronic database to be used in enhancing the day-to-day monitoring is under development and nearing finalisation. The project needs to improve on data collection, analysis and reporting on development outcomes

M&E System Review

The foundation of the SIRP M&E system is the Logical framework. M&E processes within the SIRP are carried out in line with the Logical framework and are guided by an M&E manual developed at the beginning of programme implementation. Detailed gender and age disaggregated output data is regularly tracked and updated. However, the M&E manual does not fully meet the requirements of an M&E Plan which would otherwise lay out procedures on how the project would assess and measure its achievements, the different data needs, and how they would be fulfilled with full responsibilities. It does not include plans for sharing and use of information, as well as data quality assessments.

The M&E manual needs to be improved and updated to include in form of a comprehensive document, a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation plan that would guide especially evaluation processes for project development outcomes and impact. Project management should also ensure adequate reference to the manual during the planning and budgeting process to improve target setting for the programme annual work plan and budget.

An experienced M&E manager efficiently coordinates and steers the M&E function in the project. The officer prepares comprehensive progress reports with the full participation of field (District and Provincial) and PCO staff. The project needs to however ensure reporting on project outcomes in the annual reports to provide indications on progress of attainment of the development objective. There is also need for adherence to the results framework in reporting progress across all project components and to improve on the analysis of progress in order to regularly identify remedial measures for speeding up implementation. The mission worked with and provided guidance to the M & E officer to rearrange the project progress data and to further improve on the analysis of physical progress on key performance output targets.

The SIRP M&E system is enhanced with a manual excel based database that supports regular data collection and day to day monitoring. The mission was informed that Project Management engaged the services of an external consultant to develop an electronic monitoring database to improve data collection and management. The database development is nearing completion with the migration of existing historical data from excel expected to be completed by the end of the year. The project is urged to expedite the operationalisation of the data base and further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of day to day monitoring specifically and the M&E system in general. There is also need to strengthen the

M&E function that is currently coordinated by the Monitoring, Evaluation and Knowledge Management Officer, by recruitment of a Monitoring & Evaluation Assistant with demonstrated experience in data base management, communication and knowledge management.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Finalize the Baseline survey The MPAT and WEAI analysis should be completed and a baseline report should be prepared and shared with IFAD for review. Once the baseline report is approved the baseline figures under the M&E system needs to be updated based on the baseline results.	M&E and KM officer	01/2019
Update beneficiary registration Include additional indicators in the beneficiary registration/tracking form: crops cultivated, average yields, sales, prices, and contracts with buyers.	M&E and KM officer	01/2019
Develop training participation data tool Develop training participation data tool to capture sex and age disaggregated data and completion of training packages as individuals and within households	M&E and KM officer	07/2019
Complete the MPAT and WEAI baseline report Complete the MPAT and WEAI baseline report, share with IFAD for review and update the approved baseline figures on the M&E system	M&E and KM officer	09/2019
Conduct basic M&E training for both PCU and IPs at national, provincial and district and scheme level	PCU	12/2019
Finalise beneficiary registration data entry for low hanging fruit schemes	PCU	01/2020
Complete individual baseline for each scheme; utilise the feasibility studies to identify gaps in information, analysis and reports	PCU	02/2020
Conduct Annual Outcome survey	PCU	04/2020
Complete the Annual Outcome Survey Ensure the Annual Outcome Survey is completed, and the final report is delivered by January 2021	M&E officer	01/2021
Finalise the development of the Electronic Database Ensure the electronic database is finalised, historical data migrated and full operationalisation to support day to day monitoring	M&E Officer	02/2021
Update the M&E Manual Review and Update the M&E manual to include a detailed plan for monitoring and evaluation of SIRP interventions and strengthen use and reference to the manual during implementation of the programme	M&E Officer	03/2021
Secondment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant Initiate and finalise the secondment of a government staff with demonstrated experience in data base management, communication and knowledge Management to assist the M&E and KM Officer	Programme coordinator	03/2021

Justification of rating

SIRP has a category B environmental and social risk classification, and a moderate climate risk. SIRP's focus is to rehabilitate existing schemes, increase productivity and incomes, market access, and to enhance NRM. As such the project has an overall positive contribution to environmental sustainability and climate adaptation. SIRP is working closely with EMA and DOM to develop ESMPs for the schemes and to have them approved and executed. The mission recommends that the project embeds the ESMP licensing fees within the overall cost of carrying out the feasibility studies. There is need to revise the existing GRM to integrate community-based grievance structures and processes, and to ensure that farmers and other relevant stakeholders are well captured and integrated in the GRM.

SECAP Review

At design, SIRP was assigned a category B environment and social risk classification, and a moderate climate risk classification. The project follows EMA's guidelines on safeguards in the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes. As such, the PCU develops prospectuses and ESMPs for existing schemes and submits them to EMA for approval. Cumulatively, the project has developed 19 ESMPs out of an overall target of 68. The mission commends the project for accelerating the development of the ESMPs, which is an improvement from the last mission. This has been occasioned by the training that EMA has been providing to the project implementing partners, towards enabling them to develop the ESMPs, understanding national environmental legislations, and implementation aspects. The mission found that the ESMPs are comprehensive and provide relevant mitigation actions. The project had not foreseen the cost implications of ESMP licensing fees at design, with each ESMP costing 500 USD. There is need to identify budgetary provisions for this, which can be factored into the feasibility studies' costs estimates.

The mission was pleased to note that the project has factored in environmental and social risks in the development of the high impact project proposals under the NRMF. This is encouraged. The PCU reported that it had taken measures to address the risks and impacts of COVID 19 within the project. The main intervention was the development of the RPSF proposal for an IFAD grant towards mitigation of the impacts of COVID 19. This project aligns to the two pillars of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility, namely, provision of inputs and basic assets for production and facilitated access to markets. At project level the following measures are being taken: compliance with WHO guidelines on mask wearing, hand hygiene and social distancing; reducing the size of gatherings during training events or project meetings; ensuring adequate ventilation during meetings; use of thermometers to check temperature in the schemes; and avoiding the sharing of personal items such as cutlery during meetings.

The mission reiterates the last mission's recommendation on strengthening the risk management aspects of the ESMPs. The project is now working with the rural sociologist on this but there remains room for improvement in terms of integrating some of the risk management measures into ongoing interventions such as the GALs methodology which can be used as a powerful tool to mitigate some social risks such as GBV. The finalisation of the recruitment of the ENRM and safeguards specialist will complement the efforts of the Rural Sociologist. There is also need to also fully activate the monitoring plans within the ESMPs to ensure that contractors and farmers are adhering to the plans.

A review of the existing GRM for the project revealed that improvements are needed with regards to bringing on all partners involved in implementation or with collaborative roles, including farmers. The current GRM has a strong focus on the IPs, PCU and GoZ agencies but with little integration of local/community-based structures of chiefs and village headmen for dealing with grievances. The GRM needs a well-illustrated flow diagram of the process flows from the point of reporting the grievance to its resolution, and a grievance log sample that aggrieved people can use to formally report grievances. Communities and local authorities should be adequately sensitised on the existence and utilisation of the GRM and their inputs embedded in its finalisation/revision.

[1] *Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP)*

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Allocate the cost of ESMP licensing fees within the overall costs of the feasibility studies	PCU	11/2020
Revise the GRM to better integrate community-based grievance redress structures, and ensure that all stakeholders are captured and aware of the process flows	PCU	02/2021
Effective monitoring and reporting of contractor and farmer activities from an ESMP perspective	PCU/DOM	

d. Financial Management & Execution

Acceptable Disbursement Rate

Rating: 2.0

Previous rating: 2

Justification of rating

Automated rating based on IFAD disbursement data. The Programme is in its 4th year of implementation and its disbursement rate as at 31 October, 2020 is at 23.78% including authorized allocation amounting to SDR 4.35 million representing USD 6.02 million. There have been no extensions. This level of disbursement is still very low with a risk that at the current pace of disbursement the programme will not be able to absorb funds allocated by the current Programme completion date. The disbursement represents unsatisfactory disbursement performance overall given the remaining three years of implementation. The OFID loan which allocated USD 15.00 million has disbursed USD 0.38 million representing 2.5% since its signing in March, 2018.

Main issues

As at 31 October 2020, the IFAD grant was SDR 4.35 million (equivalents of USD 6.08 million) disbursed, including authorized allocation of SDR 0.97 million representing 23.78% of SDR 18.30 million allocated. This leaves a balance of SDR 13.95 million, equivalents of USD 19.79 million to be accessed from IFAD. This level of disbursement is below the similar Programme profile with four years of implementation and represents unsatisfactory disbursement performance. The trend of disbursement of the grant since inception has been as shown in the table below, with 2018 recording the highest disbursement so far.

IFAD grant Disbursement trend

Year	Description	SDR	USD
2017	One withdrawal application for start – up activities	287,523.84	398,025.00
2018	Nine withdrawal applications including authorized allocation of USD 1 million	2,153,916.75	3,044,034.36
2019	Two withdrawal applications	498,142.83	684,127.07
2020	Six withdrawal applications	1,412,951.62	1,955,526.27
	Disbursement as at 31 October, 2020	4,352,532.04	6,081,712.70

Disbursement by category. Except for category of salaries and allowances that have posted 54.29%, followed by consultancies that have disbursed 31.35%, all other categories are lagging below 30% with works which was allocated USD 4.30 million representing 23.45% of the grant funds being the least disbursed 7.32%. Disbursement on salaries and allowances will increase with the proposed recruitments. The mission, however did not find it feasible to reallocate funds to a recurrent cost category disbursed at 54.29%, which has previously received a reallocation when investment categories it supports have not shown a reasonable improvement in performance. Should the allocation become necessary, an assessment will be done in the course of implementation of the second half of the programme.

Disbursement Projections. Programme management has projected disbursement for a period 30 November, 2020 to 30 June, 2021 at USD 4.97 million. The projection is based on actual commitments entered into and other project management costs based on previous experience. The mission however notes that owing to challenges experienced in contract management and absence of a draft AWPB for the year 2021, the current projection will only be used as a working document, to be regularly updated to project quarterly disbursements.

Cash flow bottlenecks associated with internal processes at Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. The mission observed that there are delays in approving withdrawal applications which is causing delays in submission of the same to IFAD. These delays, are further exacerbated by delays by SIRP to access funds disbursed by IFAD from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. Coupled with challenges of accessing bank statements by SIRP, these internal processing are causing cash flow challenges with direct negative impact on implementation and absorption of funds. Smoothing funds flow will greatly improve implementation.

OFID loan. OFID has disbursed USD 0.38 million of the USD 15.00 million allocated. The low disbursement has been attributed to slow activity implementation, especially delays in completing feasibility studies and suspension of loan disbursements by OFID owing to delays in payment of arrears by GoZ. A suspension that has been on until November, 2020 is now being lifted following settlement of arrears but the programme could easily slip into the same situation as other payments to OFID will be due. At programme level, it will be prudent to accelerate implementation and WA processing time lag to benefit from OFID disbursements as the arrears situation, which could re-occur is under control by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

Further, attention is drawn to the Grant agreement (Section E1 (a); ***“The co-financing agreement to be executed between the Recipient and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) (“Co-Financing Agreement”) has been suspended, cancelled or terminated, in whole or in part, or any event has occurred which, with notice or the passage of time, could result in the foregoing”***. Thus, suspension, cancellation or termination of the OFID loan is a ground for suspension of the IFAD grant.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Reallocation request for the category of salaries and allowances and Submit a reallocation request for category 200018 – Salaries and allowances to facilitate further withdrawals on the category.	Programme Coordinator	06/2019
Re-submission of un disbursed salaries and allowances Re-submit USD 46,112.13 in respect of salaries and allowances previously disallowed under WA number 10 once the reallocation request is approved	Programme Accountant/Assistant Accountant	07/2019
Adjustment of next WA to recover USD 13,172.17 Adjust the next WA with USD 13,172.17 over-claimed under WA 11.	Programme Accountant/Assistant Accountant	11/2019
OFID loan Disbursements Prepare and submit all withdrawal applications financed from OFID	Programme Accountant	03/2021
Timely submission of WAs To accelerate disbursements to the project and In line with the Letter to Recipient provision on withdrawal applications, it is recommended that SIRP submits to IFAD a withdrawal application every 90 days even if the withdrawal amount requested has not reached 30% of the special account advance	Project Accountant	

Fiduciary aspects

Quality of Financial Management

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The programme's financial transactions are processed using Sage Pastel accounting software. The software is capable of producing reports by category, by component and by financier. Whereas expenditure data posting is up to date, the 2020 budget has not been posted in the accounting software to facilitate budget monitoring and control, designated account reconciliation is not up to date and Internal Audit Department has raised internal control issues that require urgent attention.

Main issues

Accounting. The Programme has implemented Sage Pastel accounting software that has been coded to facilitate production of reports by component, category and financier. The system is capable of generating SOEs in the business intelligence module which provides an opportunity of efficiency in generating withdrawal applications. The approved budget for 2020 has been fully posted in the accounting software as some line items appear expensed but with no corresponding budgets, making budget monitoring cumbersome.

AWPB. Budget performance has been low presenting a risk of low absorption of allocated funds by Programme completion with consequent failure to achieve the Programme objectives. For the fiscal year 2019 performance was at 42% having spent USD 2.37 million of the USD 5.65 million approved while the 2020 budget is executed at 16% having spent USD 1.97 million of the annual budget of USD 12.56 million as at 31 October, 2020. During 2020, budget performance of component 1 is at 16% (USD 1.23 million of USD 7.61 million), component 2 is at 5.4% (USD 0.25 million of USD 4.62 million) and component 3, on the other hand is executed at 47% (USD 0.5 million of USD 1.06 million). This low performance is attributed to un realistic budgeting.

The mission noted that the process of preparation of the 2021 AWPB and the related procurement plan which were due for submission to IFAD on 31 October, 2020 (60 days before the beginning of the financial year) has not been initiated. Whereas it was feasible to wait for MTR inputs, a draft budget should have been in place to guide discussions with the mission. Further delays in completion and approval of the AWPB will potentially affect implementation and constitutes noncompliance with the financing agreement.

Internal controls. The Programme internal controls have been developed with a PIM completed and an accounting software capable of generating automated reports implemented. The programme has not fully harnessed the benefits of the accounting software as budgets are not being systematically posted to facilitate monitoring. SIRP has been audited by the Department of Internal Audit at the MLAWRS for the first time since programme inception. The internal audit report covering a period 18 November, 2016 to 31 December 2019 raised a number of internal control weaknesses including delays and failure to account for advances and fuel, accountability for cash withdrawals, substandard works, noncompliance with statutory (GOZ) laws and regulations, acquittals (justifications) not fully supported, lack of segregation of duties within the accounting software leading in some instances to unauthorised reversals in the accounting system, poor contract management, among others. The mission requested for an action plan for implementation of internal audit recommendations. Owing to the limited time of the mission, however verification of actions implemented, discussions with senior management on each of the actions implemented and outstanding has not been done. The MTR mission considers these issues significant and therefore recommends a follow up mission to verify the status of the actions with a view of mitigating perpetuation of the same weaknesses. The mission will include financial management, procurement and Engineering consultants/staff to follow up specific issues raised and provide implementation support in addressing the same.

Bank statements/reconciliations. SIRP has been experiencing delays in accessing bank statements for the designated account maintained at the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ). The mission was informed that to obtain the designated account statements from RBZ, the Programme has to request a follow up from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development which time is consuming. As of 27 November, 2020, the latest statement that could be accessed was 31 August, 2020. Consequently, there is a delay in transaction processing, financial reports to IFAD including replenishment withdrawal applications cannot be submitted on a timely basis and there is limitation of scope of IFAD missions, which include the review of the status of the designated account. To facilitate absorption of funds, which is currently at 23% at MTR, consideration should be made to authorize Programme staff to access bank statements for the designated account from RBZ.

SOEs. The mission reviewed SOEs under withdrawal applications number 16 in respect of IFAD grant. Whereas the reviewed amounts were eligible and supported, improvement is required in the quality of support documents. For example, support documents for TW974 are not filed together with the travel authorisation and advance payment documents, which makes the transaction appear as an advance rather than an expenditure, which should not be claimed. The narration in the SOE worksheets will also require improvement by naming the payee rather than including a narration "blank".

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Adjustment in preparation of Statement of Expenditures (SOEs) Staff to attach field reports to their claims where an activity has been reported and claims on consultancy contracts can be done only when the activity is finalized, and bank charges to be re-looked at since they appear to be very high on the transactions.	Programme Accountant/Assistant Accountant	07/2019

Internal Audit to be provided by CIA or seek authority for private firm to provide the internal audit Follow up with the CIA to provide internal audit services or seek authority to engage a private company to offer internal audit services twice every year to the Programme	Programme Coordinator	08/2019
Training on the SAGE accounting software for the accountant and assistants The Programme Accountant has been recruited and , training for Accounts Assistant, the Chief Accountant on Sage Pastel to be facilitated.	Procurement Specialist	08/2019
Reconciliation of expenditure on SOEs All Expenditure on SOEs should be directly reconciled to the supporting documents	Programme Accountant/Assistant Accountant	11/2019
Timely processing of AWPB Budgeting process should be jointly carried out with M&E and Finance taking a lead. 2020 AWPB preparation process should be fast tracked to avoid further delays and ensure its approved in good time for implementation.	Programme Coordinator	11/2019
Update of the personnel file The personnel files for project staff should be updated at all times.	Programme Accountant	11/2019
Fixed assets register to be updated The fixed assets register should be updated and all assets tagged upon being brought into the project.	Programme Accountant/Programme Assistant Accountant	11/2019
Segregation of duties Project should make arrangements to facilitate segregation of duties. We recommend that the project recruits an additional Assistant Accountant to enable proper segregation of duties.	Programme Coordinator /Programme Accountant	11/2019
Policy on the justification of advances All overdue staff advances should be collected. The policy requiring retirement of advances within 14 days after return should be enforced	Programme Coordinator /Programme Accountant/Programme Assistant Accountant	11/2019
Reconciliation of the Bank Accounts Bank Reconciliations should be prepared and reviewed/approved on a prompt basis.	Accountant/ Programme Assistant Accountant	11/2019
Accounting Software training Arrange Sage Pastel training for accounts staff with the service provider	Procurement Specialist	11/2019

Update fixed asset register The fixed assets register should be updated and all assets properly identifiable upon being brought into the project. Asset Inventory check should be evidenced by a report with full details of assets checked	Project Accountant	05/2020
Recovery of staff advances All overdue staff advances should be collected. The policy requiring retirement of advances within 14 days after return should been forced	Project Accountant	05/2020
Internal audit report Prepare an action plan for implementation of internal audit recommendations and submit it to FMD/IFAD in preparation for a follow up mission	Programme Coordinator	12/2020
AWPB for 2021 Complete and submit a 2021 AWPB to IFAD for review and No Objection	Programme Coordinator	12/2020
Posting of budgets in accounting software Post all 2021 AWPB items in the accounting software, to facilitate budget monitoring and control	Programme Accountant	01/2021
Resolve bottlenecks on Funds flow MOFED, MLAWCRR and the PCU to have a meeting to resolve the bottlenecks in flow of funds from the Designated Account	PCU	
Replacement of Key staff Recruit the key positions immediately	LPA	

Quality and Timeliness of Audit

Rating: 5

Previous rating: 3

Justification of rating

The audit was received timely and with only the sources and uses of funds statement and the withdrawal application statement as well as the fixed assets schedule not included

Main issues

The quality of the audit report is acceptable to IFAD and was received on time. The report received an unqualified opinion. The financial statements comply with the standard TOR for the audit. The scope of the management letter was limited to compliance with donor requirements and not general internal control weaknesses which need to be highlighted for management action. This will be clarified in the next TOR and the project notified to ensure the auditors understand the TOR. The financial statements can be reconciled to IFAD records.

Counterparts Funds

Rating: 3

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

Government is providing funds to meet taxes and duties. Since Programme inception GoZ has provided 17% of the overall targeted cash contribution. The contribution has not been on a timely basis and is inadequate to cover current requirements. It is noted that government is also providing in kind contribution in the form of office space and staff time (by staff seconded to the Programme and those supporting the technical implementation in the schemes) and tax waivers on inputs but these have not been systematically quantified and recorded.

Main issues

Government is expected to provide a total of USD 7.99 million as counterpart contribution to finance taxes and duties related to the Programme. As of 31 October, 2020, equivalents of USD 1.32 million representing 17% of the target had been reported. For the year 2020, USD 1.65 million was budgeted as counterpart contribution. As at 31 October 2020, USD 61,394.89 had been received by the Programme representing 3.7% of total annual budget. Actual expenditure so far amount to USD 107,159.75 while commitments of USD 254,583.00 will be due by 31 December, 2020 giving a total VAT requirement of USD 361,742.75. Considering funds remitted as at 31 October, 2020, USD 300,347.86 is due from GOZ. This will have to be availed by GoZ as it will not be settled from the IFAD grant resources.

The mission noted that transfers have been affected in RTGS but because SIRP contracts are entered into in USD, ZIMRA requires that taxes are paid in USD. Fulfilling this requirement compels the Programme to buy USD which given the current exchange rate regime would erode value of the funds transferred. Coupled with delays in funds transfer by GOZ, the Programme is consistently running a risk of failure to settle Programme tax obligations when they are due.

GoZ has provided in kind contribution in the form of office space, staff time, and duty waiver among others which have not been systematically quantified. Tax exemptions in respect of procurement of vehicles that the Programme has had for more than one year have not been reported. In line with guidance provided by IFAD on the quantification and reporting of in-kind contribution, the Programme should quantify and report contributions by the government.

Beneficiary contribution. Cash contribution is USD 100/ha, per year that is being contributed and managed by the Water Users Organizations (WUOs). Programme design anticipated cash contributions for operation and maintenance of rehabilitated infrastructure and matching cash contributions under the Natural Resource Management Facility with a minimum of USD 100/ha upfront commitment for Operation and maintenance (O&M), for a total amount of USD 3.28 million. As at 31 October, 2020 equivalents of USD 46,000 representing 14% has been realised. This amount is still very low, given the reported progress on the investment on irrigation schemes. This contribution is very important for sustainability of investments made, therefore should be followed up for all the schemes and systematically recorded indicating schemes that have deficits and strategies of addressing the same.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Evaluate Government in-kind contribution SIRP to evaluate forfeited revenue of provision of government in-kind contribution in form of housing, , payment of utilities and use of Government vehicles for noting.	PCU	06/2018
Release government counterpart funds for project use Transfer government counterpart funds in excess of \$1.3 million held by the MLAWCRS into the project account	LPA	12/2018
Clarification of beneficiary contribution Clarify with beneficiaries the amounts and basis of their contribution.	Programme Coordinator	11/2019
Quantification of GoZ in-kind contribution Quantify and report in-kind GoZ contribution	Programme Coordinator/ Accountant	11/2019
Quantify the beneficiary in-kind contribution Quantify and report in-kind Beneficiary contribution	Programme Coordinator/ Programme Accountant	11/2019
Non quantification of the In Kind Contributions and volatile exchange rates The current monetary regime is unfavourable leading to erosion of value of the funds transferred as a result of the volatile exchange rates. Consequently, the availed funds may not be adequate at the time they are required to settle taxes. GoZ has provided in kind contribution in the form of office space, staff time, among others which have not been quantified	Programme Accountant/Assistant Accountant	12/2019
Ensure proper capturing of the beneficiary in-kind contribution Quantify and report in-kind Beneficiary contribution	Project Accountant	06/2020
Regularize the expected beneficiary contributions Clarify with beneficiaries the amounts and basis of their contribution	Project Coordinator	06/2020
Capturing and recording GoZ contribution Quantify and report in-kind GoZ contribution	Project Accountant	06/2020
Beneficiary contribution Generate a table with amount of contribution expected, received and due per scheme and hand it to the relevant provinces for follow up on status of payments	Programme Accountant/M&E Specialist	03/2021

Compliance with Loan Covenants

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

Justification of rating

The Programme is generally complying with the financing agreement except for delays in submission of AWPB. A major case of noncompliance has been noted when OFID loan went into arrears triggering suspension of the loan. Further noncompliance in this regard could also trigger suspension of the grant

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
The internal audit function to include SIRP in its audit program for 2019	LPA/MoF	01/2019

Procurement

Procurement

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 3

Justification of rating

The timeline for concluding processes remains adequate to the nature and complexity of the process. Highlighted delays incur mainly upstream the process from the requester's side. The followed procedures are in line with the national Zimbabwe Act and IFAD's procurement rules. The evaluation process denotes progress including more insight and enhanced reporting. Contract management on the other side is still moderately satisfactory, as the contract's clauses are not fully followed.

Procurement Review

Processes and Procedures from Prequalification to Bidding: The mission reviewed the PPM which version includes different dates under each commodity. Entries were included for all ongoing processes to the exception of one, namely Equipment of FFS (Tools): Goods & Inputs. The new IFAD format is used in the 2021 PP. The nature and quality of the listed procurement activities are consistent with the AWPB however not all training activities are reflected in the PP. The selection method across all commodities is compliant with the LtB. The packaging was used mainly for civil works and appears adequate and consistent.

Processes and Procedures from Prequalification to Bidding: the quality of bidding documents has improved. However, the mission recommends the use of IFAD's standard procurement documents to ensure all requirements under its policies are adequately covered. The mission notes improved alignment to FIDIC clauses in works contracts. The timeline for advertising is adequate with the nature and complexity of the processes. The project is fully rolled out on ICP and data entries are up to date. The execution pace across the procurement categories remains unbalanced. Mostly civil works have been implemented, while all activities, to the exception of one, under consultancy were not executed.

Processes and Procedures for Evaluation and Contract Award: The mission notes improvement at the evaluation stage of the procurement process which can, however, further improve. Assessment criteria in tender documents are not consistently applied across all tenderers. Similarly, the stipulated ratios are not calculated. The mission notes that the standstill period of 14 days required by the Act is not observed consistently. The relevant securities are collected conformably. For civil works, the level of competition, on average of 9 bids received per process, is adequate with the nature and complexity of the work. The number of civil works forecasted until the end of the projects is sizeable which can potentially raise an issue as to whether the national market is in a position to absorb all these works activities. The mission notes that the FIDIC Red Book, adopted as a standard for this project might not be adequate for all processes especially the small ones. All relevant performance securities have been collected according to the tender's requirements.

Contract Management and Administration: The contract register is maintained online through ICP and appears to be up to date and includes all relevant information and keeps a soft copy in parallel. The review of the sample reveals weaknesses. The contracts are managed by engineers who do not appear to take part in the evaluation process. There are instances of contracts completed but not paid for due to the technical team not releasing IPC. The reasons for such decision remain unclear. In parallel, their respective performance security has not been renewed or extended. The review of the training module undertaken for the engineer team is adequate however should have been further elaborated. The project's compliance with the internal audit report's observations and opinion remain partial. There is no implementation schedule or forecasted cashflow attached to the contract and payment modalities are not detailed.

Retention and monitoring: form to be filled by the project. Given the remote nature of the mission, the project is requested to fill a self-certification assessment for the sample reviewed.

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Expedite Procurement Processes The Project needs to ensure that procurement activities needed to catch up with the slow implementation pace are fast tracked by identifying a replacement for the Project coordinator and accountant that have recently left by outsourcing the recruitment process.	PMU/CPM	01/2019

Recruitment of key staff of PCU To expedite the recruitment, PCU shall issue an RFQ to engage a recruitment and selection firm for the recruitment and selection of the Project Coordinator and Accountant. The mission prepared TORs and shared these with the a.i. PC for finalisation.	PMU/CPM	01/2019
Contract register and contract management The project will start using the electronic format shared by the mission and submit the contract register to the CPM on a monthly basis.	PMU/CPM	01/2019
Procurement Plan The procurement plan needs to be revised to accurately reflect prior review thresholds and activity thresholds in compliance with the LtB.	Procurement Unit	01/2019
Procurement Plan to be Updated Regularly The Procurement Unit should ensure that the Procurement Plan be updated regularly and presented to the CPM upon each update. (at least every Quarter).	Procurement Unit	01/2019
Processing Feasibility Studies for Batch 2a (5000 ha) Technical Evaluation on NOTUS	PCU	06/2019
Submission of Musikavanhu Tenders to NOTUS Tender documents for 1) toilets, 2) boreholes and 3) tractors	PCU	07/2019
Submission of Musikavanhu Tenders to NOTUS Tender documents for 1) Road Construction and 2) Fencing	PCU	07/2019
Draft Tender Documents for 3 additional low hanging fruit schemes Draft Tender Documents for 3 additional low hanging fruit schemes (Exchange in Midlands, Rupagwana in Masvingo and Chikwarakwara in Matebeleland South) Documents available	DOI & PCU	07/2019
Procurement of individual consultants For procurement of individual consultants, use the selection of individual consultant method described in Section 66 of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22:23).	PS	12/2019
Procurement Plan Insert an actual date of procurement in the procurement plan as soon as possible, so as to improve the accuracy of timelines. Use a revised timeline when in need to amend planned dates without changing the timelines originally included in the procurement plan	PS	12/2019
Performance securities Collect performance securities from all contractors that signed a contract with the Programme	PS	12/2019

Contract register Maintain the contract register updated and share it with IFAD upon request.	PS	12/2019
Procurement filing Include copies of all correspondence with bidders in each procurement file.	PS	12/2019
Register of Authorised Signatures Employ a system of tracking changes in authorised signatories	PCU	12/2019
Payment System Employ a system of stamping paid vouchers/invoices	PCU	12/2019
Accounting for Advances Introduce a system of accounting for advances taken	PCU	12/2019
Recommendations of External Audit Fully action all recommendations	PCU	12/2019
Procurement Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the PP proposed timeline considering the current pandemic situation to retain only the activities which can reasonably be implemented during 2020. • Consider the mandatory standstill period when revising the respective timelines. • Propose timelines adequate and proportional to the subject matter to be procured. • Correct the procurement methods in line with the selected approach (QCBS is not a procurement router but rather an evaluation methodology). 	PCU & PS	05/2020
TA Senior Procurement Officer The recruitment of the Procurement Officer is being handled by HR due to conflict of interest (as stated by the project). Ensure the recruitment process follows the procurement procedures for the recruitment of consultants	DOI	05/2020
Bill of Quantities Revise and remove the contingency percentage from the issued BOQ.	DOI	05/2020
The Evaluation Process The evaluation report must include at minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed calculation of the financial assessment's indicators (AAT and financial cash flow) for all bidders - Confirmation on the eligibility for bidders against the UN and donors cross debarred list (this requires the project to undergo the check online) - Ensure the BDs contains details on the evaluation of Lots where one bidder wins more than one lot as well as the award. 	PCU	05/2020

<p>Contract Management</p> <p>For civil contracts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the contract management guidelines are harmonized with FIDIC requirements for contract management (including the roles and responsibilities) • The guidelines are subject to IFAD's review and NO. • Prior to issuing the contract, undertake precontract negotiation meeting to finalise the terms of the contracts (including revised mobilisation and construction schedule). A clear record of the procedures agreed and decisions made agreed during the meeting should be recorded. These minutes will form part of the contract documents, subject to agreement by both parties. • Ensure the relevant staff involved in the contract's execution receive adequate training in contract management. • All issued tenders to include ESMP, requiring bidders to abide by them. • All contractors must be required, in writing, to comply and observe the government requirements and regulations related to COVID-19 (Please refer to the annex of the report which provides guidance on managing contracts under FIDIC). 	PCU	05/2020
<p>For small contracts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the contract's terms and conditions related to the warranty period and final acceptance proportionally to the nature and complexity of works. • Revise the contract's payment terms clause to determine the exact milestone of payment. • Allow instalment payments 	DOI & PCU	05/2020
<p>Use of lotting and framework agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For lotting: Ensure the evaluation methodology and award of lots are clearly provided for in the BDs. • For framework agreement under mini competition (as proposed by the project): ensure SOP are in place and clearly detail the evaluation of offers and modalities for issuing the call-off contracts. • Framework agreement contracts' model are subject to IFAD clearance. • Use of blanket PO for all non-critical items with recurrent purchases 	DOI & PCU	05/2020
<p>Specific measures to fast track procurement processes under the circumstances of COVID-19 Non-competitive processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue solicitation through email. • Seek responses to solicitations through formal emails and follow up with suppliers through phone calls (when necessary). • All copies of emails and exchange must be retained in their respective case file. • The offer's validity must be clearly stated to cover a timeline adequate to the current situation and extended when necessary prior to the offer's expiry 	PCU	05/2020

Competitive processes Major Rehabilitation & Expansion works: revert to the suppliers that attended the site visit and confirm their interest. Extended the bid validity and inform all the interested bidders accordingly. Request bidders to extend their respective bid security accordingly and confirm they maintain their offers. Considering that 1- the lockdown has been extended indefinitely and 2- the process is a single envelop system, bidders should be allowed to submit through a secure official email address along with hand-delivery. For new processes where site visit is not mandatory: similar submission provisions as above. Responses to requests for clarifications to be sent through emails and disseminated to all interested bidders.	PCU	05/2020
Procurement Plan and Process Use the new PP format for all activities scheduled year 2021 and onwards Plan to include total projected estimates and not the fraction of forecasted to be disbursed Ensure all activities in the AWPB are entirely reflected in the PP	PIU/ procurement specialist	11/2020
Processes and Procedures from Prequalification to Bidding Mandatory elaboration of the ESMP for all processes from 2021 onwards Mandatory respect of the qualification criteria stipulated in the qualification assessment table, including calculating the relevant ratios All contractors, both undertaking ongoing contracts and the future one to include cash flow projection Work schedules must be agreed with first with the contractors and subsequently included in the contract Update the estimates to align them with the actual market trends Undertake FIDIC training	PIU/procurement specialist/TA engineer	11/2020
Procurement Handbook and IFAD's Standard Procurement Documents Project to refer to the newly issued Procurement Handbook for guidance on procurement processes and to IFAD's Standard Procurement Documents to ensure adequate reference to all IFAD Policies in all procurement activities	PIU/ procurement specialist	11/2020

e. Key SIS Indicators

Likelihood of Achieving the Development Objective	Rating: 4.03	Previous rating: 4.0
Assessment of the Overall Implementation Performance	Rating: 3.67	Previous rating: 4.0

F. Relevance

Relevance	Rating: 4
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Justification of rating

The development objective is still relevant to both IFAD, the country's development context and development strategies. The technical proposal and implementation arrangements are still relevant. However, the project would need to expedite implementation in order to achieve the development objective in the remaining period of project implementation. The increased cost of rehabilitation of infrastructure per hectare as compared to the original design proposal, could result in a

reduced target area from the original 6,100 ha. The next supervision mission will analyse the hectareage that will still be feasible given the available resources and its impact on outreach. The project is achieving results and these will be confirmed by the outcome survey which is underway.

G. Lessons Learned

PROJECT PROCUREMENT

The volume and complexity of the activities should be in line with the absorbing capacity of the market. The volume and number of processes are unlikely to be all awarded given a relatively low competitive market (observation targeting civil works mainly)

Ensure that all project stakeholders have adequate training and knowledge before using specific standards (such as FIDIC).

Selection criteria to hire external entities to implement the irrigation schemes

For the sake of transparency, the selection criteria to hire external entities to implement the irrigation schemes need to be very clear, with scores and evaluation checklists which can be consulted by all entities, upon request

FARMING AS A BUSINESS

Scheme Feasibility Studies. These need to include a viable and achievable business plan to demonstrate that the scheme can carry the investment cost and remain financially viable; Scheme Operation, Maintenance and Depreciation (O, M&D) Costs. These need to be carefully calculated and fully disclosed to scheme owners to enable them to make adequate provision for their payment and to be able to prepare an accurate business plan including these fixed costs. This should also be done for nutrition gardens investments. Failure to do this risks scheme failure due to lack of provision for O, M&D.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Often times, the Knowledge Management aspect of the project is often underestimated and belongs to the domain of the M&E consultant. It is suggested to hire a dedicated KM specialist to oversee all the KM and communication aspects of the project. Her/his TORs should also cover the post-project activities, including the outreach to external audiences to share the project results and consider opportunities for scaling up.

are two lessons:

PROJECT DESIGN

The Project Design Team concluded that the SIRP target area should be of 5 000 ha. This is also reflected in the Project Design Report. The financing agreement mentions 6 100 ha instead, indicating a difference in the target area size without amending the amount. Improved coordination and consistency would be required to ensure objectives are realistic and can be met.

COORDINATION & ENGAGEMENT

The model of technical TAs can bring in much needed technical expertise and strengthen implementation capacities of the PCU/PMU. It is necessary to plan the procurement of the TA carefully considering if an individual consultant, or a firm/NGO suits best for the needs of the project. Also, the length of the TA needs to be planned carefully as well as the deliverables and sequencing of the payments towards deliverables. A careful planning of the TAs to be recruited needs inputs from the management, technical experts and procurement

Contract administration and management

The key to effective contract administration and management is well-defined roles and division of tasks. While the procurement unit will normally retain control on contract administration, day-to-day contact with the supplier, contractor or consultant may be allocated to the end user. To that end, the Project Coordinator must appoint a contract manager to each signed contract, and ensure that contract managers employ contract monitoring forms to track performance under each contract assigned to them.

Procurement planning and estimated budget

In order to ensure that the estimated budget for each procurement activity is adequate, strong coordination is needed between all project functions during procurement planning. Specifically, the Project Coordinator must encourage the technical units to timely communicate their procurement needs and the related estimated costs to the procurement unit.

Farmer-led irrigation schemes

Farmer-led Irrigation schemes and sustainability. The participation and engagement of farmers is most likely to be sustained and organizational capacity developed, when the farmers are fully involved from the beginning in decision on the irrigation system design, and when their organization has full ownership and management control of the system. Farmer organizations must be trained to interact constructively with government agencies and technical experts. Building the necessary organizational capacity involves training farmers for a variety of functions, many of which may be new, such as basic accounting, how to hold meetings, minutes taking, how to deal with agencies, to legal regulations, computer equipment, water management and operation of equipment.

Irrigation design

Need for subprojects with ready feasibility studies and project inception. The SIRP has delayed the start of the development of irrigation schemes as it has taken longer than anticipated to complete the feasibility studies and detailed engineering designs. An important lesson coming out of this is that, it is important for borrower countries with development projects focusing on Irrigation to have some bankable subprojects that are ready for construction at project inception, for improved implementation readiness.

H. Agreed Actions

Agreed Action	Responsibility	Agreed Date
Overview and Project Progress		
Recruit short term consultant to undertake value chain assessments as part of scheme feasibility studies	PCU	01/2019
Develop and appraise business plans to guide project investments in off-farm businesses	PCU	01/2019
Mobilise provincial based BDS TA in a phased manner starting with Manicaland	PCU	04/2019
Annual Audit Annual Audit To be conducted and submitted to IFAD	PCU & Audit Firm	07/2019
Procurement Training IFAD to provide procurement training for SIRP personnel	IFAD & PCU	08/2019
Technical Assistance Support Investigate and report on strategy for provision of longer-term technical support for Irrigation Engineer, Nutrition, Gender, NRM, BDS and Post-Harvest.	PCU	08/2019
Capacity building for Agritex Frontline staff Agritex agrees on a schedule for systematic capacity building in line with the outcome of training needs assessment	PCU and Agritex	12/2019
Accelerate project implementation Provincial and district teams will lead field level implementation with backstopping from national agencies	PCU, IPs	12/2019

Expediate implementation of the NRMF Identify, develop and implement high impact income generating projects with a strong NRM conservation element (range of \$100,000 to \$200,000) Expediate implementation of the NRMF Identify, develop and implement high impact income generating projects with a strong NRM conservation element (range of \$100,000 to \$200,000)	PCU, Agritex	05/2020
Construction supervision Provide the necessary resources for DoI engineers to be effective in construction supervision	PCU	05/2020
Use of DoI construction units Assessment of eligibility and construction of schemes less than 50ha by DoI construction units, after IFAD no objection.	Doi	06/2020
Working under covid-19 Project to have guidelines for consultants and contractors working in the field under covid-19 conditions	PCU	06/2020
Recruit Environment, Climate and Safeguards Officer Complete TORs, obtains N.O. from IFAD and recruit the TA	PCU	06/2020
Recruit BDSP TA Complete TORs, obtains N.O. from IFAD and recruit the TA	PCU	06/2020
Training and mentorship for AGRITEX staff Accelerate training, especially in FaaB	PCU, Agritex, BDSP	06/2020
Quality of feasibility studies Improve quality of feasibility studies by a) confirming water availability; b) separating the non-irrigation scheme investments to be analysed separately	Doi	07/2020
Selection of schemes for construction Reviews all feasibility studies with investment costs above \$10,000 per ha, to lower the investment costs	Doi	07/2020
Contract administration and construction supervision Training of DoI engineers in contract management and construction supervision	PCU	07/2020
Repurpose Funding for Productivity Improvements Appoint a committee to design a delivery mechanism for the repurposed \$715,000. -, for productivity improvement taking into account the country's macroeconomic context, findings from SACP design, and best practices from other countries.	PCU, BDSP	08/2020

Reduce cost per hectare for irrigation scheme rehabilitation and identify budget lines to augment costs for rehabilitation and construction to achieve the 6,100-ha target	PCU/DOI/Agritex	11/2020
Fast tracking construction works Department of irrigation to undertake construction works for completion of rehabilitation of schemes less than 50ha with completed feasibility reports	Doi	12/2020
Finalise on going feasibility studies to a maximum of 6424 ha and discontinue with undertaking any new feasibility studies	DOI/PCU	12/2020
Feasibility Studies Speed up Implementation of FS	PCU	
Feasibility Studies Develop and Operationalise more concise and focussed FS methodology	PCU/DOI with IFAD support	
Application of Participatory Approach Full participation by Farmer/Clients in FS, Design and Construction	PCU/DOI & Agritex	
Farmer Equity Contributions Contribution of at least 10% of scheme investment cost in kind and/or cash	PCU/DOI & Agritex	
Intensify extension support to greater scheme areas with complete feasibility studies and consider these activities as 'no regret'	AGRITEX	
Develop business plans for the two-wheel tractor and post-harvest equipment and expedite procurement	AGRITEX and PCU	
Scheme O, M & D Costs be carefully calculated and fully disclosed to irrigation farmers at Feasibility stage, and these updated and communicated during construction	DOI & Agritex, and BDSP	
Scheme Feasibility Studies to develop realistic business plans to justify capital and O, M&D costs	DOI, Agritex and PCU	
All NRMF investments to have viable business plans to ensure sustainability	Agritex, BDSP and PCU	
Component 2 activities will be implemented on all areas with completed feasibility studies	AGRITEX	
Development Effectiveness		

Develop a master plan for the project activities In collaboration with the different implementation partners, the project needs to prepare a master plan for all project activities with clear milestones until the end of 2022 considering the delays encountered. This will require a more strategic focus on key activities that need to be fast tracked (mainly feasibility studies and the pipeline for works), procurement processes and corrective actions that need to be in place.	PCU and implementing partners	01/2019
Provide a breakdown of beneficiary categories Give a breakdown of beneficiaries according to the target categories (B1, B2, C, youth, women).	IPs, M&E officer	01/2019
Engage youth beneficiaries Engage stakeholders such as agriculture education department on ways to involve youth in agriculture	PCU	01/2019
Ensure concrete climate change considerations are mainstreamed into all project decision-making tools	PCU/IPs	01/2019
Review the targeting strategy for main project activities Expedite the recruitment of Rural Sociologist to review the current draft targeting strategy for the main project activities.	PCU	02/2019
Gender sensitisation Training Develop gender training manual and conduct gender mainstreaming and sensitisation training for all IPs and PCU and other stakeholders Partner with NGOs to train women and men In IMC on leadership skills.	MLAWCRR lead gender and IP gender focal points /partnerships	02/2019
Workshop on WEAI Organise a workshop in Eswatini to exchange experiences on WEAI results.	M&E and Coordinator	02/2019
Implementation of gender Specific activities Design a plan and implement the activities.	MLAWCRR lead gender and IP gender focal points	05/2019
Update the nutrition TA expected deliverables/ tasks to fit purpose Update the nutrition TA expected deliverables/ tasks to fit purpose	PCU	07/2019
Women's and Youth Participation Effective application strategy and entry points to enhance the participation and allocation of land within new/expanded schemes to women and the youth to undertake cropping activities	PCU	08/2019

Review and modify the nutrition indicators Review and modify the nutrition indicators as per the recommended ORMS and compendium of indicators for nutrition-sensitive agriculture	PCU	08/2019
Identify a set of suitable entry points Identify a set of suitable entry points for youth inclusion in SIRP implementation strategy, considering aspects as postharvest, technologies, enterprise development	PCU, TA Rural sociologist	09/2019
Review Nutrition Mainstreaming strategy /action plan Review Nutrition Mainstreaming strategy /action plan	PCU	09/2019
Develop nutrition situation analysis products to inform schemes feasibility studies Develop nutrition situation analysis products to inform schemes feasibility studies	PCU	09/2019
Targeting and social inclusion strategy Review the targeting and social inclusion strategy with IPs to familiarise with its practical use	TA, PCU and IPs	12/2019
Beneficiary registration Complete the beneficiary registration for the low hanging fruit schemes and use participatory methods to categorise them in wealth groups	TA, M&E specialist	12/2019
Youth inclusion Explore 2 or 3 concrete areas from the youth strategy to attract the participation of youth in agriculture	PCU and IPs	12/2019
Gender Sensitisation Training Conduct gender sensitisation training for IPs and PCU that includes all approaches including SHEP and GALs	PCU	12/2019
Resource allocation Allocate NRMF resources to specific women and youth groups to increase their participation and economic empowerment.	Mechanisation, PCU	12/2019
Identification of Regional Nutrition Deficiencies Liaise with the Food and Nutrition Council to identify nutritional deficiencies in project regions and propose appropriate food production and diet measures	PCU	12/2019
Log-frame Nutrition Indicators Establish project level baselines and monitoring protocols for log-frame indicators on nutrition	PCU	01/2020

WEAI WEAI Organise a workshop on WEAI between SIRP Zimbabwe and SMLP Eswatini to share ideas and experiences on WEAI results and how to use the results to consolidate and finalise the gender and youth strategies	PCU	02/2020
Development of GCF Concept Note Develop a GCF concept note on climate proofing irrigation schemes and strengthening dryland adaptation and submit to IFAD	PCU, partners, TAs	02/2020
Women Leadership Training Conduct women leadership training programme for women in irrigation management committees and other rural committees	PCU	03/2020
Pilot the targeting Strategy Pilot the targeting strategy and use outcomes to refine the strategy. Raise awareness of IPs on the targeting strategy. Include the targeting strategy in PIM together with mitigatory measures for elite capture	Agritex/DOI	05/2020
Support for production inputs Provide support to poor farmers to facilitate adoption of new GAPs and technologies	Agritex/PCU	05/2020
Sex disaggregation of Youth and target groups Disaggregate youth data to male and female. Continue to investigate innovative ways to attract youth participation in the project e.g. by creating a youth window under the NRMF	PCU	05/2020
Secondment of the Rural Sociologist Secondment of a permanent rural sociologist to SIRP	PS	06/2020
Application of WUE in Irrigation Schemes Apply ICRISAT Techniques to farmers fields	Agritex with support from ICRISAT	06/2020
Provide Funds for Increased Commercially Viable Production & Productivity. Re-purpose fund to provide revolving credits through approved financial institutions	PCU with IFAD support	06/2020
Recruitment of TA on Nutrition Recruitment of TA on Nutrition	PCU	06/2020

<p>Propose in the feasibility reports, climate proofing measures that can be taken up in the schemes and rainfed areas</p> <p>Propose in the feasibility reports, climate proofing measures that can be taken up in the schemes and rainfed areas</p>	PCU, DOI	06/2020
<p>Engage the Met department to assist the project in downscaling of weather and climate information and embedding it into the extension service provision</p> <p>Engage the Met department to assist the project in downscaling of weather and climate information and embedding it into the extension service provision</p>	PCU	06/2020
<p>Categorisation of farmers into poverty groups</p> <p>Carry out the poverty group categorisation of farmers in the 16 irrigation schemes into poverty groups (A, B1, B2 and C). Ensure that the current ongoing feasibility studies include categorisation of farmers into poverty group Align targeting figures to the 68 schemes without compromising the appraisal targets</p>	Agritex/DOI	07/2020
<p>Projection for outreach</p> <p>Provide a realistic projection for the target to be achieved</p>	PCU/IPs	07/2020
<p>Revision of the Nutrition Strategy</p> <p>Including implementing arrangements and coordination with key stakeholders</p>	PCU/ Nutrition Specialist	07/2020
<p>Log-Frame Nutrition indicators</p> <p>Establish project level baselines and monitoring protocols for log-frame indicators on nutrition</p>	PCU	07/2020
<p>Prepare and Introduce modules on basics of nutrition in TA</p> <p>Prepare and Introduce modules on basics of nutrition in TA</p>	PCU/ Nutrition Specialist	08/2020
<p>Apply climate modelling/scenarios using the UCT report as a reference point, to inform climate change actions, crop models, and water demand projections in feasibility reports</p> <p>Apply climate modelling/scenarios using the UCT report as a reference point, to inform climate change actions, crop models, and water demand projections in feasibility reports</p>	PCU, DOI	09/2020
<p>FFS and Demonstration Plots Operationalised</p> <p>Ensure these are made relevant to farmers in both rainfed and irrigation areas. Application of inputs, access to finance, markets and FaaB</p>	Agritex with BDSP	10/2020
<p>Application of CA Techniques in FFS & Demos</p> <p>Apply techniques relevant to farmers, including zero tillage, mulching, accurate fertilisation and appropriate cultivars and crops</p>	Agritex with support from Research,, ICRISAT etc	10/2020

Review MOU of Harvest Plus to include operational budget	SIRP/Nutrition specialist	12/2020
Select the districts and targeted beneficiaries for RPSF and NORAD grant	AGRITEX	01/2021
Liaise with MLAWRR and the Met Department to strengthen the provision of climate and weather advisories to SIRP farmers, and identify a sustainable financing model for the same	PCU, MLAWRR, Met department	01/2021
Recruit an implementing organisation to assist with implementation of the NORAD grant activities	SIRP Nutrition specialist	03/2021
Organize a farmer exchange visit to Score Against Poverty project in Mwenezi to learn more about lablab, push pull technology and GMCCs in general	AGRITEX	04/2021
Select and categorise beneficiaries according to their resource endowments Select and categorise beneficiaries according to their resource endowments (category A, B1, B2 and C) for the remaining targeted irrigation schemes with completed feasibility studies.	AGRITEX	06/2021
Promote the tsotso stove technology to remaining irrigation schemes	AGRITEX	06/2021
Speed up the rolling out GALS to communities with the help of GALS champions	Gender Specialist	06/2021
Allocate sufficient budget for youth training at vocational training institutes Select youth to be trained in all the identified schemes, divide them into batches that will be trained at vocational training institutes in the next 2 years	ARITEX	06/2021
Begin consistent reporting on productivity and adoption by scheme, by crop by production cycle and by farmer categories for both irrigated and rain-fed areas	AGRITEX	06/2021
Include CSA technologies in FFS research activities and select demo crops for irrigation based on market needs/market assessments	AGRITEX	06/2021
Review the costs for nutrition gardens which are very high	AGRITEX/PCU	12/2021
Apply a quota for both women and youth inclusion in selected activities Apply a quota for both women and youth inclusion in selected activities	PCU	

Incorporate localised climate risk analyses Incorporate localised climate risk analyses into feasibility studies, to better understand past, present and future climate risks and to develop and mainstream appropriate mitigation measures during implementation	PCU	
FS Quality Control Supervise feasibility studies to ensure quality	PCU and IPs	
Farmer Access to Climate and Weather Information Liaise with the meteorological department to ensure that downscaled climate and weather information is regularly applied to inform extension provision to farmers	PCU	
Accelerate progress at implementation Increase focus on results as well as accelerate implementation to attain expected results	PCU	
Roll out nutrition education to all the identified schemes with approved feasibility studies in place	SIRP Nutrition Specialist	
Sustainability and Scaling up		
Review criteria for partnerships to emphasise key considerations	PCU	12/2018
Discuss the grievance and redress mechanism, and the feasibility studies with the farmers	PCU	01/2019
Develop guidelines on the management and use for the O&M fund	PCU	02/2019
Develop a list of potential partners from the feasibility studies and value chain analysis Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget	PCU	03/2019
Explore the possibility of having a full-time Environment, Climate and Safeguards Officer for the Programme Explore the possibility of having a full-time Environment, Climate and Safeguards Officer for the Programme	PCU, EMA, PSC	07/2019
Ensure that the NRM facility Ensure that the NRM facility is explicit about the linkages between the IGAs and NRM interventions and that the programme undertakes a stock take of the NRM needs and priorities in each site to inform group selection	PCU	08/2019

Capacity development at local level Develop a capacity development plan for Agritex extension officers to continue training and mentoring farmers after the project has ended. This includes modernising training to include climate smart agriculture practices, value addition, mobile GPS tools for soil analysis, mechanisation, market access, nutrition, exchange visits and demonstration plots.	TA	12/2019
Formalize the partnerships Formalize the relationships with potential	PCU	01/2020
Constitutions & By Law Development Develop written constitutions/bylaws for committees, with clearly articulated governance and benefit sharing mechanisms	PCU	02/2020
Strengthening of WUO and their IMC Develop a plan to strengthen WUO and roll out the implementation of the plan which will be reviewed at midterm Build capacity of Agritex frontline extension workers to strengthen WUOs	DOI/Agritex/Rural Sociologist	05/2020
Beneficiary contribution framework Operationalise data collection using the completed beneficiary contribution framework, to be reviewed during midterm	PCU/DOI/Agritex	05/2020
Review and finalise the NRMF project selection strategy developed by the mission, and develop viable business plans for each selected project activity Review and finalise the NRMF project selection strategy developed by the mission, and develop viable business plans for each selected project activity	PCU	05/2020
Analysis of reasons for scheme failure Using FS information, compile and analyse reasons that irrigation schemes require rehabilitation, for use by policy-makers	DOI, PCU	06/2020
Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget	PCU	06/2020
Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget	Review the MOU with Harvest Plus to include a workplan and budget	06/2020

Extend the NRM TA to ensure NRM activities and follow-ups continue and that the new environment officer is well oriented by the TA once recruited Extend the NRM TA to ensure NRM activities and follow-ups continue and that the new environment officer is well oriented by the TA once recruited	PCU	06/2020
Concretise partnerships that will be reviewed during the MTR Concretise partnerships that will be reviewed during the MTR	PCU	07/2020
Concretise partnerships that will be reviewed during the MTR Concretise partnerships that will be reviewed during the MTR	PCU	07/2020
Finalisation the work on irrigation models DOI to finalise the work on irrigation management models through consultations at scheme level and presenting the findings and policy options on model options during the national workshop	DOI/PCU	08/2020
Undertake training for implementing partners and government units at provincial and district levels on identified NRM training gaps Undertake training for implementing partners and government units at provincial and district levels on identified NRM training gaps	PCU	09/2020
Disclose the investment costs of irrigation schemes to farmers and assist farmers with an estimate of the required O&M costs	DOI	12/2020
Capture government and beneficiary contributions using the beneficiary framework contribution	PCU	12/2020
Retrofit the 15 previously financed small scale NRM projects under the NRMF to ensure NRM is well embedded and that their business cases are articulated or strengthened	PCU, AGRITEX	12/2020
Explore co-funding partnerships with bilateral development agencies that have ongoing programmes in SIRP districts	PCU	03/2021
Full-Time NRM TA Convert the NRM TA into a full-time position within the PCU	PCU and MoA	
Allocate 25-30% of the total project costs of NRMF financed projects to priority NRM interventions	PCU	
Project Management		

Revise the AWPB 2019 Prepare a more realistic AWPB for 2019 with clear justification and key actions that will be put in place to accelerate the implementation of activities and ensure budget execution of at least 80%.	PCU/Implementing partners	12/2018
Operationalize the grievance mechanism	PCU	12/2018
Second staff to PCU MLAWCRR seconds a Project coordinator and accountant to PCU until recruitment process is finalised.	PS Agriculture	12/2018
Recruitment of Project Coordinator and Accountant Initiate the recruitment of the project coordinator and accountant as soon as possible and share with IFAD final ToRs, and recruitment process.	Director HR	12/2018
Finalize the Baseline survey The MPAT and WEAI analysis should be completed and a baseline report should be prepared and shared with IFAD for review. Once the baseline report is approved the baseline figures under the M&E system needs to be updated based on the baseline results.	M&E and KM officer	01/2019
Update beneficiary registration Include additional indicators in the beneficiary registration/tracking form: crops cultivated, average yields, sales, prices, and contracts with buyers.	M&E and KM officer	01/2019
Develop training participation data tool Develop training participation data tool to capture sex and age disaggregated data and completion of training packages as individuals and within households	M&E and KM officer	07/2019
Stock take and integrate the impacts of Cyclone Idai Stock take and integrate the impacts of Cyclone Idai as well as propose mitigation, adaptation/coping measures into the existing and new ESIA's and ESMPs	PCU, EMA	08/2019
Elaborate a plan for each TA considering if additional support is needed, when the current TA is ending. Elaborate a plan for each TA considering if additional support is needed, when the current TA is ending.	PCU	09/2019
Elaborate the additional support needed Elaborate the additional support needed to rollout the irrigation inventory and database to include the SIRP irrigation schemes	PCU and DOI	09/2019

Develop guidelines and or templates Develop guidelines and or templates to guide the consistent documentation of best practices, lesson learned and field stories to inform policy and decision-making processes	PCU	09/2019
Complete the MPAT and WEAI baseline report Complete the MPAT and WEAI baseline report, share with IFAD for review and update the approved baseline figures on the M&E system	M&E and KM officer	09/2019
Ensure that social issues and risks are comprehensively addressed within the Feasibility Reports, ESIA's and ESMPs Ensure that social issues and risks are comprehensively addressed within the Feasibility Reports, ESIA's and ESMPs	PCU, EMA	10/2019
Develop monitoring plans to guide the monitoring of ESMPs and to inform execution of remedial measures Develop monitoring plans to guide the monitoring of ESMPs and to inform execution of remedial measures.	PCU, EMA	10/2019
Conduct basic M&E training for both PCU and IPs at national, provincial and district and scheme level	PCU	12/2019
Fees for ESMPs etc Initiate an inter-ministerial negotiation towards ensuring that certificates fees charged by EMA for ESIA's and ESMPs are waived for SIRP	PCU, MoA	12/2019
Recruit an Assistant KM & Communications Officer	PCU	01/2020
Finalise beneficiary registration data entry for low hanging fruit schemes	PCU	01/2020
Complete individual baseline for each scheme; utilise the feasibility studies to identify gaps in information, analysis and reports	PCU	02/2020
ESMPs for Existing Schemes Fast track the development of ESMPs for existing schemes requiring rehabilitation and develop ESIA's and ESMPs for existing schemes that will be expanded	PCU	03/2020
Management of ESIA & ESMPs Ensure that social issues and risks are comprehensively identified and mitigation actions provided for in the ESIA's and ESMPs, particularly grievance redress where there are conflicts	PCU	03/2020
Conduct Annual Outcome survey	PCU	04/2020

<p>Ensure that each ESMP has a dedicated section on the decommissioning plan and stakeholder engagement as per EMA guidelines, and that all activities in the ESMP matrix are costed</p> <p>Ensure that each ESMP has a dedicated section on the decommissioning plan and stakeholder engagement as per EMA guidelines, and that all activities in the ESMP matrix are costed</p>	PCU	05/2020
<p>Ensure that environmental/social risks identified in the feasibility and NRM reports are included and addressed in the current and new ESMPs</p> <p>Ensure that environmental/social risks identified in the feasibility and NRM reports are included and addressed in the current and new ESMPs</p>	PCU	05/2020
<p>Prepare a clear strategy of how the ESMPs will be implemented within the structure of the project, including budgetary provisions</p> <p>Prepare a clear strategy of how the ESMPs will be implemented within the structure of the project, including budgetary provisions</p>	PCU	06/2020
<p>Hold Monthly Meetings</p> <p>Monthly meetings to be held in first 10 days of each month, with PCU, IPs PS MLAWRR and IFAD</p>	PCU & IFAD	07/2020
<p>Address community health issues posed by COVID 19 and propose mitigation actions</p> <p>Address community health issues posed by COVID 19 and propose mitigation actions</p>	PCU	09/2020
<p>Assess the presence of social risks such as child labour/GBV/conflicts etc. and if present, propose mitigation actions in line with SECAP guidelines</p> <p>Assess the presence of social risks such as child labour/GBV/conflicts etc. and if present, propose mitigation actions in line with SECAP guidelines</p>	PCU	09/2020
<p>Allocate the cost of ESMP licensing fees within the overall costs of the feasibility studies</p>	PCU	11/2020
<p>Ensure activities funded under the NRMF undergo environmental screening to identify risks and propose mitigation actions to be applied by beneficiaries</p> <p>Ensure activities funded under the NRMF undergo environmental screening to identify risks and propose mitigation actions to be applied by beneficiaries</p>	PCU	12/2020
<p>Allocate motorcycles for extension staff to support farmers in rain-fed areas around project supported irrigation schemes</p>	PCU	12/2020
<p>Schedule meetings for PSC every quarter</p>	PCU	12/2020

Conduct performance appraisal for the SIRP staff and the Programme Coordinator	PS	12/2020
Initiate and finalise the Secondment of an Assistant KM & Communications Officer	PCU	12/2020
Review and update the PIM and submit for IFAD No objection	PCU/IPs	01/2021
Complete the Annual Outcome Survey Ensure the Annual Outcome Survey is completed, and the final report is delivered by January 2021	M&E officer	01/2021
Finalise the development of the Electronic Database Ensure the electronic database is finalised, historical data migrated and full operationalisation to support day to day monitoring	M&E Officer	02/2021
Revise the GRM to better integrate community-based grievance redress structures, and ensure that all stakeholders are captured and aware of the process flows	PCU	02/2021
Recruit a part time KM Specialist to oversee implementation of the KM strategy in addition to the M&E officer	PCU	03/2021
Update the M&E Manual Review and Update the M&E manual to include a detailed plan for monitoring and evaluation of SIRP interventions and strengthen use and reference to the manual during implementation of the programme	M&E Officer	03/2021
Secondment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Assistant Initiate and finalise the secondment of a government staff with demonstrated experience in data base management, communication and knowledge Management to assist the M&E and KM Officer	Programme coordinator	03/2021
Create and moderate farmers digital platforms to facilitate real-time feedback on the implementation status of the SIRP activities Create and moderate farmers digital platforms to facilitate real-time feedback on the implementation status of the SIRP activities	PCU	
Ensure all technical staff in IPs and PCU produce KM products annually	PCU	
Ensure all technical staff in IPs and PCU produce KM products annually,	PCU	
Organize quarterly team meetings to review KM products and organize virtual events/webinars	PCU	

Effective monitoring and reporting of contractor and farmer activities from an ESMP perspective	PCU/DOM	
Financial Management & Execution		
Evaluate Government in-kind contribution SIRP to evaluate forfeited revenue of provision of government in-kind contribution in form of housing, , payment of utilities and use of Government vehicles for noting.	PCU	06/2018
Release government counterpart funds for project use Transfer government counterpart funds in excess of \$1.3 million held by the MLAWCRS into the project account	LPA	12/2018
The internal audit function to include SIRP in its audit program for 2019	LPA/MoF	01/2019
Expedite Procurement Processes The Project needs to ensure that procurement activities needed to catch up with the slow implementation pace are fast tracked by identifying a replacement for the Project coordinator and accountant that have recently left by outsourcing the recruitment process.	PMU/CPM	01/2019
Recruitment of key staff of PCU To expedite the recruitment, PCU shall issue an RFQ to engage a recruitment and selection firm for the recruitment and selection of the Project Coordinator and Accountant. The mission prepared TORs and shared these with the a.i. PC for finalisation.	PMU/CPM	01/2019
Contract register and contract management The project will start using the electronic format shared by the mission and submit the contract register to the CPM on a monthly basis.	PMU/CPM	01/2019
Procurement Plan The procurement plan needs to be revised to accurately reflect prior review thresholds and activity thresholds in compliance with the LtB.	Procurement Unit	01/2019
Procurement Plan to be Updated Regularly The Procurement Unit should ensure that the Procurement Plan be updated regularly and presented to the CPM upon each update. (at least every Quarter).	Procurement Unit	01/2019
Processing Feasibility Studies for Batch 2a (5000 ha) Technical Evaluation on NOTUS	PCU	06/2019

Reallocation request for the category of salaries and allowances and Submit a reallocation request for category 200018 – Salaries and allowances to facilitate further withdrawals on the category.	Programme Coordinator	06/2019
Submission of Musikavanhu Tenders to NOTUS Tender documents for 1) toilets, 2) boreholes and 3) tractors	PCU	07/2019
Submission of Musikavanhu Tenders to NOTUS Tender documents for 1) Road Construction and 2) Fencing	PCU	07/2019
Draft Tender Documents for 3 additional low hanging fruit schemes Draft Tender Documents for 3 additional low hanging fruit schemes (Exchange in Midlands, Rupagwana in Masvingo and Chikwarakwara in Matebeleland South) Documents available	DOI & PCU	07/2019
Adjustment in preparation of Statement of Expenditures (SOEs) Staff to attach field reports to their claims where an activity has been reported and claims on consultancy contracts can be done only when the activity is finalized, and bank charges to be re-looked at since they appear to be very high on the transactions.	Programme Accountant/Assistant Accountant	07/2019
Re-submission of un disbursed salaries and allowances Re-submit USD 46,112.13 in respect of salaries and allowances previously disallowed under WA number 10 once the reallocation request is approved	Programme Accountant/Assistant Accountant	07/2019
Internal Audit to be provided by CIA or seek authority for private firm to provide the internal audit Follow up with the CIA to provide internal audit services or seek authority to engage a private company to offer internal audit services twice every year to the Programme	Programme Coordinator	08/2019
Training on the SAGE accounting software for the accountant and assistants The Programme Accountant has been recruited and , training for Accounts Assistant, the Chief Accountant on Sage Pastel to be facilitated.	Procurement Specialist	08/2019
Adjustment of next WA to recover USD 13,172.17 Adjust the next WA with USD 13,172.17 over-claimed under WA 11.	Programme Accountant/ Assistant Accountant	11/2019
Clarification of beneficiary contribution Clarify with beneficiaries the amounts and basis of their contribution.	Programme Coordinator	11/2019

Quantification of GoZ in-kind contribution Quantify and report in-kind GoZ contribution	Programme Coordinator/ Accountant	11/2019
Reconciliation of expenditure on SOEs All Expenditure on SOEs should be directly reconciled to the supporting documents	Programme Accountant/Assistant Accountant	11/2019
Timely processing of AWPB Budgeting process should be jointly carried out with M&E and Finance taking a lead. 2020 AWPB preparation process should be fast tracked to avoid further delays and ensure its approved in good time for implementation.	Programme Coordinator	11/2019
Update of the personnel file The personnel files for project staff should be updated at all times.	Programme Accountant	11/2019
Fixed assets register to be updated The fixed assets register should be updated and all assets tagged upon being brought into the project.	Programme Accountant/Programme Assistant Accountant	11/2019
Segregation of duties Project should make arrangements to facilitate segregation of duties. We recommend that the project recruits an additional Assistant Accountant to enable proper segregation of duties.	Programme Coordinator /Programme Accountant	11/2019
Policy on the justification of advances All overdue staff advances should be collected. The policy requiring retirement of advances within 14 days after return should be enforced	Programme Coordinator /Programme Accountant/Programme Assistant Accountant	11/2019
Reconciliation of the Bank Accounts Bank Reconciliations should be prepared and reviewed/approved on a prompt basis.	Accountant/ Programme Assistant Accountant	11/2019
Accounting Software training Arrange Sage Pastel training for accounts staff with the service provider	Procurement Specialist	11/2019
Quantify the beneficiary in-kind contribution Quantify and report in-kind Beneficiary contribution	Programme Coordinator/ Programme Accountant	11/2019
Procurement of individual consultants For procurement of individual consultants, use the selection of individual consultant method described in Section 66 of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Act (Chapter 22:23).	PS	12/2019

Procurement Plan Insert an actual date of procurement in the procurement plan as soon as possible, so as to improve the accuracy of timelines. Use a revised timeline when in need to amend planned dates without changing the timelines originally included in the procurement plan	PS	12/2019
Performance securities Collect performance securities from all contractors that signed a contract with the Programme	PS	12/2019
Contract register Maintain the contract register updated and share it with IFAD upon request.	PS	12/2019
Procurement filing Include copies of all correspondence with bidders in each procurement file.	PS	12/2019
Register of Authorised Signatures Employ a system of tracking changes in authorised signatories	PCU	12/2019
Payment System Employ a system of stamping paid vouchers/invoices	PCU	12/2019
Accounting for Advances Introduce a system of accounting for advances taken	PCU	12/2019
Recommendations of External Audit Fully action all recommendations	PCU	12/2019
Non quantification of the In Kind Contributions and volatile exchange rates The current monetary regime is unfavourable leading to erosion of value of the funds transferred as a result of the volatile exchange rates. Consequently, the availed funds may not be adequate at the time they are required to settle taxes. GoZ has provided in kind contribution in the form of office space, staff time, among others which have not been quantified	Programme Accountant/Assistant Accountant	12/2019

Procurement Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the PP proposed timeline considering the current pandemic situation to retain only the activities which can reasonably be implemented during 2020. • Consider the mandatory standstill period when revising the respective timelines. • Propose timelines adequate and proportional to the subject matter to be procured. • Correct the procurement methods in line with the selected approach (QCBS is not a procurement router but rather an evaluation methodology). 	PCU & PS	05/2020
TA Senior Procurement Officer <p>The recruitment of the Procurement Officer is being handled by HR due to conflict of interest (as stated by the project). Ensure the recruitment process follows the procurement procedures for the recruitment of consultants</p>	DOI	05/2020
Bill of Quantities <p>Revise and remove the contingency percentage from the issued BOQ.</p>	DOI	05/2020
The Evaluation Process <p>The evaluation report must include at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Detailed calculation of the financial assessment's indicators (AAT and financial cash flow) for all bidders - Confirmation on the eligibility for bidders against the UN and donors cross debarred list (this requires the project to undergo the check online) - Ensure the BDs contains details on the evaluation of Lots where one bidder wins more than one lot as well as the award. 	PCU	05/2020
Contract Management <p>For civil contracts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the contract management guidelines are harmonized with FIDIC requirements for contract management (including the roles and responsibilities) • The guidelines are subject to IFAD's review and NO. • Prior to issuing the contract, undertake precontract negotiation meeting to finalise the terms of the contracts (including revised mobilisation and construction schedule). A clear record of the procedures agreed and decisions made agreed during the meeting should be recorded. These minutes will form part of the contract documents, subject to agreement by both parties. • Ensure the relevant staff involved in the contract's execution receive adequate training in contract management. • All issued tenders to include ESMP, requiring bidders to abide by them. • All contractors must be required, in writing, to comply and observe the government requirements and regulations related to COVID-19 <p>(Please refer to the annex of the report which provides guidance on managing contracts under FIDIC).</p>	PCU	05/2020

For small contracts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise the contract's terms and conditions related to the warranty period and final acceptance proportionally to the nature and complexity of works. • Revise the contract's payment terms clause to determine the exact milestone of payment. • Allow instalment payments 	DOI & PCU	05/2020
Use of lotting and framework agreements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For lotting: Ensure the evaluation methodology and award of lots are clearly provided for in the BDs. • For framework agreement under mini competition (as proposed by the project): ensure SOP are in place and clearly detail the evaluation of offers and modalities for issuing the call-off contracts. • Framework agreement contracts' model are subject to IFAD clearance. • Use of blanket PO for all non-critical items with recurrent purchases 	DOI & PCU	05/2020
Specific measures to fast track procurement processes under the circumstances of COVID-19 Non-competitive processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue solicitation through email. • Seek responses to solicitations through formal emails and follow up with suppliers through phone calls (when necessary). • All copies of emails and exchange must be retained in their respective case file. • The offer's validity must be clearly stated to cover a timeline adequate to the current situation and extended when necessary prior to the offer's expiry 	PCU	05/2020
Competitive processes Major Rehabilitation & Expansion works: revert to the suppliers that attended the site visit and confirm their interest. Extended the bid validity and inform all the interested bidders accordingly. Request bidders to extend their respective bid security accordingly and confirm they maintain their offers. Considering that 1- the lockdown has been extended indefinitely and 2- the process is a single envelop system, bidders should be allowed to submit through a secure official email address along with hand-delivery. For new processes where site visit is not mandatory: similar submission provisions as above. Responses to requests for clarifications to be sent through emails and disseminated to all interested bidders.	PCU	05/2020
Update fixed asset register The fixed assets register should be updated and all assets properly identifiable upon being brought into the project. Asset Inventory check should be evidenced by a report with full details of assets checked	Project Accountant	05/2020

Recovery of staff advances All overdue staff advances should be collected. The policy requiring retirement of advances within 14 days after return should be forced	Project Accountant	05/2020
Ensure proper capturing of the beneficiary in-kind contribution Quantify and report in-kind Beneficiary contribution	Project Accountant	06/2020
Regularize the expected beneficiary contributions Clarify with beneficiaries the amounts and basis of their contribution	Project Coordinator	06/2020
Capturing and recording GoZ contribution Quantify and report in-kind GoZ contribution	Project Accountant	06/2020
Procurement Plan and Process Use the new PP format for all activities scheduled year 2021 and onwards Plan to include total projected estimates and not the fraction of forecasted to be disbursed Ensure all activities in the AWPB are entirely reflected in the PP	PIU/ procurement specialist	11/2020
Processes and Procedures from Prequalification to Bidding Mandatory elaboration of the ESMP for all processes from 2021 onwards Mandatory respect of the qualification criteria stipulated in the qualification assessment table, including calculating the relevant ratios All contractors, both undertaking ongoing contracts and the future one to include cash flow projection Work schedules must be agreed with first with the contractors and subsequently included in the contract Update the estimates to align them with the actual market trends Undertake FIDIC training	PIU/procurement specialist/TA engineer	11/2020
Procurement Handbook and IFAD's Standard Procurement Documents Project to refer to the newly issued Procurement Handbook for guidance on procurement processes and to IFAD's Standard Procurement Documents to ensure adequate reference to all IFAD Policies in all procurement activities	PIU/ procurement specialist	11/2020
Internal audit report Prepare an action plan for implementation of internal audit recommendations and submit it to FMD/IFAD in preparation for a follow up mission	Programme Coordinator	12/2020
AWPB for 2021 Complete and submit a 2021 AWPB to IFAD for review and No Objection	Programme Coordinator	12/2020

Posting of budgets in accounting software Post all 2021 AWPB items in the accounting software, to facilitate budget monitoring and control	Programme Accountant	01/2021
OFID loan Disbursements Prepare and submit all withdrawal applications financed from OFID	Programme Accountant	03/2021
Beneficiary contribution Generate a table with amount of contribution expected, received and due per scheme and hand it to the relevant provinces for follow up on status of payments	Programme Accountant/M&E Specialist	03/2021
Timely submission of WAs To accelerate disbursements to the project and In line with the Letter to Recipient provision on withdrawal applications, it is recommended that SIRP submits to IFAD a withdrawal application every 90 days even if the withdrawal amount requested has not reached 30% of the special account advance	Project Accountant	
Resolve bottlenecks on Funds flow MOFED, MLAWCRR and the PCU to have a meeting to resolve the bottlenecks in flow of funds from the Designated Account	PCU	
Replacement of Key staff Recruit the key positions immediately	LPA	

Zimbabwe

Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

Mid-term Review

Logical Framework

Mission Dates: 16/11/2020 04/12/2020

Document Date: 19/01/2021

Project No. 2000001233

Report No. 5638-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division
Programme Management Department

Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

Logical Framework

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2020)	Cumulative Result (2020)	Cumulative Result % (2020)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
Outreach	1.b Estimated corresponding total number of households members							M&E system	Annually	M&E officer	Climate shocks do not cause farmers to discontinue their contributions to O&M of the scheme
	Household members	0	32 630	148 750		12 286	8.3				
	1.a Corresponding number of households reached							M&E system	Annually	M&E officer	
	Women-headed households	0	3 630	16 500		635	3.8				
	Non-women-headed households	0	2 420	11 000		1 423	12.9				
	Households	0	6 050	27 500		2 058	7.5				
	1 Persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project							Progress reports	Annual	MAMID PDU	
	Females	0	3 025	13 750		0	0				
	Males	0	3 025	13 750		0	0				
	Total number of persons receiving services	0	6 050	27 500		2 058	7.5				
Project Goal Rural households achieve food and nutrition security and are resilient to climate change effects and economic shocks in the programme districts	Reduction in the prevalence of chronic malnutrition children under five (weight for age)							Secondary data, ZIMVAC reports, ZNSA	Baseline, MTR, and completion	M&E officer	Macro-economic stability (A)
	Reduction in chronic malnutrition children	0	1	3							
	Improved household assets ownership index (RIMS)							Baseline, MTR and completion surveys	Baseline, MTR, and completion	M&E officer	
	Household assets ownership	0	5	20							
	Smallholder HH cope with effects of climate change (RIMS 1.8.5)							M&E system	Annual	M&E officer	

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2020)	Cumulative Result (2020)	Cumulative Result % (2020)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
	Households	0	7 600	22 100							
Development Objective Rural households sustainably increase their income in SIRP supported schemes and adjacent rainfed areas.	Diet Diversity Score							ZIMVAC; DDF; HDDS	Baseline, MTR, and completion	M&E officer	Macroeconomic stability maintained
	Diet Diversity score	5	9	12							
	Annual household income on irrigation schemes							ZIMVAC, ZNSA	Baseline, MTR, and completion	M&E officer	
	Annual household income	129	1 000	3 490							
Outcome Outcome 1a: Irrigation schemes fully operational	Incremental hectares of crop grown throughout seasons							Baseline, MTR and completion surveys	Baseline, MTR, and completion	M&E officer	Target group shoulders O&M
	Incremental hectares intensity (4,200 ha baseline; 1600 ha MTR; 5200 ha Completion)	100	175	175							
Output Output 1.1 a: Small-scale irrigation schemes revitalized	1.1.2 Farmland under water-related infrastructure constructed/rehabilitated							Progress reports	Semi-annually	DOI/M&E officer	Expertise to carry out the study is available Prices for material and works remain within assumed margins
	Hectares of land	0	1 840	6 100		0	0				
Output Output 1.2 a: Irrigators and their WUOs obtain knowledge in efficient irrigation management	Number of irrigators trained in irrigation management							Progress reports	Quarterly	DOI/AGRITEX	Training is demand-driven
	Irrigators trained	0	15 000	15 000							
	Men trained										
	Women trained										
	Young trained										
	Non-young trained										
Output Output 1.3 b: Enhanced capacity in Gov. staff on irrigation service delivery	Number of Government staff trained in irrigation and O&M selected topics							Progress reports	Quarterly	DOI/M&E officer	Staffing levels are maintained or increased at all levels
	Government staff trained	0	250	250							

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2020)	Cumulative Result (2020)	Cumulative Result % (2020)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
Outcome Outcome 2 a: Increased adoption of improved technologies and practices	Improved agricultural production: avg. yield increase (kg/ha) of main crops							Progress reports; PCR; IMC records;	Annual	M&E officer/AGRITEX	Target group increases market share of production
	Maize (MT/ha)	2	5	5							
	Beans MT/ha	1	1.75	1.75							
	Tomato MT/ha	10	30	30							
	Maize rainfed MT/ha	0.5	1	1							
	Sorghum rainfed MT/ha	0.7	1.4	1.4							
	Groundnut rainfed MT/ha	0.5	1	1							
	1.2.4 Households reporting an increase in production							Progress reports; AOS; IMC records	Annually	M&E officer/AGRITEX	
	Households	0	15	50							
	Total number of household members										
	Males										
	Females										
	Young										
	Not Young										
	Indigenous people										
	Non-Indigenous people										
	Women-headed households										
	Non-women-headed households										
	Households										

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2020)	Cumulative Result (2020)	Cumulative Result % (2020)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
	1.2.2 Households reporting adoption of new/improved inputs, technologies or practices							Progress reports; AOS; IMC records	Annually	M&E officer/AGRITEX	
	Households	0	15	50							
	Total number of household members										
	Males										
	Females										
	Young										
	Not Young										
	Indigenous people										
	Non-Indigenous people										
	Women-headed households										
	Non-women-headed households										
	Households										
Output Output 2.1 a: Strengthened capacity of farmers and their organizations	1.1.4 Persons trained in production practices and/or technologies							Progress reports	Quarterly	AGRITEX	VC actors are willing to cooperate; Training is demand driven
	Total number of attendances to training sessions					1 281					
	Men trained in crop		4 125	13 750		605	4.4				
	Women trained in crop		4 125	13 750		676	4.9				
	Young people trained in crop		825	2 750		174	6.3				
	Not young people trained in crop		7 425	24 750		1 107	4.5				

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2020)	Cumulative Result (2020)	Cumulative Result % (2020)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
	Total persons trained in crop	0	8 250	27 500		1 281	4.7				
Outcome Outcome 2 b: Farmers benefiting from improved access to markets and financial services	2.2.6 Households reporting improved physical access to markets, processing and storage facilities							Progress reports; AOS; IMC records	Annually	M&E officer	Farmers understand market functions
	Households reporting improved physical access to markets										
	Households reporting improved physical access to processing facilities										
	Households reporting improved physical access to storage facilities										
Output Output 2.2 a: Strengthened business capacity of farmers and value chain actors	2.1.2 Persons trained in income-generating activities or business management							Progress reports	Quarterly	AGRITEX	VC actors are willing to cooperate
	Females		3 800	12 625		1 414	11.2				
	Males		3 800	12 625		699	5.5				
	Young		760	2 525		240	9.5				
	Not Young		6 840	22 725		1 873	8.2				
	Persons trained in IGAs or BM (total)	0	7 600	25 250		2 113	8.4				
Output Output 2.2 b: Value addition technology promoted at scheme and adjacent rainfed area	2.1.6 Market, processing or storage facilities constructed or rehabilitated							Progress reports	Semi-annually	AGRITEX/DOM	
	Total number of facilities					0					
	Storage facilities constructed/rehabilitated	0	50	125		0	0				
Output Output 2.3 c: Enhanced capacity in Gov. staff on service delivery	Number of Government staff trained in production, and market access							Progress reports	Semi-annually	AGRITEX	Staffing levels are maintained or increased at all levels
	Number of Government staff trained	0	500	500							

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2020)	Cumulative Result (2020)	Cumulative Result % (2020)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
	Number of Government staff trained - male	0	400	400							
	Number of Government staff trained - female		100	100							

Zimbabwe

Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

Mid-term Review

Appendix 1: Financial: actual financial performance; by financier by component and disbursements by category

Mission Dates: 16/11/2020 04/12/2020
Document Date: 19/01/2021
Project No. 2000001233
Report No. 5638-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division
Programme Management Department

Appendix 2: Financial: Actual financial performance by financier; by component and disbursements by category**Table 2A: Financial performance by financier as at 31, October 2020**

Financier	Appraisal (USD '000)	Disbursements (USD '000)	Per cent disbursed
IFAD grant	25,500	6,577	26%
OFID loan	15,000	377	3%
Government	7,985	1,262	17%
Beneficiaries	3,280	46	1.4%
Total	51,765	8,262	16%

Table 2B: Financial Performance by Financier by Component as at 31, October 2020 (USD'000)**

Component	IFAD grant			OFID loan			Government			Beneficiaries			Total		
	Appraisal	Actual	%	Appraisal	Actual	%	Appraisal	Actual	%	Appraisal	Actual	%	Appraisal	Actual	%
1.0 Sustainable Smallholder Irrigation Development	10,174	3,355	33%	13,808	377	2.7%	4,733	284	6%	2,238	-	2%	30,953	4,062	13%
1.1 Scheme Selection and Rehabilitation	7,211	2,847	39%	13,808	377	2.7%	3,693	82	2%	-	-	0%	24,712	3,306	13%
1.2 Improved Smallholder Irrigation Management	1,483	167	11%	-	-	0%	635	30	5%	2,238	46	2%	4,356	243	6%
1.3 Enhanced Institutional Capacity for Irrigation Development	1,479	341	23%	-	-	0%	404	172	43%	-	-	0%	1,883	513	27%
2. Climate – Smart Agriculture and Market Access	12,135	1,175	10%	1,192	-	0%	2,326	469	20%	1,042	-	0%	16,695	1,644	10%
2.1 Enhanced Agricultural Practices and Farmers' Organisational Capacity	4,989	297	6%	-	-	0%	495	4	1%	182	-	0%	5,666	301	5%
2.2 Market Access and Rural Finance Services	4,314	118	3%	1,192	-	0%	594	1	0%	863	-	0%	6,963	119	2%
2.3 Enhances Institutional Capacity for Market – led Agriculture Production	2,833	760	27%	-	-	0%	1,237	464	38%	-	-	0%	4,070	1,224	30%
3. Programme Coordination	3,191	2,046	64%	-	-	0%	926	509	55%	-	-	0%	4,117	2,555	62%
TOTAL	25,500	6,576	26%	15,000	377	2.5%	7,985	1,262	16%	3,280	46	1.4%	51,765	8,261	16%

Table 2C: IFAD grant disbursements (SDR, as at 31 October 2020)

Category	Category description	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation	Disbursement	Pending W/As	Balance	Per cent disbursed
200003	Works	4,900,000.00	4,300,000.00	316,764.21	0.00	3,983,235.79	7.32%
200008	Consultancies	3,200,000.00	2,950,000.00	924,830.41	0.00	2,025,169.59	31.35%
200013	Goods, Services and Inputs	3,600,000.00	3,500,000.00	294,523.91	0.00	2,575,476.09	26.41%
200016	Operating Costs	1,400,000.00	1,400,000.00	226,606.40	0.00	1,173,393.60	16.19%
200018	Salaries and allowances	250,000.00	1,200,000.00	651,526.06	0.00	548,473.93	54.29%
200019	Training	3,150,000.00	3,150,000.00	335,819.22	0.00	2,814,180.78	10.66%
270001	Authorised allocation	0.00	0.00	972,464.72	0.00	(972,464.73)	0.00%
290001	Unallocated	1,800,000.00	1,800,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,800,000.00	0.00%
Total		18,300,000.00	18,300,000.00	4,352,534.94	0.00	13,947,465.05	23.78%

Table 2E: OFID loan disbursements (USD, as at 31 October 2020)

Category	Category description	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation	Disbursement	Pending W/As	Balance	Per cent disbursed
200003	Works	14,390,000.00	14,390,000.00	377,000.00	0.00	14,013,000.00	2.6%
200008	Consultancies	610,000.00	610,000.00	0.00	0.00	610,000.00	0.0%
Total		15,000,000.00	15,000,000.00	377,000.00	0.00	14,623,000.00	2.5%

Table 2F: IFAD Grant disbursement, comparisons between original and revised allocations and actual disbursement as at 31 October, 2020

Category	Category description	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation	Disbursement	Balance	Per cent disbursed
200003	Works	4,900,000.00	4,300,000.00	316,764.21	3,983,235.79	7.32%
200008	Consultancies	3,200,000.00	2,950,000.00	924,830.41	2,025,169.59	31.35%
200013	Goods, Services and Inputs	3,600,000.00	3,500,000.00	294,523.91	2,575,476.09	26.41%
200016	Operating Costs	1,400,000.00	1,400,000.00	226,606.40	1,173,393.60	16.19%
200018	Salaries and allowances	250,000.00	1,200,000.00	651,526.06	548,473.93	54.29%
200019	Training	3,150,000.00	3,150,000.00	335,819.22	2,814,180.78	10.66%
270001	Authorised allocation	0.00	0.00	972,464.72	(972,464.73)	0.00%
290001	Unallocated	1,800,000.00	1,800,000.00	0.00	1,800,000.00	0.00%
Total		18,300,000.00	18,300,000.00	4,352,534.94	13,947,465.05	23.78%

Appendix 3: Compliance with legal covenants: Status of implementation

Section	Covenant	Target/Action Due Date	Status/Date
Section B.3	Recipient to open and maintain a designated account denominated in US\$ at the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to channel grant proceeds	Disbursement condition/Continuous	Complied
Section B.4	Open and Maintain a project account in US\$ at a Commercial Bank acceptable to the Fund to receive and hold the financing transferred from the Designated Account.	Disbursement condition/Continuous	Complied
Section B.5	Recipient shall provide counterpart financing for the Programme to cover taxes and duties levied in the implementation of the Programme.	Continuous	Complied/to be monitored throughout project period. This has challenges as funds are provided in RTGS and taxes paid in USD
Section E.1 (a)	Co-financing agreement between Recipient and OFID is not suspended, cancelled or terminated	Continuous	OFID had been suspended for lack of payment of arrears by GOZ – This has now been resolved
Section E.1 (b)	Obtaining prior consent of the Fund for any waiver, suspension, termination, amendment or modification of PIM, or any provision thereof.	Continuous	Complied
Section E.1 (c)	Obtaining prior concurrence of the Fund for appointment, transfer or removal of Key Programme Staff from the PCU	Continuous	Complied
Section E.2 (a)	The Recipient shall have established within MLAAR a PCU.	Prior to disbursement	Complied
Section E.2 (b)	The Recipient shall have prepared a PIM in form and substance satisfactory to the Fund	Prior to disbursement	Complied
Schedule 3 Para 1 Gender Strategy	The Recipient to develop and implement a gender strategy to streamline gender concerns in all programme activities	Continuous	To be monitored during implementation.
Schedule 3. Para 2 Counterpart funds	Counterpart funds are clearly identifiable in the financial management system and financial statements.	Continuous	Complied.
Schedule 3 Para 3 Land and Water Access	Smallholder farmers to have full access to land along applicable customary and legal regulations. A prerequisite to the signature of such agreements shall be the prior formal establishment of the WUOs.	Continuous	Complied.
Schedule 3 Para 4 Environmental and Social Due Diligence	Programme to be implemented in compliance with the main IFAD policies, strategies and procedures, including, IFAD's Natural Resources Management Policy, Climate Change Strategy and Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures; and IFAD's Policy on Improving Access to Land and Tenure Security.	Continuous	Complied/To be monitored during implementation.

Section	Covenant	Target/Action Due Date	Status/Date
Schedule 3 Para 5 Transparency and internal control framework.	The Terms of Reference of the external audit shall include a specific review of internal control environment. This covers all the systems, manual and IT.	30 September, each year	Complied/To be monitored during implementation.
Schedule 3 Para 6 Internal audit	The Internal Audit Department of MLARR will include the Programme in its yearly internal audit oversight plans. The implementation status of internal audit recommendations will be addressed and made available to the Fund	Continuous	Complied for 2020 to be monitored during implementation.
GC Section 4.02.b Withdrawals from the Loan and Grant Accounts	No withdrawal shall be made from the Loan and/or Grant Accounts until the first AWPB has been approved by the Fund.	June 2018	Complied
GC Section 7.01.b.ii AWPB	LPA shall submit reviewed draft Project AWPB for each Project Year to the IFAD for comments no later than sixty (60) days before the beginning of the relevant Project Year	30 th October, each year	Not complied
GC Section 7.03. Availability of Additional Resources	In addition to the proceeds of the Financing, the Recipient shall make available to the Project Parties: such funds, facilities, services and other resources as may be required to carry out the Project in accordance with Section 7.01.	Continuous	To be monitored during implementation.
GC Section 7.05. Procurement	(a) Procurement of goods, works and services in accordance with the provisions of the GOZ regulations, to the extent such are consistent with the IFAD Procurement Guidelines. . Each Procurement Plan shall identify procedures which must be implemented by the Recipient in order to ensure consistency with the IFAD Procurement Guidelines	Continuous	Partially Complied
	(b)The Fund may require that all bidding documents and contracts for procurement of goods, works and services financed by the Financing include provisions requiring bidders, suppliers, contractors, sub-contractors and consultants to: (i) allow full inspection by the Fund of all bid documentation and related records; (ii) maintain all documents and records related to the bid or contract for three years after completion of the bid or contract; and (iii) cooperate with agents or representatives of the Fund carrying out an audit or investigation.	Continuous	To be monitored during implementation.
GC:S. 7.8 (a) Insurance	(a)The Borrower/ the Lead Project Agency shall insure all goods and buildings used in the Project against such risks and in such amounts as shall be consistent with sound commercial practice.	Continuous	Not complied
	(b)The Borrower or the Lead Project Agency shall insure the goods imported for the Project against hazards incident to the acquisition, transportation and delivery thereof to the place of use or installation in accordance with sound commercial practice	Continuous	To be monitored during implementation
GC Section.7.11	Appoint Project Coordinator and all other key Project personnel in the manner specified in the FA.	By Project start up	Compliance
GC Section 8.3 (a) Progress Reports	Furnish to the Fund periodic progress reports in such form and substance as required	30 June and 31 st December of each year	Partially complied

Section	Covenant	Target/Action Due Date	Status/Date
GC Section 8.3 (b) MTR	Jointly carry out a review of Project implementation no later than the midpoint of the Project Implementation	2021	MTR carried out in November, 2020
GC Section 9.02 Financial Reporting	Deliver to the Fund detailed financial statements of the operations, resources and expenditures related to the Project for each Fiscal Year prepared in accordance with standards and procedures acceptable to the Fund and deliver such financial statements to the Fund within four (4) months of the end of each Fiscal Year.	30 April, each year	Complied
GC Section 9.03 Audit	(a)each Fiscal Year, have the accounts relating to the Project audited in accordance with auditing standards acceptable to the Fund and the Fund's Guidelines on Project Audits (for Borrowers' Use); (b)within 6 months of the end of each Fiscal Year, furnish to the Fund a certified copy of the audit report. The Borrower shall submit to the Fund the reply to the management letter of the auditors within one month of receipt thereof;	30 June , each year	Complied for 2020
GC Section 9.04. Other Financial Reports and Information	In addition to the reports and information required by the foregoing provisions: (a)The Borrower and the Project Parties shall promptly furnish to the Fund such other reports and information as the Fund shall reasonably request on any financial matter relating to the Financing or the Project or any Project Party. (b)The Borrower shall promptly inform the Fund of any condition that interferes with, or threatens to interfere with, the maintenance of Loan Service Payments. (c) The Project Member State shall promptly furnish to the Fund all information that the Fund may reasonably request with respect to financial and economic conditions in its territory, including its balance of payments and its external debt.	Continuous	To be monitored as implementation continues

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Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

Mid-term Review

Appendix 2: Physical progress measured against AWP&B

Mission Dates: 16/11/2020 04/12/2020
Document Date: 19/01/2021
Project No. 2000001233
Report No. 5638-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division
Programme Management Department

Subcomponent/Output	Indicator		2020 AWPB				Targets		%		Remarks/Comments
		Unit	Target	Actual	%	Cumulative Actual	Midterm	Appraisal	Midterm	Appraisal	
Subcomponent 1.1:	Development and management of irrigation scheme assets										
Output 1.1: Small-scale irrigation schemes revitalized.	Number of hectares of farmland under water-related infrastructure constructed/rehabilitated	Ha	1086	440	41%	440	1840	6100	24%	7%	So far 440 Ha (All rehabilitation) have been completed in 5 out of the 14 schemes targeted from 2019 and 2020. A total of 6100 (5100Ha-Rehabilitation, 800Ha-rehabilitation and expansion, 200Ha-Conversion to solar)
	Number of feasibility studies conducted	Ha	4368	3829	88%	4754	6140	9000	77%	53%	4754Ha have been surveyed and studied. An additional 2958Ha are ongoing and expected to be completed by mid-2021. A total of 7712Ha are expected to be formed for rehabilitation at the end of the studies
	Number of irrigation schemes constructed/rehabilitated	Schemes	14	0	0%	0	37	125	0%	0%	Rehabilitation ongoing at various stages. But not completed for any of the ongoing works in the 14 schemes
Subcomponent 1.2 :	Improved smallholder irrigation management										
Output 1.2 a: Irrigators and their WUOs obtain knowledge in efficient	Number of irrigators trained in irrigation management	Irrigators	1732	717	41%	1657	5000	15000	33%	11%	Training has only been undertaken in the blocks that are operational. Training covered O & M, Scheme Management. Youth were also trained in vocational irrigation

Subcomponent/Output	Indicator		2020 AWPB				Targets		%		Remarks/Comments
		Unit	Target	Actual	%	Cumulative Actual	Midterm	Appraisal	Midterm	Appraisal	
irrigation management											equipment repair and maintenance
		men	866	319	37%	704	2500	7500	28%	9%	
		women	866	398	46%	953	2500	7500	38%	13%	
		youth (10%)	173	92	53%	121	500	1500	24%	8%	
	Number of WUOs supported	WUO	7	4	57%	4	700	700	1%	1%	
	Number of members of supported WUOs	Members	140	96	69%	96	5000	15000	2%	1%	
		men	70	54	77%	54	2500	7500	2%	1%	
		women	70	42	60%	42	2500	7500	2%	1%	
		youth	14	8	57%	8	500	1500	2%	1%	
	Number of youth trained provided with starter kits	youth	200	21	11%	21	600	1000	4%	2%	
	Number of youth receiving vocational training on irrigation equipment repair and maintenance	youth	200	64	32%	42	600	1000	7%	4%	
	Number of beneficiaries providing financial contribution for the O&M	Beneficiaries	1732	0	0%	1107	5000	15000	22%	7%	Contributions mainly delayed by delays in commencement of irrigation works
		men	866	0	0%	0	2500	7500	0%	0%	
		women	866	0	0%	0	2500	7500	0%	0%	
		youth	173.2	0	0%	0	500	1500	0%	0%	

Subcomponent/Output	Indicator		2020 AWPB				Targets		%		Remarks/Comments
		Unit	Target	Actual	%	Cumulative Actual	Midterm	Appraisal	Midterm	Appraisal	
	Value of beneficiary contributions	USD/million	108,600	29,240	27%	46,211	636,000	2,633,000	7%	2%	
Subcomponent 1.3:	Enhanced institutional capacity for irrigation development										
Output 1.3 b: Enhanced capacity in Gov. staff on irrigation service delivery	Number of Government staff trained in irrigation and O&M selected topics	total	150	40	27%	262	450	500	58%	52%	Training has been delivered to Agritex Staff, DOI, Department of Mechanisation. The training covered O & M of the schemes, transformation , Good Irrigation Practices
Sub-component 2.1:	Enhanced Agricultural Practices and Farmers' Organizational Capacity										
Output 2.1a: Strengthened capacity of farmers and their organizations	Number of FFS established	FFS	33	32	97%	50	170	210	29%	24%	Training has been carried out to beneficiaries in areas adjacent to the schemes where works are ongoing
	Number of farmers in FFS trained	Members	1836	1173	64%	1840	3750	12500	49%	15%	
		Men	918	579	63%	776	1875	6250	41%	12%	
		women	918	594	65%	1064	1875	6250	57%	17%	
		youth	184	154	84%	221	375	1250	59%	18%	
	Number of irrigation scheme agriculture committees trained	persons	140	122	87%	200	770	910	26%	22%	Irrigation Scheme committees are responsible for scheme management.
		Men	70	85	121%	138	385	450	36%	31%	
		women	70	37	53%	62	385	450	16%	14%	
		youth	14	8	57%	27	77	91	35%	30%	

Subcomponent/Output	Indicator		2020 AWPB				Targets		%		Remarks/Comments
		Unit	Target	Actual	%	Cumulative Actual	Midterm	Appraisal	Midterm	Appraisal	
	Number of farmers trained on irrigation schemes (Demos)	persons	1862	1019	55%	1398	4500	15250	31%	9%	
		Men	931	506	54%	702	2250	7625	31%	9%	
		women	931	513	55%	696	2250	7625	31%	9%	
		youth	186.2	87	47%	119	450	1525	26%	8%	
	Number of Committee Members trained on NRM	persons	140	108	77%	203	2500	2500	8%	8%	
		Men	70	72	103%	129	1250	1250	10%	10%	
		women	70	36	51%	74	1250	1250	6%	6%	
		youth	14	25	179%	25	250	250	10%	10%	
	Number of NRM plans developed	Number	24	19	79%	22	37	125	59%	18%	
	Number of farmers trained in greater scheme area on NRM	participants	1836	1613	88%	2559	7250	10000	35%	26%	This number also includes the rain fed farmers and irrigators
		Men	918	581	63%	1047	3625	5000	29%	21%	
		women	918	1032	112%	1512	3625	5000	42%	30%	
		youth	183.6	161	88%	217	7250	1000	3%	22%	
	Number of Natural Resource Management Facilities (small projects) established	NRMF	15	14	93%						Projects have been identified in bakery using biogas, layer production, broiler production, goat production, bee keeping. The project has stopped identifying and implementing these types of projects to increase focus on the High impact projects
	Number of income generating (High Impact) projects supported by the NRMF	projects	8	9	113%	9	8	8	113%	113%	9 high impact projects have been submitted in goat breeding and multiplication, indigenous chicken

Subcomponent/Output	Indicator		2020 AWPB				Targets		%		Remarks/Comments
		Unit	Target	Actual	%	Cumulative Actual	Midterm	Appraisal	Midterm	Appraisal	
											production, bee keeping and beef fattening. Two projects are being targeted to be carried out in each of the 4 provinces
	Number of farmers within groups supported by the NRMF	Farmers	1300	704	54%						
		Men	650	351	54%						
		women	650	353	54%						
		youth	130	117	90%						
	Total value of grants disbursed for the income generating projects (90%)	USD/million	146,880	0	0%	0	1,428,000	2,040,000	0%	0%	No funds have been disbursed yet because the projects are currently under procurement and have not yet started implementation
	Value of beneficiary contributions (10%)	USD '000	16,320	-	0%	0	158,667	226,667	0%	0%	Contributions are tagged to the disbursements to the projects. Currently the implementation of the projects hasn't started. Projects currently under procurement.
	Number of demonstrations on cooking/feeding	demo	14	13	93%	16	100	125	16%	13%	These are done in partnership with Harvest Plus.
	Number of farmers participating in demo plots on cooking/feeding	participants	1400	678	48%	870	6250	12500	14%	7%	The performance is influenced by cooking being an activity embraced by all because it relates to feeding
		men (10%)	140	174	124%	223	625	1250	36%	18%	

Subcomponent/Output	Indicator		2020 AWPB				Targets		%		Remarks/Comments
		Unit	Target	Actual	%	Cumulative Actual	Midterm	Appraisal	Midterm	Appraisal	
		women(90%)	1260	504	40%	647	5625	11250	12%	6%	
		youth	140	233	166%	253	625	1250	40%	20%	
	Number of demonstrations for nutrition gardens	demos	14	18	129%	24	100	125	24%	19%	
	Number of farmers participating in demo plots on nutrition gardens	participants	1400	1189	85%	1671	2500	5000	67%	33%	There is equal participation of men and women in nutrition gardening activities because there are elements of income generation that can equally benefit the men.
		Men	700	446	64%	591	1250	1000	47%	59%	
		women	700	743	106%	1080	1250	4000	86%	27%	
		youth	140	10	7%	58	250	500	23%	12%	
	number of Nutrition education sessions	sessions	28	18	64%	31	184	250	17%	12%	
	Number of people participating in nutrition education sessions	Total	1400	1080	77%	1635	7000	14000	23%	12%	This includes some farmers from the dry lands and
		men(10%)	140	189	135%	330	700	1400	47%	24%	
		women (90%)	1260	891	71%	1305	6300	12600	21%	10%	
Subcomponent 2.2:	Market access and rural financial services										
Output 2.2a: Strengthened business capacity of farmers and value chain actors	Number of farmers which are trained on FAAB	participants	3568	2416	68%	4529	7600	27500	60%	16%	Training delivered on FAAB and Marketing to farmers from the schemes and adjacent areas. Trainings dependent on scheme activities
		Men	1784	518	29%	1217	3800	13750	32%	9%	
		women	1784	1898	106%	3312	3800	13750	87%	24%	

Subcomponent/Output	Indicator		2020 AWPB				Targets		%		Remarks/Comments
		Unit	Target	Actual	%	Cumulative Actual	Midterm	Appraisal	Midterm	Appraisal	
	Number of scheme level Marketing Committees members trained	youth	356	107	30%	347	760	2750	46%	13%	Training started in 2020
		members	230	132	57%	132	1125	1250	12%	11%	
		men (70%)	161	78	48%	78	788	875	10%	9%	
		women(30%)	69	54	78%	54	338	375	16%	14%	
		youth(10%)	23	13	57%	13	113	125	12%	10%	
	number of local CBMF trained	trainees	140	0	0%	0	1200	1200	0%	0%	No progress because of lack of a rural finance specialist. Output has been proposed to be restructured to focus on provision of finance through a revolving fund
		Men	70	0	0%	0	600	600	0%	0%	
		women	70	0	0%	0	600	600	0%	0%	
		youth	14	0	0%	0	120	120	0%	0%	
	number of ISALs established	ISALs	150	0	0%	0	188	375	0%	0%	
	number of members of ISALs	members	1500	0	0%	0	3750	7500	0%	0%	
		Men	750	0	0%	0	1500	3000	0%	0%	
		women	750	0	0%	0	2250	4500	0%	0%	
		youth	150	0	0%	0	375	750	0%	0%	
Output 2.2b Value addition technology promoted at scheme and adjacent rain-fed area	number of On-farm demonstration of post-harvest technologies	demos	24	0	0%	0	113	375	0%	0%	Output delayed by delayed procurement of post-harvest facilities
	Number of farmers trained in post-harvest	participants	2400	2215	92%	3777	14150	20250	27%	19%	theoretical training carried out and practical training expected once the post-harvest facilities are procured
		Men	1200	932	78%	1703	7075	10125	24%	17%	
		women	1200	1283	107%	2074	7075	10125	29%	20%	
		youth	240	220	92%	231	1415	1012	16%	23%	

Subcomponent/Output	Indicator		2020 AWPB				Targets		%		Remarks/Comments
		Unit	Target	Actual	%	Cumulative Actual	Midterm	Appraisal	Midterm	Appraisal	
	Construction of multipurpose post-harvest centre	centres	24	0	0%	0	315	437	0%	0%	These are pegged to the irrigation schemes rehabilitation. Their design has delayed and consequently the construction
	Value of farmers contribution to the construction of the post-harvest centers (10%)	USD '000	1,000	0	0%	0	99,370	201,700	0%	0%	Contributions lagging behind because the centers are not yet delivered
	Number of youth trained on vocational training on post-harvest technologies	youth	250	239	96%	259	600	1000	43%	26%	
		male	125	115	92%	125	300	500	42%	25%	
		female	125	124	99%	134	300	500	45%	27%	
	Number of kilometres of roads constructed, rehabilitated or upgraded	Km	20	4	20%	4	80	100	5%	4%	these are scheme access roads. Works ongoing on 13Km of road and completed on 4 Km
Sub-component 2.3:	Enhanced Institutional Capacity for Market-led Production										
Output 2.3 c: Enhanced capacity in Gov. staff on service delivery	Number of AGRITEX staff trained and mentored	Staff	250	139	56%	341	500	500	68%	68%	Staff have been trained in O & M , GAPS, Climate Smart Agriculture, and Contract Management
		Men	125	105	84%	258	400	250	65%	103%	
		women	125	34	27%	83	100	250	83%	33%	

Zimbabwe

Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

Mid-term Review

Appendix 3: Compliance with legal covenants: status of implementation

Mission Dates: 16/11/2020 04/12/2020
Document Date: 19/01/2021
Project No. 2000001233
Report No. 5638-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division
Programme Management Department

Appendix 3: Compliance with legal covenants: Status of implementation

Section	Covenant	Target/Action Due Date	Status/Date
Section B.3	Recipient to open and maintain a designated account denominated in US\$ at the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to channel grant proceeds	Disbursement condition/Continuous	Complied
Section B.4	Open and Maintain a project account in US\$ at a Commercial Bank acceptable to the Fund to receive and hold the financing transferred from the Designated Account.	Disbursement condition/Continuous	Complied
Section B.5	Recipient shall provide counterpart financing for the Programme to cover taxes and duties levied in the implementation of the Programme.	Continuous	Complied/to be monitored throughout project period. This has challenges as funds are provided in RTGS and taxes paid in USD
Section E.1 (a)	Co-financing agreement between Recipient and OFID is not suspended, cancelled or terminated	Continuous	OFID had been suspended for lack of payment of arrears by GOZ – This has now been resolved
Section E.1 (b)	Obtaining prior consent of the Fund for any waiver, suspension, termination, amendment or modification of PIM, or any provision thereof.	Continuous	Complied
Section E.1 (c)	Obtaining prior concurrence of the Fund for appointment, transfer or removal of Key Programme Staff from the PCU	Continuous	Complied
Section E.2 (a)	The Recipient shall have established within MLAAR a PCU.	Prior to disbursement	Complied
Section E.2 (b)	The Recipient shall have prepared a PIM in form and substance satisfactory to the Fund	Prior to disbursement	Complied
Schedule 3 Para 1 Gender Strategy	The Recipient to develop and implement a gender strategy to streamline gender concerns in all programme activities	Continuous	To be monitored during implementation.
Schedule 3. Para 2 Counterpart funds	Counterpart funds are clearly identifiable in the financial management system and financial statements.	Continuous	Complied.
Schedule 3 Para 3 Land and Water Access	Smallholder farmers to have full access to land along applicable customary and legal regulations. A prerequisite to the signature of such agreements shall be the prior formal establishment of the WUOs.	Continuous	Complied.
Schedule 3 Para 4 Environmental and Social Due Diligence	Programme to be implemented in compliance with the main IFAD policies, strategies and procedures, including, IFAD's Natural Resources Management Policy, Climate Change	Continuous	Complied/To be monitored during implementation.

Section	Covenant	Target/Action Due Date	Status/Date
	Strategy and Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures; and IFAD's Policy on Improving Access to Land and Tenure Security.		
Schedule 3 Para 5 Transparency and internal control framework.	The Terms of Reference of the external audit shall include a specific review of internal control environment. This covers all the systems, manual and IT.	30 September, each year	Complied/To be monitored during implementation.
Schedule 3 Para 6 Internal audit	The Internal Audit Department of MLARR will include the Programme in its yearly internal audit oversight plans. The implementation status of internal audit recommendations will be addressed and made available to the Fund	Continuous	Complied for 2020 to be monitored during implementation.
GC Section 4.02.b Withdrawals from the Loan and Grant Accounts	No withdrawal shall be made from the Loan and/or Grant Accounts until the first AWPB has been approved by the Fund.	June 2018	Complied
GC Section 7.01.b.ii AWPB	LPA shall submit reviewed draft Project AWPB for each Project Year to the IFAD for comments no later than sixty (60) days before the beginning of the relevant Project Year	30 th October, each year	Not complied
GC Section 7.03. Availability of Additional Resources	In addition to the proceeds of the Financing, the Recipient shall make available to the Project Parties: such funds, facilities, services and other resources as may be required to carry out the Project in accordance with Section 7.01.	Continuous	To be monitored during implementation.
GC Section 7.05. Procurement	(a) Procurement of goods, works and services in accordance with the provisions of the GOZ regulations, to the extent such are consistent with the IFAD Procurement Guidelines. . Each Procurement Plan shall identify procedures which must be implemented by the Recipient in order to ensure consistency with the IFAD Procurement Guidelines	Continuous	Partially Complied
	(b)The Fund may require that all bidding documents and contracts for procurement of goods, works and services financed by the Financing include provisions requiring bidders, suppliers, contractors, sub-contractors and consultants to: (i) allow full inspection by the Fund of all bid documentation and related records; (ii) maintain all documents and records related to the bid or contract for three years after completion of the bid or contract; and (iii) cooperate with agents or representatives of the Fund carrying out an audit or investigation.	Continuous	To be monitored during implementation.
GC:S. 7.8 (a) Insurance	(a)The Borrower/ the Lead Project Agency shall insure all goods and buildings used in the Project against such risks and in such amounts as shall be consistent with sound commercial practice.	Continuous	Not complied
	(b)The Borrower or the Lead Project Agency shall insure the goods imported for the Project against hazards incident to the acquisition, transportation and delivery thereof to the place of use or installation in accordance with sound commercial practice	Continuous	To be monitored during implementation
GC Section.7.11	Appoint Project Coordinator and all other key Project personnel in the manner specified in the FA.	By Project start up	Compliance

Section	Covenant	Target/Action Due Date	Status/Date
GC Section 8.3 (a) Progress Reports	Furnish to the Fund periodic progress reports in such form and substance as required	30 June and 31 st December of each year	Partially complied
GC Section 8.3 (b) MTR	Jointly carry out a review of Project implementation no later than the midpoint of the Project Implementation	2021	MTR carried out in November, 2020
GC Section 9.02 Financial Reporting	Deliver to the Fund detailed financial statements of the operations, resources and expenditures related to the Project for each Fiscal Year prepared in accordance with standards and procedures acceptable to the Fund and deliver such financial statements to the Fund within four (4) months of the end of each Fiscal Year.	30 April, each year	Complied
GC Section 9.03 Audit	(a)each Fiscal Year, have the accounts relating to the Project audited in accordance with auditing standards acceptable to the Fund and the Fund's Guidelines on Project Audits (for Borrowers' Use); (b)within 6 months of the end of each Fiscal Year, furnish to the Fund a certified copy of the audit report. The Borrower shall submit to the Fund the reply to the management letter of the auditors within one month of receipt thereof;	30 June , each year	Complied for 2020
GC Section 9.04. Other Financial Reports and Information	In addition to the reports and information required by the foregoing provisions: (a)The Borrower and the Project Parties shall promptly furnish to the Fund such other reports and information as the Fund shall reasonably request on any financial matter relating to the Financing or the Project or any Project Party. (b)The Borrower shall promptly inform the Fund of any condition that interferes with, or threatens to interfere with, the maintenance of Loan Service Payments. (c) The Project Member State shall promptly furnish to the Fund all information that the Fund may reasonably request with respect to financial and economic conditions in its territory, including its balance of payments and its external debt.	Continuous	To be monitored as implementation continues