

## Zimbabwe

---

### **Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme Supervision Report**

Mission Dates: 11/03/2024 to 22/03/2024

Document Date: 02/05/2024

Project No. 2000001233

Report No. 6840-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division  
Programme Management Department



## Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>ARDAS</b>	<b>Agricultural Rural Development Advisory Services</b>
<b>ARDA</b>	<b>Agricultural and Rural Development Authority</b>
<b>AWPB</b>	<b>Annual Work Plan and Budget</b>
<b>CADS</b>	<b>Contract for Assistance to Development Services</b>
<b>ESMP</b>	<b>Environmental and Social Management Plans</b>
<b>FAO</b>	<b>Food and Agriculture Organization</b>
<b>GALS</b>	<b>Gender Action Learning System</b>
<b>GEF</b>	<b>Global Environment Facility</b>
<b>GRM</b>	<b>Grievance Redress Mechanism</b>
<b>IFAD</b>	<b>International Fund for Agricultural Development</b>
<b>IMC</b>	<b>Irrigation Management Committee</b>
<b>JICA</b>	<b>Japan International Cooperation Agency</b>
<b>MDD-W</b>	<b>Minimum Dietary Diversity - Women</b>
<b>MIS</b>	<b>Management Information System</b>
<b>MLAWRR</b>	<b>Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, and Rural Resettlement</b>
<b>NGO</b>	<b>Non-Governmental Organization</b>
<b>NORAD</b>	<b>Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation</b>
<b>PCU</b>	<b>Project Coordination Unit</b>
<b>RPSF</b>	<b>Rural Poor Stimulus Facility</b>
<b>SACP</b>	<b>Smallholder Agriculture Cluster Project</b>
<b>SHEP</b>	<b>Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment &amp; Promotion</b>
<b>SIRP</b>	<b>Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Project</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme</b>
<b>WUO</b>	<b>Water Users Organization</b>
<b>ZINWA</b>	<b>Zimbabwe National Water Authority</b>
<b>ARDAS</b>	<b>Agricultural Rural Development Advisory Services</b>
<b>ARDA</b>	<b>Agricultural and Rural Development Authority</b>
<b>AWPB</b>	<b>Annual Work Plan and Budget</b>

## A. Project Overview

Region:	East and Southern Africa Division	Project at Risk Status:	Potential problem
Country:	Zimbabwe	Environmental and Social Category:	Substantial
Project Name:	Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme	Climate Risk Classification:	Moderate
Project ID:	2000001233	Executing Institution:	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development
Project Type:	Irrigation	Implementing Institutions:	Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development
CPM:	Francesco Rispoli		
Project Director:	not available yet		
Project Area:	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).		

Approval Date:	22/09/2016	Last audit receipt:	02/04/2024
Signing Date:	18/11/2016	Date of Last SIS Mission:	22/03/2024
Entry into Force Date:	18/11/2016	Number of SIS Missions:	14
Available for Disbursement Date:	29/05/2017	Number of extensions:	1
First Disbursement Date:	31/05/2017	Effectiveness lag:	2 months
MTR Date:	16/11/2020		
Original Completion Date:	31/12/2023		
Current Completion Date:	30/06/2024		
Financial Closure:	not available yet		

### Project total financing

<b>IFAD Financing breakdown</b>	Debt Sustainability Framework	\$25,456,158
<b>Domestic Financing breakdown</b>	National Government	\$7,909,000
	Beneficiaries	\$3,283,000
	National Government Cash	\$100,000
<b>Co-financing breakdown,</b>	OPEC Fund for International Development	\$15,000,000
	Rural Poor Stimulus Facility	\$699,999
	The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation	\$456,100
	Rural Poor Stimulus Facility	\$854,690
<b>Project total financing:</b>		<b>\$53,758,947</b>

### Current Mission

Mission Dates:	11/03/2024 to 22/03/2024
Days in the field:	6
Mission composition:	Francesco Rispoli, Team Leader, Country Director IFAD; Luigi Armando (Remotely), Programme Officer, IFAD ; Sibekile Mtetwa, Climate and Environment Specialist Consultant; Sami Ouechtati, Irrigation Infrastructure Specialist, Consultant; Charles Chakoma, Value Chain Specialist, Consultant; Joylyn Ndoro, Targeting and Social Inclusion Specialist and IFAD Country Programme Liaison and Lead Consultant; Victoria Wise (Remotely), Nutrition Specialist, Consultant, IFAD; Ndawazhile Kaluwa, Monitoring and Evaluation and KM Specialist, Consultant; Prudence Sangnyuykewir, Financial Management Specialist, IFAD; James Muturi, Consultant; Josephat Kinyele, Procurement Specialist, Consultant.

Field sites visited: Cashel Valley, Chimanimani District, Manicaland Province; Musikavanhu, Chipinge District, Manicaland; Banga, Chivi District, Masvingo; Musaverema, Mwenezi District, Masvingo; Mambanjeni, Gweru District, Midlands; Romsley, Rusape District, Manicaland; Musikavanhu, Chipinge District, Manicaland; Rupangwana, Chiredzi District, Masvingo; Gudo Pools, Chiredzi District, Masvingo; Chamakudo, Mberengwa District, Midlands; Rustler's Gorge and Mankonkoni, Gwanda District, Matabeleland South and Mbembeswane, Midlands province.

## B. Overall Assessment

Key SIS Indicator #1	∅	Rating	Key SIS Indicator #2	∅	Rating
Likelihood of Achieving the Development Objective		4.65	Assessment of the Overall Implementation Performance		3.67

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

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

<b>Relevance</b>		<b>5</b>
------------------	--	----------

## C. Mission Objectives and Key Conclusions

### Background and Main Objective of the Mission

1. The 7-year Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme (SIRP) was approved by the IFAD Executive Board on 22 September 2016. The Programme was signed and entered into force on 18 November 2016; the first disbursement was on 31 May 2017, and the initial completion date was on 31 December 2023, with the financial closure on 30 June 2024. The implementation of SIRP is jointly undertaken by several agencies and organizations working within their specialised field of competence and mandate. Project coordination is under the responsibility of the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU), under the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Rural Development (MLAFWRD).
2. 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. SIRP comprises of the following components: (i) Sustainable Smallholder Irrigation Development; (ii) Climate-smart Agriculture and Market Access; and (iii) Programme Coordination.
3. The Programme is co-financed by: (i) IFAD through a USD 25.5 million grant (50%) under the Debt Sustainability Framework; (ii) The Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) with USD 7.9 million (15%) mainly in the form of tax exemptions; (iii) Beneficiaries with a contribution equal to USD 3.3 million (6%); (iv) OPEC Fund for International Development (OPEC Fund) with USD 15.0 million (29%) to support irrigation rehabilitation and road improvement. The Loan Agreement between OPEC Fund and the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) was signed on 8 March 2018.
4. The SIRP's financing agreement was amended in January 2021 and September 2021 to include additional grant financing from the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility 1 (RPSF1) (USD 699,999) and RPSF2 (USD 854,590) with the objective to improve the resilience in the context of the COVID-19 crisis by ensuring timely access to inputs, information, markets, and liquidity. The SIRP financing agreement was also amended in May 2021 to include Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) supplementary grant funds for USD 456,100. The NORAD grant is meant to strengthen the nutrition sensitive interventions in SIRP.
5. In 2023, the project underwent a restructuring process, which entailed a six-month extension, a reallocation of funds among categories, and an amendment of the programme's Logframe. This restructuring request received approval from the IFAD Associate Vice President (AVP) of the Programme Management Department (PMD) on October 3, 2023. Consequently, the project's completion date was extended from December 31, 2023, to June 30, 2024, while the closing date was extended from June 30, 2024, to December 31, 2024.
6. IFAD and GoZ conducted a joint Supervision Mission of SIRP from 11 to 22 March 2024. The objectives of the mission were to review the overall implementation progress and prepare the project for completion. Considering the project completion by 30 June 2024, and the Potential Problem Status, the mission seeks to assist the project to expedite implementation of the remaining activities and achieve its targets as well as provide guidance for the programme completion review process to be conducted after project completion. Specifically, the mission objectives were to: (i) follow up on the implementation status of the agreed actions from the previous mission; (ii) assess the project performance and the progress towards the achievement of project objectives; (iii) prepare the project for project completion considering that the project completion is in less than 4 months to 30 June 2024; (iv) assess the progress in implementation of the complementary NORAD grant activities; (v) identify challenges in project implementation, both in strategic aspects and well as in implementation arrangements and possible solutions; (vi) identify best practices and lessons that could be scaled up to improve the programme implementation; (vii) assess compliance with fiduciary aspects; identify if any of the ongoing infrastructure activities will not be finalized before the completion date and provide possible alternatives; (viii) make proposals to expedite implementation and assess if project targets will be met in the remaining project period; and (ix) ensure that the project has a viable exit strategy.
7. To evaluate the progress of the rehabilitation of certain irrigation schemes, a six-day field visit was organised. The following places have been visited: Cashel Valley, Chimanimani District, Manicaland Province; Musikavanhu, Chipinge District, Manicaland; Banga, Chivi District, Masvingo; Musaverema, Mwenezi District, Masvingo; Mambanjeni, Gweru District, Midlands; Romsley, Rusape District, Manicaland; Musikavanhu, Chipinge District, Manicaland; Rupangwana, Chiredzi District, Masvingo; Gudo Pools, Chiredzi District, Masvingo; Chamakudo, Mberengwa District, Midlands; Rustler's Gorge and Mankonkoni, Gwanda District, Matabeleland South and Mbembeswane, Midlands province.
8. The Mission met with Programme Coordination Unit (PCU), Agricultural and Rural Development Advisory Services (ARDAS), Zimtrade, Agricultural Rural Development Authority (ARDA), Department of Irrigation, Office of the President, and Cabinet for Manicaland Province and the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development.
9. The Mission's preliminary findings were discussed with the PCU during a pre-wrap up meeting held on 20 March 2024. The wrap-up meeting, chaired by Professor Orbert Jiri, Permanent Secretary, MLAFWRD was held on 21 March 2024.
10. The Mission extends its most sincere gratitude and appreciation for the high-level cooperation, commitment and courtesies extended to the Government of Zimbabwe, the PCU, implementing partners and programme's beneficiaries.

### Key Mission Agreements and Conclusions

11. The project has registered positive progress in terms of implementation since the last supervision mission held in October 2023. However, with less than four months from project completion, it is critical to bring to successful finalization of all ongoing works, fully implementing a viable exit strategy that would guarantee long term sustainability of all programme investments under the

respective components.

12. **Schemes at high risk of not been completed by the project completion date/ 30 June 2024:** Mbembesanwe, Chemakudo and Old Biri may fail to reach completion by 30 June 2024 as the contractors require the invoices to be settled in United States Dollars. The mission recommends that the Ministry of Finance and Investment Promotion makes a firm commitment to promptly pay the contractors in United States Dollars as per contract and escalate the matter to higher/ministerial level as needed.
13. **Land Clearing Support Alternatives:** Land clearing activities are lagging in various irrigation schemes, and this will affect the operating of irrigation systems (particularly those equipped with centre pivot). The overgrown trees require mechanised support. While the Department of Irrigation (DOI) ongoing support is very useful it is insufficient to cover the 520 hectares that require the service, due to frequent breakdowns. In this regard, the mission recommends Government to: (i) hire retainer private sector companies who already have retainer contracts for the provision of land clearing services to the Government, (ii) catalyse linkages and adequate agreements between beneficiary farmers and private sector, including contractors already on site, and (iii) assist beneficiary farmers with tools for land clearance.
14. **Electrification of Schemes:** Several schemes have been completed and are awaiting connection to the electricity grid. MLAFWRD should approach Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) and the Ministry of Energy to prioritise these schemes. The matter should be escalated to higher/ministerial level as needed.
15. **Sanctioned for non-performance:** The delays in the finalisation of some schemes such as Romsley lot 2 and Rustlers Gorge is due to poor performing contractors. There is a need to take swift action against the nonperforming contractors and invoke penalties.
16. **No cost extension for United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) contract:** The contract for UNOPS was signed in September 2023 and implementation only started in November 2023. Due to the delayed start, it will be important to grant a no-cost extension for the UNOPS advisory services up to 30 June 2024.
17. **Close supervision of works.** Overall, the performance of works' supervisors is not satisfactory. In many sites, the supervising firms (ARUP, SWS) continued to be represented by relatively junior engineers and sometimes trainees who don't generally have adequate experience to supervise and guide contractor's work. There is evidence from the field that some works could have been done in more effective way if the respective contractors had received adequate guidance. In addition to DOI and UNOPS efforts to monitor the progress of works, it is important for the PCU, at this critical stage of the project, to seek more engagement from the supervising firms or to revise the contracts/agreements accordingly.
18. **Drought mitigation:** Due to the El Nino, the country is facing challenges with water availability. It is recommended to ensure that the crop choices and the area planted matches with the water availability. Water efficient irrigation technologies should be promoted.
19. **Linkages of smallholder to markets:** Marketing of crops remains a bottleneck for smallholder farmers. As SIRP nears completion, there will be a need to establish collaboration with private sector to link the irrigation scheme to the export market in the region and in the Middle East. SIRP should furnish Zimtrade with the completed and functional irrigation schemes so that they are able to assess the schemes.
20. **Scaling up innovations:** SIRP has adopted and implemented several successful innovations and approaches that are being scaled up in Zimbabwe. These include the multipurpose boreholes, lead farmer approach, vocational youth training, Gender Action Learning System, and nutrition. It is recommended that SIRP documents these innovations for sharing knowledge with other projects and for use by future projects. The block system practised at Banga and Musaverema Irrigation schemes has been a success and it will be recommended to replicate this in all the schemes.
21. **SIRP Management Information Services (MIS) and exit strategy:** As part of the exit strategy for SIRP, the MIS for Smallholder Agricultural Cluster Project (SACP) will be expanded to accommodate the SIRP' MIS to pave the way for the establishment of one MIS for the IFAD portfolio in Zimbabwe. This MIS will be eventually linked to the MLAFWRD MIS, and relevant staff will be trained in its operation. The M&E system under MLAFWRD will be supported under the Horticulture Enterprise Enhancement Project (HEEP), which is not yet effective.
22. **Disposal of SIRP assets:** The mission had a discussion of SIRP assets disposal. The Ministry of Finance has instructed that new projects should utilise available assets such as computers, furniture, and vehicles. This implies that the SIRP assets should benefit HEEP and SACP. SIRP will revise the assets inventory list and proposed asset disposal for IFAD NO.
23. **Collection of data for cash and in-kind contribution:** SIRP should prioritise the collection of government and beneficiary cash and in-kind contribution which remains low. This will be reported in the weekly tracker.
24. **MLAFWRD's secondment of a Financial Management Expert to SIRP:** SIRP continues to face challenges in Financial Management and Procurement. As highlighted during the previous mission, the MLAFWRD should urgently make a secondment of an additional Finance person to assist the PCU up to closure of the project by 31 December 2024.

## D. Overview and Project Progress

25. **Component 1: Sustainable Smallholder Irrigation Development.** The objective of this component is to revitalize 5200 ha of existing low-performing irrigation schemes into fully functional schemes in terms of efficient irrigation water management and reduced operation and maintenance (O&M) costs. This would result in an increased cropping intensity, crop production and



productivity and thereby be the basis for a sustained, commercial irrigated agriculture.

## 26. Subcomponent 1.1: Scheme Selection and Rehabilitation

27. **Schemes Construction/Rehabilitation Work Progress:** To date, works for the rehabilitation/construction of 5,200 ha (92% of the programme revised target) have been contracted out, of which 4,320 ha (83%) have already been completed, while works are still on-going for 880 ha (17%). The 4,320 ha completed are spread over 48 irrigation schemes of which 994 ha were completed between 2020 and 2021, 2,388 ha from 2022 until October 2023, the date of the last IFAD supervision mission, and 938 ha completed during the reporting period. Works, are currently ongoing in 880 ha and are at different completion levels, mostly experiencing substantial delays nevertheless, most of which are expected to be completed by the project completion date (30 June 2024). Works' delays are mainly due to delays in terms of payment of certificates to contractors which resulted in works slowdown, limited capacity of some contractors, and specific challenges related to procurement of equipment, delayed land clearing in some schemes and delayed electrification of some other schemes.

28. The mission had the opportunity to attend an intensive programme of field visits to several irrigation schemes (12), to appraise the operational models in the completed schemes and discussed the varied levels of work progress and the main challenges in the remaining schemes with the beneficiary farmers, contractors, supervisors, and contracts' managers. For instance, in Romsley Irrigation scheme (384 ha, 3 lots), and while works on Lot 1 and Lot 3 were already 100% completed before the reporting period, works on the 18 km main Canal (Lot 2) are still delayed and progressing slowly (50% against 34% in November 2023). This delay is mainly due to contractor's deficiency, and it is delaying the whole irrigation scheme testing and operation. On 29 February, an experienced sub-contractor was mobilized to execute part of the work. Despite the pace is relatively faster now, it seems quite challenging meeting the contract expiry date (30 April 2024). Additionally, 24 centre pivot systems were installed and connected to the pumping stations; however, land clearing activities are still behind. Regarding Musikavanhu irrigation scheme, the progress on the remedial works is significant (45%), however the scheme electrification is still behind, which is the case in various other schemes, in particular in Mbembeswana (190 ha), where additionally, works (at 45%) were resumed recently as a result of negotiations with the contractor, nevertheless, the just started procurement of pumps and centre pivot irrigation system from Spain may take up to 2.5-3 months, which classifies Mbembeswana irrigation scheme at a very high risk of not completing works by the project completion date (30 June 2024). In Rustlers Gorge, the progress is very slow (60%) due to contractor's loss of interest/motivation following contract scope reduction and payment proposal in local currency. New boreholes are planned to be drilled this month, however the subcontractor in charge is not on site yet and there is no evidence of formal agreement. Additionally, the mission believes that some existing boreholes, once connected, might not perform as expected, as these were not adequately tested (tested singularly for few hours, while those should have been tested simultaneously for 24-48 hours).

29. On the other hand, work progress in Cashel Valley irrigation schemes cluster (600 ha) is reasonably satisfactory (93% against 66% in November 2023) despite the delayed payment of some certificates, with 431 ha already operational and ready for handing over. In Chemakudo irrigation scheme (208 ha), the physical progress is very advanced (94%) however, this is now stagnant for almost 4 months due to payments' delays in addition to delays in pumps testing by the Zimbabwe Institute of Technology Centre (ZITC) due to the inadequate voltage in its testing bay. Additionally, the contract for the remedial works (Chemakudo weir) was signed on 12 March 2024 by the same contractor who expressed readiness to immediately start the work, with reasonable chances to get the weir constructed by May 2024, which would ensure meeting the planting season for some strategic crops like wheat. More generally, the main challenges identified by the mission, and which require prompt attention are:

- **Land Clearing challenges.** Land clearing activities are lagging in various irrigation schemes. This would not help in operating the irrigation systems (particularly those equipped with centre pivot) nor in starting the cropping activities. In some schemes, vegetation density or species (e.g. trees) require mechanized support. DOI ongoing support, in this regard, is very helpful but not enough to satisfy various requests/needs in the short run. In Chibuwe and Mambanjeni irrigation schemes, farmers managed to mobilize land clearing support from private sector against in kind payment consisting of offering portion of their land for cropping/harvest for a certain number of seasons.
- **Schemes at high risk of not completing works by the project completion date.** Various schemes' rehabilitation works are delayed for different reasons, however most of which are expected to be completed before the project completion date. Exception is made for specific schemes where the risk of not completing works by 30 June 2024 is very high due to procurement timeframe, inadequate capacity, limited commitment due to delayed payment or scope reduction (e.g. Mbembeswana, Romsley, Rustlers Gorge) or due to rejection of payment in Local currency/RTGS (Mbembeswana, Chemakudo, in addition to Old Biri and Machena irrigation schemes).
- **Irrigation schemes Electrification.** Some schemes are not connected yet to power grid, delaying systems' testing, commissioning, and operation (e.g. Mbembeswana, Bambanani, Musikavanhu). Other schemes are electrified, however local expectations indicate that power supply might be not adequate, something that frightens farmers and makes them hesitant to engage in investing in cropping activities, especially during the dry season.
- **IMC Capacity.** Irrigation Management Committees and farmers capacity to operate and maintain specific irrigation systems, especially those including new technologies (e.g. center pivot, solar powered systems) seems inadequate and require further attention and strengthening. Additionally, and although not affecting the current schemes functionality, various interventions which were dropped from the schemes' contracts due to budget restrictions, would have ensured a better schemes' functionality and sustainability, e.g. watershed management and catchment protection, canal lining, hybrid power supply system (grid-solar), etc.
- **Supervision of works.** Overall, the performance of works' supervisors is not satisfactory. In many sites, the supervising firms (ARUP, SWS) continued to be represented by relatively junior engineers and sometimes trainees who generally do not have adequate experience to supervise and guide contractor's work. There is evidence from the field that some works could have been done in more effective way if the respective contractors had received adequate and timely monitoring and guidance.

## 30. Subcomponent 1.2: Improved Smallholder Irrigation Management

31. The programme has trained a total of 7863 irrigators (3231M, 4632F) on operation and maintenance (O&M) of irrigation

infrastructure and equipment, irrigation scheduling. These represent 96% of the programme target (8161), with only 70 irrigators trained in early 2024, while the last set of trainings is planned for April 2024. This activity was obviously impacted by the delays observed in the rehabilitation works of various schemes. Additionally, vocational trainings were delivered to 757 youth (360 in 2023) on brick laying and canal construction to engage in irrigation maintenance and repair. This represents 151% of the programme target (500).

**32. Subcomponent 1.3: Enhanced Institutional Capacity for Irrigation development.**

33. During the reporting period, there are no relevant activities to report. The programme has previously trained a total of 440 staff exceeding the 250 staff targeted. Training topics cover Project Management, O&M, TOT on Irrigation Competition good irrigation agronomic practices (GIAPs), and production of scheme specific manuals.

**34. Component 2: Climate Smart Agriculture and Market Access**

35. The component 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.

**36. Subcomponent 2.1: Enhanced Agricultural Practices and farmers Organisational Capacity**

37. This activity aims to improve crop and livestock yields in the irrigation schemes and surrounding areas by promoting climate smart practices. This is achieved through farmer trainings, using extension officers and lead farmers, establishment of farmer field schools (FFS), conducting demonstrations and trials, exchange visits and seed fairs. Cumulatively, 185 of the targeted 100 FFS were established, and reached 23,634 rainfed farmers (14516F; 3256Y) of the targeted 19339 farmers. These trainings were conducted by lead farmers and extension officers, and topics covered included good agricultural practices (GAPs), conservation agriculture, and livestock production practices such as dehorning, castration, internal and external parasite control, vaccinations, etc. Irrigation scheme farmers were trained in GAPs and the outreach was 8804 (4935F; 928Y) of the targeted 8161 farmers. A total of 67 of the outreach targets of 96 field days and exchange visits have been conducted to date. Covid-19 restrictions from 2020 to 2022 negatively affected the outreach. Overall, SIRP has surpassed its targets of training and outreach. Despite the impressive achievements by SIRP in training of farmers, the Mission observed poor agricultural practices on some schemes, such as Mambanjeni where the maize crop was infested with fall armyworm. Further, some farmers showcasing their fields to the Mission were not conversant with the relevant production practices. While SIRP surpassed yield targets for most dryland and irrigated crops, achieved yields of tomatoes at 12 t/ha was way below projected yields of 30 t/ha. Therefore, the programme needs to continue training and coaching farmers in GAPs and other climate smart agricultural (CSA) practices using demonstrations and FFS.

**38. Subcomponent 2.2: Market Access and Rural Financial Services**

39. To date, SIRP schemes received a total of US\$292,699 and ZWL 219,379,708 in loans from AFC and First Mutual Life, supporting 2,393 farmers who planted 765.5ha and harvested 1 380 t of wheat, maize, and sugar beans. However, some schemes like Mayorca irrigation scheme rejected loans from the bank because of the high interest rate of 54% per annum for ZWL loans. SIRP is looking for alternatives such as contract farming arrangements with input support and financiers with lower interest rates. The government's Presidential input scheme also contributed to low uptake of loans as farmers are provided with free or cheap wheat and maize inputs through Grain Marketing Board. To enhance sustainability SIRP supported by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) provincial team is training farmers on setting up of revolving funds at each irrigation scheme. A total of 41 committees were engaged, and 22 revolving funds had been formed. The revolving funds are expected to contribute to sustainability through ensuring that the farmers have a growing pool of resources to support timely acquisition of inputs, enable block system production, group scheme level marketing and access to extension.

40. The total area under private sector contract farming reached 254.2 ha and 901 farmers since programme inception. The main crops contracted were paprika through Whitney Paprika and Kacholo, and chilli through Chilli Pepper Company, Kacholo and Shumbatafari. In 2023 income from contracted crops was US\$331 200 and the estimated income for the contracted crops in 2024 is expected to exceed US\$498 000. The programme aims to continue promoting high value crops in irrigation schemes while minimizing conflicts with food crop programs. Engagements with private sector contractors and offtakers continues with initial indications for growing 100 ha seed sugar beans for SeedCo at Mushandike Irrigation Scheme, with AFC funding the agricultural inputs.

41. Due to delays in receiving the contribution from United State African Development Foundation (USADF), the collaboration between SIRP and USADF has been terminated. The USD 500,000 that SIRP had sent to USADF has been refunded.

**42. Subcomponent 2.3: Enhanced Institutional Capacity for Market Led Production**

43. Training of ARDAS and AEMSC key staff at HQ, Province, District and across all wards has been completed, with a total of 1,070 officers (505F) of the targeted 250 officers trained. Under this subcomponent SIRP has also trained all the deployed 16 ARDA scheme business managers, however, only 6 ARDA scheme managers remain in the schemes due to resignations, redeployments, and abstentions. Engagements are ongoing with ARDA to replace the officers.

44. To enhance capacity for market-led production, 14 Irrigation schemes registered as Business Cooperatives, 46 schemes were registered with Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA), 72 markets committees trained by AMA and 109 groups/committees trained in business skills by SMEs.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<p><b>Schemes at risk of not been completed by the project completion date</b></p> <p>Strengthen works supervision and intensify work progress monitoring particularly for those schemes at high risk of not been completed by the project completion date, and timely intervene to boost/accelerate work progress. Interventions may include prompting mobilization of additional workforce and/or equipment, prompting contractual shift of additional workload to subcontractors in case of delinquent main contractor.</p>	DOI, PCU TA, Supervisors, UNOPS	04/2024
<p><b>USD/RTGS Payments</b></p> <p>Urgently seek Ministry of Finance firm commitment to timely pay contractors in US Dollars as per contracts' terms. If needed, escalate the matter to higher/ ministerial level for acceleration.</p>	MLAFWRD/DOI, PCU Coordinator, MOF	04/2024
<p><b>Beneficiary in kind contribution</b></p> <p>The uncollected data on in-kind contribution should be gathered immediately and recorded. Ensure the data on realized in-kind contribution is regularly recorded, at least on quarterly basis</p>	Project Coordinator, M&E Specialist, Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Assist and guide farmers on contracting arrangements</b></p> <p>Scrutinise the JV contracts between irrigation schemes and private players to ensure fairness, and transfer of skills and technologies to the farmers</p>	PCU, Value Chain, MLAFWRD	04/2024
<p><b>Replace and capacitate scheme business managers.</b></p> <p>Engage ARDA and find a sustainable way of ensuring irrigation schemes are adequately staffed with motivated and properly equipped business managers.</p>	ARDA, MLAFWRD	04/2024
<p><b>Extension Services Support</b></p> <p>ensure that the rehabilitated schemes that are facing water availability challenges are well reported to the relevant extension offices at central and district level for close guidance and support in terms of water management, cropping patterns optimisation, and irrigation scheduling, to cope with drought and water deficit conditions.</p>	PCU Coordinator, PCU TA, DOI	06/2024
<p><b>Facilitate strong market linkages with private sector</b></p> <p>Organise workshops, meetings, and fairs to showcase the facilities and capabilities of the irrigation schemes to the private sector and facilitate contracting arrangements</p>	PCU, Value Chain, ARDA Business Managers, Zimtrade	06/2024
<p><b>Finalise the handover of the MIS.</b></p> <p>(i) Finalise the development of the MIS user manual; (ii) Finalise the training of District and Provincial Officers on the use of the MIS; and (iii) as part of sustainability, engage SACP to integrate and interface SIRP MIS data and documentation on the SACP MIS.</p>	PCU	06/2024
<p><b>Increase the proportion of high value crops on schemes</b></p> <p>Diversify the range of crops grown at irrigation schemes to include high value crops to improve scheme viability and sustainability.</p>	PCU, Value Chain, ARDA Business Managers.	06/2024
<p><b>Strengthen scheme revolving funds.</b></p> <p>Continue to promote and strengthen scheme Revolving Funds to enable procurement of inputs. Encourage farmers to retain a portion of crop sales proceeds to the revolving fund.</p>	PCU, Value Chain, ARDAS	06/2024

<p><b>Sustainable water resources and drought management</b></p> <p>Support the rehabilitated schemes that are facing water availability challenges (due to design deficiencies, or due to drought) by following up with the relevant extension officers on how to optimize cropping patterns, command area, and irrigation scheduling to cope with potential shortage of water resources.</p>	DoI, PCU TA	
<p><b>Ensure clear disaggregation between first-time trainees and trainees who received refresher courses</b></p> <p>The Logframe should only report first time trainees, while annual report present the total persons trained with first-time trainees clearly disaggregated from those who received refresher courses.</p>	PCU M&E Specialist	
<p><b>Strengthen coordination between all Programme staff and implementing partners</b></p> <p>Ensure concerned parties do not work in silos, and financial reports are shared and discussed on a regular basis so that activities are realistically planned and budgeted for</p>	PCU Project Coordinator	
<p><b>Comply with the IFAD Procurement Procedures</b></p> <p>In order to avoid any ineligible expenditures, it is important to ensure that the PCU receives a "No Objection" before proceeding with any procurement activities. The PCU needs to address all the comments, including the pending ones, and ensure that the NO has been provided by IFAD on all outstanding NOTUS dossiers.</p>	PCU Procurement Officer	
<p><b>Contracts' no cost extensions</b></p> <p>Pro-actively assess the need for no cost extension of specific works' contracts as needed and seek IFAD NO in due time.</p>	PCU, Supervisors, UNOPS	
<p><b>Defects Liability Period and Retention management</b></p> <p>Supervisors of irrigation schemes works, even after project completion - under DOI oversight- to continue ensuring periodic checks on schemes under defects liability period. Ensure that defects are well attended by contractors before the scheme final handover, in particular those defects depicted in the Auditor General Report. For the defects liability periods completing after the project closing date (31/12/2024), the retention fees can be released before the project closing date against bank guarantees to be handed over to DOI.</p>	DOI, PCU, Supervisors	

## E. Project implementation

### a. Development Effectiveness

#### Effectiveness and Developmental Focus

Effectiveness

Rating: 4

Previous rating: 4

#### Justification of rating

45. SIRP continues to enhance outreach reaching a total of 33,660 (122% of the end target), agricultural productivity, and nutrition, despite facing delays in completing some irrigation infrastructure projects. By the last mission, SIRP added 947 hectares of farmland under water-related infrastructure, reaching a total of 4,320 hectares (83% of the end target). Over the remaining three months, SIRP aims to fully rehabilitate the remaining 880 hectares. However, the 2023 annual outcome survey has indicated performance below end target in household income, adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient practices, and improved physical access to markets. To address this, an endline survey has been planned for completion.

#### Log-Frame Analysis & Main Issues of Effectiveness

46. **Outreach.** SIRP has surpassed its outreach targets, reaching a total of 33,660 (122% of the end target) households with programme services. A restructuring exercise led to the reduction of targets: from the original 125 to 60 smallholder irrigation schemes, corresponding to 5200ha instead of the appraisal end target of 6100ha.

47. **Project Goal.** The goal of SIRP is to support rural households to achieve food and nutrition security and become resilient to climate change effects and economic shocks in the programme districts. The outcome indicators of these goals are the following: (i) improved nutrition; (ii) improved household asset ownership index; and (iii) improved adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies/practices. Regarding nutrition, the 2023 annual outcome survey reported evidence of the end targets being met where 62% (end target is 60%) were reporting improved nutrition and dietary diversity. Though this is above the design targets, it was found that a decline has been reported since the 2022 AOS which reported 68% achievement. Upon further analysis of results, it was found that responses attributed to the flooding and drought that have affected beneficiaries' livelihoods. The latest AOS (2023) has reported that 50% (end target 64%) are reporting improved household asset ownership. The survey found that the recent economic and climate shocks have affected beneficiaries' incomes and in-turn affected their purchasing power of assets. In terms of adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate resilient technologies/practices, 49% (end target 61%) are reporting adoption.
48. **Development Objective.** SIRP development objective is to support rural households to sustainably increase their income in supported schemes and adjacent rainfed areas. Under its related outcome indicators on income, SIRP has reported that households are reporting an average annual income of USD 820.00 (with a design target of USD 2500.00). The AOS found the reason of this low performance is because of the economic and climate shocks the country has been facing. In terms of the targeted beneficiaries, the AOS found that irrigators reported a higher household income of USD 1071.77 as compared to rain-fed farmers (USD 565.94). Overall, the AOS reported that programme non-beneficiaries (the control group) reported an average income of USD 367.01.
49. **Outcome 1.** This outcome deals with ensuring that irrigation schemes are fully operational. SIRP has reported 83% rehabilitation of targeted farmland under water-related infrastructure. It will be critical that a part of the endline and preparation of completion, the study assesses the extent to which rehabilitated schemes are fully functional.
50. **Outcome 2.** This outcome measures the following indicators: (i) improved agricultural productivity (yield increase); (ii) households reporting increase in production; (iii) households reporting adoption of improved inputs/technologies; and (iv) households reporting improved access to markets. The 2023 AOS found that on productivity, most of the targeted crops have MET end targets as follows: (i) Maize (rainfed) – 1MT/ha to 1.4MT/ha; (ii) sorghum – 1MT/ha – 1.19MT/ha; (iii) Beans – 1.75MT/ha to 2.3MT/ha; and (iv) groundnuts – 1MT/ha – 1.81 MT/ha. Moreover, 68.5% (design target 50%) reported an increase in production and 77% (end target 50%) of households are reporting adoption of improved inputs. However, market access performance has not achieved the desired targets: the 2023 AOS found that approximately 21% of direct beneficiaries are reporting better access to markets from the targeted 50%. Furthermore, SIRP has reported to have trained 2364 (118% of end target) youth in vocational training.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Expedite construction of the Multipurpose post-harvest centres</b> Expedite the construction of the multipurpose post-harvest centres to enable the realisation of related expected outcomes from their utilisation	Dept. Of Mechanisation/PCU	06/2022
<b>Expedite delivery of irrigation infrastructure to catalyse realisation of expected development outcomes</b> Expedite rehabilitation of 2577ha worth of irrigation infrastructure in order to improve performance of the output to at least 3563ha (64% of end target) by September 2022 and enable realisation of expected outcomes. Ensure tendering of the remaining infrastructure equivalent to 2537Ha is completed by June 2022 and implementation commences immediately	DOI/PCU	09/2022
<b>Finalise implementation of post-harvest activities</b> Finalise implementation of post-harvest activities that are lagging	Mechanisation	09/2022
<b>Expedite delivery of irrigation infrastructure to realise realisation of expected development outcomes</b> Expedite rehabilitation of 1370 ha worth of irrigation infrastructure to enable realisation of expected outcomes. Ensure tendering of the remaining infrastructure is completed by January 2022 and implementation commences immediately	DOI	01/2023
<b>Finalise rehabilitation works on remaining schemes</b> Expedite the finalisation rehabilitation of the remaining 880ha	Project Coordinator/Irrigation Engineer TA, DOI	06/2024
<b>Accelerate progress at implementation</b> Increase focus on results as well as accelerate implementation to attain expected results	PCU	

## Development Focus

### Targeting and Outreach

Rating: 5

Previous rating: 5

#### Justification of rating

51. Outreach has been exceeded, increasing from 31085 to 33660 households (19941F, 13719M, 5894Y), representing 122.4% of the target. SIRP has reached 48 out of 60 irrigation schemes, with 4320 ha out of the targeted 5200 ha (83% of the target). Irrigators reached consists of 8804 households (4935F, 3869M, 928Y), representing 107.9% of the target. Rainfed area farmers are 22942 households (13896F, 8596M, 2602Y), representing 116.3% of the target. Vocational youth consist of 2364 (1110F, 1254M) representing 118% of the target. The project exceeded the 50% quota female participation. SIRP was successful in increasing the participation of youth although it is below the 30% overall reach for youth participation reaching 5894 youths (3412F, 2482M), representing 17.5%.

#### Main issues

52. The geographic targeting complies with the project design covering the four provinces. SIRP targeted existing irrigation schemes and therefore the existing irrigation plotters were targeted. The 2023 AOS, confirms that the interviewed beneficiaries for the selected schemes expressed satisfaction with the selection of SIRP beneficiaries. Since the irrigators were already pre-selected, the selection criteria presented in the gender strategy was not applied. However, for schemes with expansion area, such as Rupangwana, the selection for the target group criteria were applied.
53. Regarding the farmers in the adjacent rainfed areas, the AOS findings confirm that the selection of beneficiaries was determined by the willingness and ability of the household to participate in activities and their reputation from the perspective of the local extension officers and local leadership. The Banga the community confirmed their involvement in the selection of beneficiaries. For Insukamini, the selection was through Agritex and local leadership and in Tshovani the participants were drawn from a Resilience programme. The AOS confirms that the focus group discussions expressed satisfaction with the selection process. However, for future interventions there is need to ensure dissemination of information to reach many people to enable them to make informed decisions about their participation in the project.
54. SIRP has a targeting and social inclusion specialist responsible for the implementation of the targeting strategy. The gender and targeting strategy were widely disseminated and staff were trained on implementation of the strategy. However, the project should finalise the collection and registration of beneficiary data and benefits received from the project. The project activities have

been taken up by the identified target subgroup for instance: the irrigators have received training in O&M and GAPs which have contributed to the increased productivity and incomes (USD 1071.77 for irrigators, USD 565.94 for rainfed farmers, USD 367.01 for non-beneficiaries) as highlighted in the AOS. The M&E is using participatory monitoring and the collection and analysis of sex and age disaggregated data as well as gender sensitive indicators such as the MDDW.

55. SIRP was successful in increasing youth participation: 5894 youths (3412F, 2482M), representing 17.5% of the target. This consists of 2602 youths (1735F, 817M) practicing dryland farming; 978 youths (517F, 411M) in irrigation; 2364 youth (1110F, 1254M) who received vocational training. The mission visited a youth farmer in Cashel Valley who has received GAPs training and is expecting a gross margin of \$311 from the sugar beans crop. SIRP was successful in youth vocational training where the youth were trained in various trades including brick laying, electrical engineering, baking and confectionery among others. Although youth participation is below the 30% youth quota, youth vocational training and mobile training exceeded the target at 118.2%. All the trained youth received protective clothing, but a selected number of youths received starter kits due to budgetary constraints. The project reported that 43.5% of the youth trained are employed or self - employed earning an average income of US\$87,62 per month. The mission also visited a house, in Cashel Valley, constructed by a youth who trained in brick laying under SIRP. The youth successfully established his construction firm and employed two other youths and earned US\$370 from building the house. The main constraint is that the youth did not receive a certificate after the training by SIRP. The lack of certificate limits his opportunity to find more construction jobs. The mission recommends SIRP to provide certificates of attendance to all trained youth.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Expedite implementation in the 11 schemes with awarded contracts</b> Expedite implementation in the 11 schemes with awarded contracts	DOI	04/2022
<b>Train ARDA staff</b> Train ARDA staff in the remaining project period and reduce training for DOI and Agritex staff	PCU	12/2022
<b>Provide mobile training for 300 female youth</b> Provide mobile training for 300 female youth to allow them to participate	PCU	03/2023
<b>Expedite the implementation remaining rehabilitation works</b> Expedite the implementation remaining rehabilitation works to allow for the achievement of set target for irrigators	PCU/IPs	06/2023
<b>Beneficiary contribution.</b> Improve on capturing beneficiary contribution through ARDAS staff who are resident on schemes	PCU/ARDAS	10/2023
<b>Beneficiary profiles</b> Finalise the collection and registration of beneficiary data and benefits received from the project	M&E/Social Inclusion expert	12/2023
<b>Lessons learned.</b> Document outcomes, best practices lessons learned on targeting issues to inform other projects	M&E/ Social Inclusion expert	12/2023
<b>Provide certificate of attendance to youth trained under SIRP</b> Provide certificates of attendance to youth trained by SIRP	Social inclusion Specialist	04/2024
<b>Finalise beneficiary registration</b> Finalise registration of beneficiaries and benefits received from the project	M&E Specialist	04/2024

**Gender equality & women's participation**

**Rating: 5**

**Previous rating: 5**

#### **Justification of rating**

56. Women's participation in SIRP is at 59%. The project conducted 199 out of 96 sessions on GALS, reaching 16,957 people (10,079F, 6,878M, 2,405Y). Additionally, SIRP organized 111 out of 96 sessions for strengthening and empowering women's

organizations, reaching 14,000 people (8,333F, 5,667M, 2,115 Y). According to the 2023 AOS, 33.82% of SIRP beneficiaries are involved in joint decision-making, compared to 26.39% of non-beneficiaries. SIRP has positively impacted women's access to employment, with 25% of beneficiary women currently employed, compared to 20.83% of non-beneficiaries. However, male-headed households have a higher mean average household income (US\$900.95) than female-headed households (US\$648.83). GALS training's contribution to achieving workload balance for household members needs documentation.

### Main issues

57. The 2023 AOS confirms that the female headed households (FHH) beneficiary irrigators has improved their wealth (82.9%) compared to 51.2 FHH non beneficiaries through improved GAPS and access to irrigation. The MHH irrigator beneficiaries with improved wealth was higher at 87.7%. SIRP has improved the economic empowerment of women as witnessed during the mission visit to Musikavanhu, where two women now on motorbikes from the proceeds of their farming. The women also confirmed the improvement in livelihoods in terms of improved food and nutrition security and ability to pay school fees. The project should carry out a case study on the impact of SIRP on economic empowerment for women.
58. The mission visit to Musikavanhu also confirms that the beneficiaries were carrying out joint decision making and involving everyone in the family to achieve workload balance. SIRP has had some positive impact on women's decision-making power, though this is limited: i) 55% of women make decisions on money they earn, but 31.25% make joint decisions, ii) 61.06% of women make decisions on their own healthcare, but 28.85% make joint decisions, and iii) 57.69% of women make decisions on major purchases, but 30.76% make joint decisions. Thus, a higher proportion of SIRP beneficiaries make joint decisions with their partners compared to non-beneficiaries, indicating some impact of SIRP training. SIRP has successfully promoted labour saving technologies such as maize shellers, tsofso stove, keyhole garden and solar powered boreholes. For instance, the use of deflectable pipes in Fuwe Panganai, instead of siphons for irrigation. However, due to increased workloads for the WHH irrigators, the AOS 2023 reported that 47.7% were often sick as compared to 44.1% non-irrigator households. The introduction of maize shellers have encouraged men to participate in shelling maize, a role that was reserved for women's participation. The AOS 2023 shows that the adoption of conservation agriculture was significantly higher for male-headed households (52.1%) than female-headed households (42.0%), perhaps indicating a subliminal bias of the project extension activities for conservation agriculture among male-headed households or some degree of reticence by women-headed households to adopt conservation agriculture because of shortage of labour to dig planting stations.
59. The proportion of women in decision making in IMC has improved from 43% (2021) to 51% (2023), while the leadership position for IMC is 25%. The women's participation in the natural resources Management Committee improved from 33% (2021) to 66% (2023). During the mission field visit to Musikavannhu, it was observed that the women the IMC included women, and the women were confident to contribute to the discussions. SIRP has successfully trained 334 GALS champions (66M and 268F) who will continue with cascading the training to communities after expiry of the project.
60. On 6 December 2023, SIRP successfully conducted a policy dialogue event on the GALS methodology, which was attended by 65 people (35F 30M). Participants were drawn from the Ministry of Women, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MWCSMED), MLAFWRD, United Nations Family Planning Agency, UN Women, Zimbabwe Gender Commission, SIRP GALS champions and the media. The objective of the policy dialogue was to raise awareness on the GALS methodology for possible adoption. The responsible ministries fully embraced the GALS model and the recommendation from the workshop were to: (i) provide training on GALS for MWCSMED and MLAFWRD staff for adoption and up scaling. (ii) provide evidence of best practices on the GALS approach and (iii) create a platform for GALS champions, local NGOs, and staff from the Ministries to transfer and exchange knowledge and share lessons and best practices on GALS. Since SIRP is winding up, some of these recommendations will be implemented through SACP. The GALS methodology, that address the root causes of gender equality continues to be cascaded through the gender champions.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Speed up the rolling out GALS to communities with the help of GALS champions</b>	Gender Specialist	06/2021
<b>Conduct an impact survey on GALS</b> Conduct an impact survey on GALS	M&E and Social inclusion Specialist	06/2022
<b>Document outcomes, lessons learned and best practice.</b> Continue to document outcomes, and share lessons learned and best practices on SIRP's GEWE and gender transformation interventions	Social Inclusion expert	04/2024
<b>Create a platform for GALS champions.</b> Establish a platform for GALS champions to transfer and exchange knowledge gained through GALS. Provide refresher training for GALS champions	Social Inclusion expert	04/2024
<b>Provide virtual training for MLAFWRD and MWACSMED staff.</b> Organise a virtual training for MLAFWRD and MWACSMED staff	Social Inclusion expert	05/2024



**Justification of rating**

61. Crop yields have increased in both irrigated and adjacent rainfed areas due to SIRP interventions. Good stands of maize, sugar beans and groundnuts were observed by the Mission at the Cashel Valley, Chibuwe, Banga and Musaverema irrigation schemes. Promotion of drought tolerant sorghum and cowpeas in rainfed areas is a good strategy, with good crop stands observed even during the prevailing drought conditions. However, there has been high mortalities for distributed goats and chickens, mainly due to distribution of poorly adapted animals.

**Main issues**

62. SIRP interventions have resulted in improved yields in both irrigated and rainfed crops in the project areas. Compared to the baseline, crop yields have improved and, in most cases, surpassing project targets, apart from irrigated maize which achieved a yield of 3.68 t/ha against a target of 5 t/ha. Comparing the current crop yields to the SIRP baseline and SIRP target yields, the following was observed: irrigated maize 3.68 t/ha (vs. 1.9 t/ha baseline and 5 t/ha target); rainfed maize 1.38 t/ha (vs. 0.5 t/ha at baseline and 1 t/ha target); sugar beans 2.34 t/ha achieved (vs. 0.88 t/ha at baseline, and 1.75 t/ha target), rainfed sorghum 1.19 t/ha (vs. 0.33 t/ha baseline, 1.4 t/ha target); rainfed groundnuts 0.86 t/ha achieved (vs. 0.37 t/ha baseline, 1 t/ha target) and tomatoes 12.96t/ha achieved (vs. 12.5 t/ha at baseline, and target of 30 t/ha). The lower yields of maize achieved under irrigated conditions is mainly attributed to low yielding varieties planted (distributed under PIP), and insufficient irrigation due to loadshedding. Failure to increase yields of tomatoes under SIRP might indicate less effort in training and backstopping in tomato production, thus requiring further capacitation of project staff and farmers in production of high value crops.
63. SIRP is also promoting livestock production among greater scheme farmers with trainings in general livestock production and good animal husbandry practices. Goat production infrastructure established in the drier Natural Region IV and V, and breeding goats distributed under a pass-on scheme. However, there was high mortality of the distributed goats, 60% (vs. 15% normal) mainly due to the distributed goats (Boer and Kalahari Red) being poorly adapted to the new environment. With distribution of adapted breeds, and better management, improvements in productivity are expected.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Reinforce messaging on GAPs</b> Reinforce and continue relevant GAP training, with the FFS and Lead Farmer concepts and capacitate extension workers and business managers with the relevant ToT and crop management practices.	ARDAS, PCU Value Chain	06/2024
<b>Promote block cropping system</b> Continue promoting the block system on all irrigation schemes, as this level of organisation will improve yields and attract contractors and offtakers.	ARDAS, PCU Value Chain	06/2024

**Justification of rating**

64. Nutrition sensitive interventions are considered satisfactory. The outreach has exceeded the targets, reaching over 35,000 individuals with support for nutrition. Beneficiaries attest to improvements the quality of their diets and the increased availability of nutritious foods. Through the NORAD grant the project has been successful in intensifying support for nutrition. To fully execute the NORAD grant, it will be necessary for the government to request a three-month no-cost extension to 30 June 2024, to allow for the procurement of the remaining labour-saving technology for women and the starter kits for the youth as well as carry out the policy dialogues and learning events.

**Main issues**

65. The NORAD grant provides supplementary funds to SIRP with the objective of improving consumption of diversified and nutritious diets by rural households, contributing to the sustainable reduction of malnutrition. The Mission confirms that the full execution of the grant will continue to enhance SIRP's nutrition interventions and reinforce the sustainability of activities, however, due delays in procurement and given the number of learning events and policy dialogues to be organized, the project will not be able to implement all the planned activities by the current completion date of 31 March 2024 for the NORAD grant. The mission recommends that the government urgently request a three-month no-cost extension to 30 June 2024.
66. The project has provided agribusiness training for youth; however, the starter kits are yet to be procured. The project should expedite the procurement process to ensure that this activity is implemented by the completion date. As for the labour-saving technology for women, the project has provided women with multi crop threshers, double cob shellers, earth augers, weeding machines and solar pumps. To properly install the solar pumps, addition equipment needs to be procured. The purchase of this equipment should be prioritized to ensure that the solar pumps can function.
67. The NORAD endline survey is underway and it is expected to be complete by the project completion date. It will be important to disseminate the results of this survey and to assess with key partners the results against the baseline survey to guide the identification of lessons and good practices. The lessons and good practices should also be documented by the project as they will be important to guide future projects investing in nutrition. The project should ensure that knowledge products consider

nutrition as a cross cutting theme and examine the lessons and best practices integrating nutrition and women's empowerment.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Request no-cost extension for NORAD SF grant</b> Request a no-cost extension with a new completion date of 30 June 2024 for the NORAD SF grant agreement.	PMU	04/2024
<b>Expedite the procurement of youth starter kits and women's labour-saving technology</b> Expedite the procurement of youth starter kits and women's labour-saving technology	PMU/IFAD	04/2024
<b>Document best practices and lessons learned for nutrition.</b>	PMU	09/2024

**Adaptation to Climate Change**

**Rating: 5**

**Previous rating: 5**

#### Justification of rating

68. SIRP is well placed to promote adaptation to climate change through its various programmes which are mainly revitalisation of irrigation schemes, good agricultural practices (GAPs) and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices, catchment conservation, tree planting, solar irrigation systems, the use of drought tolerant crop varieties, adoption of the hydrogel technology, and diversification of livelihoods in the greater scheme area. The project has progressed well in the implementation of these interventions although it needs to strengthen their adoption and ensure their continued application by the farmers. To continue the implementation and adoption of the above climate adaptation interventions, SIRP will collaborate with UNDP and FAO that have received grants from Green Climate Fund GEF 7 respectively.

#### Main issues

69. The project area is affected by the following Climate Change and extreme weather risks: heat waves, prolonged and more frequent dry spells, Variability in rainfall, erratic rainfall, floods, frosts and hailstorms. These risks are being addressed by supporting measures that contribute to mitigation of climate change impacts, reduce GHG emissions and enhance climate adaptation at the same time.
70. The project has contributed to mitigation of climate change impacts and the reduction of GHGs by adoption of practices that reduce degradation of the natural resources base, with a total of 8845.36 ha conserved (Out of a target of 25000 ha) through various interventions. (95,6 ha through revegetation, 8629.76 through mechanical works, 120 ha through fencing of paddocks). However, it was noted that these conservation works (Gulley reclamation, Gabions, revegetation, etc) were not being done to the appropriate levels and scale and this threatens the developed irrigation infrastructure with erosion, siltation, and destruction.
71. The project also invested in Climate adaptation measures which are replicable and scalable and are meant to cushion farmers from climate risks and extreme weather events. The measures include the revitalisation of the irrigation schemes, use of solar irrigation systems, diversification of livelihoods in the greater scheme area (poultry, goats, and honey production, drought tolerant crop varieties), Good agriculture Practices (GAPs) Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), Natural Resources Management and Conservation works, and adoption of the hydrogel technology among other measures.
72. SIRP was weak on some important climate adaptive interventions such as water harvesting, diversification of livelihoods, natural resources conservation, and weather information. SIRP can collaborate with the UNDP and FAO that have received grants from Green Climate Fund and GEF 7 to effect some of these NRM issues. SIRP is in collaboration with UNDP GCF in the provision of climate and weather information to SIRP farmers of the irrigation schemes and around conservation interventions, an area where SIRP has a limited budget.
73. The project implemented various climate proofing approaches which include Pfumvudza, contour ridging, infiltration pits, etc. It is prudent that the farmers are further trained in climate proofing so that they can learn how to cushion themselves from the harsh climatic conditions. Each scheme can identify its potential problems and be trained in any of the following adaptation measures: i) creation of communal safety nets and common resource pools (seeds, communal irrigation), ii) planting of fruit tree orchards and distribution of seedlings to farmers, iii) Integrate Crop-Livestock-Forestry Systems, iv) rehabilitate Degraded agricultural land including pastures, v) plant agroforestry systems, vi) practice intercropping, vii) practice conservative tillage practice, viii) use efficient irrigation scheme, ix) plant new stress-resistant varieties (preferably local endemic varieties).

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<p><b>Include the Environment and Climate Specialist in the UNDP GCF project and SIRP steering committee</b></p> <p>Include the Environment and Climate Specialist in the UNDP GCF project and SIRP steering committee to enable strong collaboration and cost sharing on climate and environment related areas</p>	PCU	10/2021
<p><b>Explore the possibility of additional climate financing from the Adaptation Fund by engaging the focal point and advising IFAD on the way forward</b></p> <p>Explore the possibility of additional climate financing from the Adaptation Fund by engaging the focal point and advising IFAD on the way forward</p>	PCU, IFAD Liaison Officer, SIRP Environment and Climate Specialist	10/2021
<p><b>Provide the youth support</b></p> <p>Provide the youth support towards cost reduction and building economies of scale in order to lower the costs of the solar dryers.</p>	PCU	11/2022
<p><b>Collaborate with the UNDP GCF project</b></p> <p>Collaborate with the UNDP GCF project on the provision of weather information to farmers through the SIRP bulk SMS platform.</p>	PCU and UNDP	12/2023
<p><b>Collaborate with the UNDP GCF project</b></p> <p>Collaborate with the UNDP and FAO GCF project and GEF 7 on the provision of weather information to farmers and around conservation interventions at irrigation schemes.</p>	PCU, SIRP Environment and Climate Focal Person	06/2024
<p><b>Training on climate proofing</b></p> <p>Training on climate proofing of the project to be strengthened.</p>	PCU, SIRP Environment and Climate Focal Person	06/2024
<p><b>Liaise with MLAWRR and the Meteorology Department:</b></p> <p>Liaise with MLAWRR and the Meteorology Department to strengthen the provision of climate and weather advisories to SIRP farmers, and identify a sustainable financing model for the same</p>	PCU, MLAWRR, Met Department	06/2024
<p><b>Collaborate with the UNDP GCF project</b></p> <p>Collaborate with the UNDP GCF project on the provision of weather information to farmers through the SIRP bulk SMS platform.</p>	PCU and UNDP	06/2024

## b. Sustainability and Scaling up

**Institutions and Policy Engagement**

**Rating: 4**

**Previous rating: 4**

### Justification of rating

74. SIRP, led by ARDAS and DOI under the MLAFWRD, has made significant strides since its last mission. It actively engaged in stakeholder consultation workshops on the Soil and Water Conservation Policy, awaiting national validation. Previously, SIRP influenced irrigation policy and institutional frameworks by enhancing smallholder participation. It played a pivotal role in the formulation of Statutory Instrument 038 (2021) on Irrigable Areas through consultation workshops and feedback sessions for smallholder farmers. In December 2023, a policy dialogue workshop on GALS was conducted. Currently, the project is in the process of hiring a consultant to prepare background papers for upcoming policy dialogue events on biofortification, contract farming, and key enablers for irrigation, including water pricing.

### Main issues

75. At appraisal stage, under Component 1, the project planned to carry out policy dialogue on (i) formalisation of the status of IMCs to become legally recognised WUOs with certified rights to water and land. (ii) clarify irrigation assets ownership, (iii) review water pricing for smallholder irrigation. Under the SI 038, smallholder irrigation has been formalised as cooperatives. For SIRP, the 20 out of 60 schemes were commissioned and have been legally registered as cooperatives. Through the SI, smallholders are

practising block farming. Farmers procure inputs as a group, plant the same variety of crop, and irrigate their fields, weed, harvest and market at the same time. This has enhanced productivity and farmer's contribution to O&M. Since the last mission, SIRP has prepared background papers on water pricing and the review of the Irrigation policy. During the remaining project period, SIRP conduct a policy dialogue on Key enablers on irrigation schemes to cover broader issues affecting the viability of smallholder irrigation schemes.

76. Under component 2, SIRP successfully conducted regional consultations on Soil and Water Conservation Policy. The draft policy is ready and is awaiting validation. The policy engagement on key enablers on irrigation schemes includes issues on water pricing, scheme governance, energy efficiency, operation, and maintenance among others. This workshop is scheduled for May 2024. Policy dialogue on biofortification to enhance nutrition is scheduled for March 2024. The validation workshop on Soil and Water Conservation Policy, and the policy dialogue workshop on Contract Farming is scheduled for April 2024.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Stakeholder Dialogue Workshops.</b> Stakeholder Dialogue Workshops. Conduct dialogue workshops on Water Pricing Policy and Soil and Water Conservation respectively	PCU	12/2023
<b>Stakeholder policy dialogue workshops.</b> Finalise the outstanding policy dialogue workshops under Component 1 and 2 and document outcomes	PMU	04/2024

**Partnership-building**

**Rating: 5**

**Previous rating: 5**

#### Justification of rating

77. SIRP successfully engaged and maintained formal and informal partnerships: government implementing agencies (MLAFWRD, MWCSMED, ARDAS, ARDA, DOI and AMA) private sector agencies, development partners and civil society organisations who are contributing to the achievement of project objectives (Appendix 4). SIRP engaged co-financing partners, knowledge management and policy partners, and private sector partnerships mainly in the provision of irrigation infrastructure and private sector off takers for produce. SIRP is coordinating and enhancing synergies with FAO-GEF project, UNOPS for advisory services in contract management, UNDP-GCF in the provision of weather stations on SIRP schemes and JICA on Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Promotion for market development. UNOPS participated in the mission. There is an urgent need to regularise PPP contracts to ensure that the farmers are not prejudiced.

#### Main issues

78. Under the USADF-SIRP partnership the programme aimed to extend financial grants worth US\$1,000,000 to registered agro-SMEs and irrigation schemes within SIRP areas. Each party to the MoU contributed USD 500,000. However, the partnership was terminated due to USADF's internal funding issues. Despite SIRP pulling out, USADF may fund the 7 cooperatives in 2024. The partnership assisted with the formal registration of 15 cooperatives for schemes such as Mushandike, Mayorca, Silalabuwa, among others. The formalization of scheme will enhance commercial viability.
79. The total area under private sector contract farming reached 254.2ha and 901 farmers since the start of programme. Mushandike, Exchange, Mayorca, Cashel Valley in four Provinces benefited from private sector partnerships. The main crops contracted were paprika through Whitney Paprika and Kacholo and chilli through Chilli pepper company, Kacholo and Shumbatafari. In 2023, 761 farmers benefitted from the contract farming interventions. 200ha was contracted out, however, some schemes faced challenges with paprika seedbed quality reducing the area under paprika from 160ha to an estimated 120ha. The income from contracted crops was US\$331 200 and the estimated income for the contracted crops in 2024 is expected to exceed US\$498 000. The programme aims to continue promoting high value crops in irrigation schemes and food security crops. The programme encourages schemes to develop clear business plans with designated areas for food crops and high value crops to enhance scheme sustainability. The mission met with Kacholo, which subcontracting farmers to produce chili in Cashel Valley. The major constraint highlighted by Kacholo related to insufficient throughput from the farmers. The AOS (2023) highlights that markets remain a problem for irrigators and non-irrigators and recommends linkages of irrigation schemes to organizations that have access to guaranteed markets in the region. Such organisations include Zimtrade and other private fresh produce exporting companies that can comply with GAP requirements to increase markets for the farmers.
80. In the remaining project period, SIRP should facilitate smallholder farmers linkages with private sector such as (i) Mega Market, for sugar beans, wheat, and maize. (ii) Zimbabwe Mercantile Exchange (ZMX), which offers a Warehouse Receipt System and an automated platform for trading agricultural commodities. In the past, SIRP has successfully organised KM events in conjunction with SMLP in Eswatini, FAO, UNDP, WFP and relevant government ministries and agencies. Focus should be on the engagement of knowledge and policy partners to share knowledge and compile lessons learned and best practices.
81. The mission observed that Chibuwe farmers are into partnership with Tensor systems where the 82 farmers will receive 20% and Tensor gets 80% of the profits for 2.5 years. The farmers have the land, centre pivots and water to irrigate the 50-ha plot and are providing paid labour to work in the field. Tensor provided fencing for the whole plot, resources for inputs and payment of labour. The mission recommends clearance of such contracts with Ministry of Agriculture's legal department to ensure a win-win situation between the contractor and the farmers. Similar contracts at Chibuwe and Mambanjeni should be cleared and registered by the MLAFWRD.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Initiate Additional Partnerships</b> Initiate contact with other potential partners, especially ICRISAT, Specialist suppliers, potential off-takers and financial institutions	PCU, DOI, Agritex and Farmers	01/2020
<b>Strengthen partnerships</b> Strengthen partnerships through formalising MOU on partnerships for the achievement of project outputs, outcomes and objectives.	PCU	12/2022
<b>Regularise PPP partnerships.</b> Ensure that all PPP contracts are regularised with MLAFWRD	SIRP Value Chain expert	04/2024
<b>Engage Zimtrade for partnership.</b> Facilitate linkages with Zimtrade and other private fresh produce exporting companies that have access to guaranteed markets in the region ensuring compliance with GAP requirements.	SIRP Value Chain expert	04/2024
<b>Engage Knowledge and Policy Partners</b> Work with knowledge and policy partners to share draw lessons learned and best practices on SIRP interventions	SIRP KM Specialist	05/2024
<b>Continue to build partnerships to realise the objectives of the programme</b> Continue to build partnerships to realise the objectives of the programme	PCU	

**Human and Social Capital and Empowerment**

**Rating: 5**

**Previous rating: 5**

#### Justification of rating

82. SIRP provided capacity building for ARDAS, ARDA, DOI staff: (757/500 staff trained) in project management, contract management, water management, GAPs, among others. SIRP strengthened farmer organisations (IMCs, NRMCs, Marketing Committees, Cooking Clubs, O&M committees and WUOs) and provided various technologies for adoption: post-harvest equipment, solar powered boreholes, and labour-saving technologies. Beneficiaries were empowered through revolving funds, inclusive training: O&M of irrigation infrastructure and equipment (7863 irrigators (3231M, 4632F) out of 8161 were trained), FFS (23,634 rainfed farmers (14516F; 3256 Y) out of 19,339 farmers) GAPs (8,804 irrigators (4,935 F; 928 Y) out of the targeted 8,161 farmers) among others. Youth vocational training reached 2384 youth out of the end target of 2000 youths.

#### Main issues

83. Beneficiaries were empowered through capacity building (training for transformation, e-extension, demonstrations, exchange visits, NRM, GALS, post harvest management, beekeeping, seed fairs, O&M, Farming as a business (FAAB), GAPS, CSA, and nutrition education. Training in GAPS/FFS for rainfed area farmers reached 23634/ 19339 households (9118M, 14516F). Post harvest management training reached 17408/20250 households (6425M, 10983F). FAAB reached 25570/27500 households (10001M, 15,589F). NRM training reached 19048/19339 households (7736M, 11312F) and nutrition reached 25242/27500 (9714M, 15528F). The AOS (2023) states that about 64% irrigators reported adoption of climate resilient practices, non-irrigators, 34% and non-beneficiaries 7%. The project capacitated the WUO and the IMC to improve management and scheme operation efficiency. The training of IMC in O&M covered topics such as irrigation stakeholders and their roles, IMC roles and responsibilities, components of an irrigation system, O&M for irrigation infrastructure. O&M training reached 7863/8161 households (3231M, 4632F), IMC training 1669/700 (834M, 835F). The IMC marketing committees are capacitated to negotiate market prices with private actors. Vocational training for youth 557/500 youth. The mission observed that all the IMC visited for Cashel Valley, Musikavanhu, and Banga were collecting resources for O&M.

84. The GALS methodology has enabled the engagement of all family members: men, women, and youth to challenge unequal intra household relations and distribution of labour and promote equal sharing of project benefits, resources, income, and workload. SIRP trained 334 GALS champions (66M, 268F), who will continue to cascade the training to follower farmers after the project has ended. The mission field visit to Musikavanhu and Musavarema confirmed that after the GALS training, households reported that they were now conducting joint planning, sharing of benefits and workload balance among household members. This has also resulted in reduced gender-based violence. SIRP has contributed to fostering women's participation in leadership for IMC (51%) and for NRMC (66%). The project has promoted knowledge sharing on Women Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) with the Smallholder Market Linkage Project in Eswatini and government. SIRP strengthened women's social capital through women's organisation and forums thereby empowering them to access and manage resources and assets through the participation in ISALs, building self-confidence, knowledge and skills and resilience.



85. The AOS (2023) confirms the increase in the average yield for the main crops against the baseline targets (for maize, sorghum, sugar beans, tomatoes). The AOS also show that income for the beneficiary irrigators increased to US\$1071.77, non-irrigators US\$55.94 and non-beneficiaries US\$367.01. The MDDW of 5.49 was higher than the baseline value. SIRP had a positive impact on irrigators through increased income, improved dietary diversity, access to food, adoption of sustainable practices, increased agricultural productivity, increased asset ownership, and better access to markets storage facilities.
86. The mission observed that there was a high participation of women and that they have gained confidence to speak in public. Two women in Musikavanhu have bought motorbikes and more men own vehicles purchased from the proceeds realised in the irrigation plots. Some farmers highlighted that they were now able to eat 3 meals a day, had built decent housing and could afford to send their children to school. The irrigation schemes visited by the mission had established revolving funds which they use to procure bulk inputs. In Banga irrigation the revolving Fund is more than US\$5700 in their bank account while the O&M fund is more than US\$11,000. The block system allows the scheme to carry out crop husbandry processes at the same time and to market as a group. The marketing committee carries out a marketing survey to inform the crop selection.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Finalise training on PHM, NRM and FAAB</b> Finalise training on PHM, NRM and FAAB	Value Chain Specialist ARDAS, Mechanisation, AMA	04/2024
<b>Document lessons learned and best practices.</b> Document lessons learned and best practices on human social capital and empowerment.	Value chain Specialist	05/2024

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

**Rating: 5**

**Previous rating: 5**

#### Justification of rating

87. The project reflects commitments to conduct target group engagement and feedback activities throughout its lifecycle. The project has a set quota of 50% women and 30% youth participation and is open to the participation of people with disabilities (PWD). The project held a learning and knowledge sharing event on inclusion PWD in the project. For the 2023 AOS, a total of 49 people living with disabilities (PWD) were reported within the sampled households with a high proportion (36.7%) of the PWD among beneficiary irrigators and beneficiary non-irrigators (34.7%). Meetings are held at central venues, in local language and at times that allow women to participate after completion of their household chores. This is necessary to overcome barriers to participation of vulnerable groups.

#### Main issues

88. The project pays special attention to the inclusion of PWD. In the AOS 293 sample, PWD consisted of 18 PWD irrigators (7FHH, 11MHH); 14 PWD non-irrigators (2FHH, 12 MHH) and 17 PWD non beneficiary (9FHH, 8MHH). The project initially carried out provincial and district meeting to disseminate information about the project. The local community radio was used to disseminate various information about the project, using the local language. The farmers also formed whatsapp up groups where notifications are posted. The project beneficiaries and those managing the feedback process have been strengthened through the various training offered by the project such as conflict management, training for transformation and leadership training.
89. The project takes proactive steps to close the feedback loops, through the routine monitoring visits. For instance, during the scope reduction exercise for irrigation works to fit within the available budget, the engineers discussed scope reduction and priorities with the farmers. The farmers, represented by the IMC signed minutes of the technical feedback meeting. Feedback to the farmers on issues raised is provided during routine monitoring visits or through the local extension agency. The project has started documenting feedback and part of this has been captured in the M&E system.
90. During the mission visit, a youth beneficiary for vocational training in Cashel valley raised the issue about the lack of certificate issued after training as well when he should expect to get the starter kit that had been promised. The certificate of attendance should be issued to all the 2384 youths trained. The project should clarify to the youth on the starter kit that this will no longer be possible due to budgetary constraints. The project should also provide feedback to the seven groups that had expected to get loans through USADF, for which the contract was terminated. In the case of Romely, the mission received the complaint that the contractor – Comhold was using youths and not paying for their labour. The project should engage the contractor and provide the prerequisite feedback to the farmers. In Musikavanhu, the beneficiaries have entered a PPP arrangement with Tensor where the 82 farmers will be sharing profits with Contractor on a 20:80 ratio for 2.5 seasons. There is need to have the contract cleared with the MLAFWRD to ensure a win-win situation. There is also concern for elite capture in this contract. As for Banga irrigation scheme, the farmers raised concern on the limited availability of water in the dam to sustain their winter crop. They made suggestion for government to release water into Banga River from Tugwi Mukosi dam. Although feedback was provided during the discussion, there will be need for the project to engage the authorities on these issues and provide feedback to the farmers. The project has a grievance redress mechanism and continue to raise awareness on the same.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Dissemination of SEA and GRM</b> Finalise the dissemination of SEA and GRM to the remaining schemes	ARDAS/DOI	12/2023
<b>Lesson learned.</b> Provide lesson learned on target group engagement and feedback	M&E	12/2023
<b>Document the beneficiary feedback and include it in the M&amp;E System</b> Document the beneficiary feedback and include it in the M&E System	M&E Specialist	04/2024
<b>Disseminate the GRM</b> Raise awareness of beneficiaries on the GRM mainstreaming in all the training	Social Inclusion expert	04/2024

**Responsiveness of Service Providers**

**Rating: 4**

**Previous rating: 4**

#### **Justification of rating**

91. SIRP engaged DOI, ARUP and SWS for feasibility studies and detailed design of irrigation schemes. Several contractors were engaged in the irrigation scheme rehabilitation. Three technical assistance (TA) irrigation engineers were contracted during the early years of the project, and this was reduced to one irrigation TA. Due to the problems encountered in contract management, SIRP engaged UNOPS to provide advisory services from September 2023. A Water User Organisation (WUO) TA was engaged for capacity assessment of WUOs and recommendations of policy options for capacity strengthening. SIRP facilitated linkages between schemes and private sector marketing organisations, engaged TAs in business development, gender, nutrition, and natural resources management.

#### **Main issues**

92. There have been some problems with the quality of some of the feasibility studies and detailed designs, for instance the wrong size of pipes at Rupangwana and the pumps at Tsfovane whose capacity was too small to pump water. The optimisation on the Bill of Quantities (BoQ) undertaken for some schemes to fit within the available resources compromised some critical works on the scheme. Works' delays are due to delays in terms of payment of certificates to contractors which resulted in works slowdown, limited capacity of some contractors, and specific challenges related to procurement of equipment, delayed land clearing in some schemes and delayed electrification of some other schemes. SWS and ARUP contracted inexperienced junior engineers for the supervision of rehabilitation works. To enhance closer monitoring and expedite implementation, the project engaged UNOPS to provide advisory services. The implementation delays of some of the contracts resulted in some contracts expiring without extension of contracts. In some of the cases, the BoQs were inadequate, and works were not properly executed, leading to remedial works for instance in Old Biri, Rupangwana, Gudo. Musikavanhu and Chemakudo.
93. The project also negotiated subcontracting for non-performing contractors such as Comhold in Romesly lot 2 which was subcontracted Tensor systems. The contract for USADF (US\$500,000) for implementing small and medium enterprises was mutually terminated due to bureaucratic delays on the part of USADF that posed the risk of not completing the project. The resources have since been refunded back to the project. Due to slow implementation, the project reduced the scope of works for CADS which was contracted to facilitate nutrition activities. In addition, the project engaged external audit firm, and firms to conduct the annual outcome surveys. FANCHIG was engaged to conduct Training for Transformation and GALS while vocational training centres were engaged for youth skills training. A few private marketing firms have been
94. The Auditor General's project value for money audit in 2023 identified several shortcomings requiring attention before project completion: Fuwe Panganai received substandard flexible hoses and has a silted night storage dam (NSD); Gudo Irrigation Scheme blocks C1 and C2 are partially complete, with untested canals in block C1; Musavarema experienced scope reduction, risking the maintenance of infield canals for 11 excluded hectares; Mashandike Village 15B has a leaking NSD, Village 15A has leaking NSD and canals, Valley and Sebasa suffer from inadequate water supply; Rustlers Gorge faced contractor abandonment due to late payment of certificates but resumed work by the mission date; Mambajeni requires land clearance and electricity connection, while Bamabanani needs electricity connection; in Romesly, the contractor Comhold is underperforming, and land clearance remains outstanding; DOI's NSD construction is incomplete. Musikavanhu, Chemakudo, Old Biri, Rupangwana, and Gudo will undergo remedial works. Delays in finalizing schemes like Romsley Lot 2 and Rustlers Gorge are attributed to poor-performing contractors, necessitating swift action and penalty enforcement.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Engage the contractors to address outstanding work.</b> Engage contractors to finalise the outstanding as highlighted in the Value for Money Audit	Irrigation Engineer TA, DOI	04/2024
<b>Engage private sector marketing companies for uptake of produce.</b> Arrange value chain platform meeting to link farmers with markets	VC specialist	05/2024

**Environment and Natural Resource Management**

**Rating: 4**

**Previous rating: 4**

**Justification of rating**

95. SIRP is promoting sustainable environment and natural resources management (ENRM) through training of the farmers on the establishment and management of tree nurseries and building capacities of farmers on natural resources management. The project resuscitated scheme level Natural Resources Management Committees (NRMC), which developed natural resources management plans. The implementation was hampered by the lack of community awareness, non-alignment to ESMPs and budget constraints. There is a need to enhance the soil water conservation activities in the scheme micro-catchment areas to minimise soil erosion and siltation of irrigation conveyance systems, which will impact on the overall efficiency and sustainability of the irrigation schemes.

**Main issues**

- 96. SIRP has established NRMC at every scheme which are responsible for spearheading the NRM works and creating awareness on the role the natural resource management plays in ensuring sustainability of the irrigation schemes. Some work regarding soil and water conservation has been implemented in the micro-catchments of the schemes. The conservation works were relevant to the project areas as the natural resources were generally degraded. However, these interventions were limited in scope and coverage to bring any significant reduction in soil erosion in the catchments and prevent the subsequent siltation of the downstream areas where the irrigation schemes are located. SIRP had budgetary constraints to conduct meaningful soil and water conservation works and the communities were also reluctant to participate in the catchment rehabilitation programmes without financial incentives.
- 97. SIRP has trained farmers on the establishment and management of tree nurseries, soil and water conservation, (Gully reclamation, Erection of gabions). The scheme micro-catchments must not only be rehabilitated during the construction phases of the schemes but also during the operation phases of the schemes on a continuous basis. This achieved through training the farmers and resourcing them to do so. To be readily accepted the NRM interventions were linked with income generation that provides livelihood alternatives to farmers, including multi-benefits at household level. These include such interventions as agro-forestry and planting of fruit trees that generates income to the communities while at the same time rehabilitating the catchments. However, the fruit tree distribution was too sparse to be effective in rehabilitating the catchments. More structured orchards may bring the desired effects.



<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Link the proposed NRM activities with income generation activities</b> Link the proposed NRM activities with income generation activities	PCU	12/2023
<b>Carry out supervision and monitoring on a regular basis</b> Carry out supervision and monitoring on a regular basis to assess performance of the farmers in natural resource management and give guidance on how to go about it.	PCU	12/2023
<b>Conservation works run concurrent with infrastructure works:</b> Conservation works should run concurrent with such activities as land clearance to avoid and chances of land degradation.	PCU, SIRP Environment and Climate Focal Person	06/2024
<b>Contribute to national policy dialogues on ENRM:</b> Contribute to national policy dialogues on ENRM through evidence sharing on what works well and where	PCU	06/2024
<b>Follow more structured approach:</b> Follow more structured approach to ensure proposed NRM interventions are linked with income generation activities to provide livelihood alternatives to farmers	PCU	06/2024
<b>Contribute to national policy dialogues on ENRM through evidence sharing on what works where</b> Contribute to national policy dialogues on ENRM through evidence sharing on what works where	PCU	

**Exit Strategy**

**Rating: 5**

**Previous rating: 5**

#### **Justification of rating**

98. An exit strategy supported by the main project stakeholders is being developed. Since 2021, exit strategy drafts have been shared during the previous missions and subsequent recommendations were made to improve the strategy. The guiding approach of the strategy is the graduation. Institutional arrangements, ownership and post-project funding are covered. Some elements of sustainability are embedded not only in the exit strategy, but also in the project activities, however, this need strengthening and additional support to ensure a long-term impact, especially for those schemes to be completed concurrently with the project completion date.

#### **Main issues**

99. The project's activities and outputs address needs that have been identified by the target communities themselves. This helps to demonstrate community ownership over the project. Additionally, for the irrigation schemes developed, irrigation management committees (IMC) have been established and strengthened with various trainings, while O&M funds have been established with IMC members as main contributors. SIRP will continue to link irrigation schemes with private sector off takers for sustainability markets for the farmers.

100. A stakeholder's workshop is planned to take place before the project closure. This would be important to promote accountability, learning, visibility, handing over and linking of the project investments to potential stakeholders. The workshop should summarise lessons learnt, successes, challenges and recommendations.

101. On the other hand, not all farmers are well familiar with irrigation schemes O&M needs and costs, despite the various trainings delivered by SIRP. This is quite relevant in those schemes equipped with a relatively modern irrigation systems including the centre pivots. Additionally, not all IMCs are fully functional, while there is a continuous need to strengthen the mechanisms to mobilize beneficiary contributions to meet schemes' O&M costs and to coordinate production and collective marketing activities.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Define an exit strategy</b> Define an exit Strategy and roadmap for ARDA involvement in the schemes	PCU/ARDA	12/2022
<b>Calculate scheme OM costs</b> Calculate scheme OM costs and establish annual fund targets for each scheme	Agritex/ARDA	12/2022
<b>Elaborate on the distribution of project assets in exit strategy</b> Elaborate on the distribution of project assets in exit strategy	PCU/MLAFWRD	12/2023
<b>Complementary interventions List</b> Prepare a list of complementary interventions specific to each irrigation scheme developed to be integrated in the project exit strategy along with estimated costs. Such interventions are intended to prepare a basis for future enhancement of schemes functionality and sustainability and should include, but not limited to those activities dropped due to budget restrictions.	PCU TA	05/2024
<b>Irrigation Schemes O&amp;M</b> Continue ensuring that irrigation system-specific O&M manuals and O&M trainings are delivered to the beneficiaries as soon as works are completed. Particular focus should be on those schemes equipped with centre pivot systems. DOI provincial/district engineers to fill the capacity gaps after project closing, as needed.	DOI, PCU TA, Supervisors	12/2024

**Potential for Scaling-up**

**Rating: 5**

**Previous rating: 5**

#### Justification of rating

102. SIRP's potential areas for scaling include GALS approach, lead farmer approach, water management efficiency and biofortification. SIRP implemented the lead farmer approach to support government extension workers. Government has already adopted the lead farmer approach under the FFS extension methodology and is already up -scaling in the 35000 villages with each village having a demonstration plot at the chief homestead. Following the enactment of Statutory Instrument of Irrigable areas) 38 of 2021, most of the smallholder irrigation schemes have been established cooperatives and are practicing block farming. Scaling-up is happening in areas with high malnutrition levels where SIRP promoted keyhole gardens, orange fleshed sweet potatoes and iron rich sugar beans.

#### Main issues

103. The mission observed the adoption of NUA45 beans by the youth farmer in Cashel Valley who planted 0.2 ha and planted 25 kg seed. The farmer is expecting to get a gross margin of \$311 from the beans. The farmer emphasised that his choice to grow sugar beans was influenced by consumer preferences for NUA45. The produced crop is marketed through several channels. The government should provide resources for the necessary research to strengthen capacity and improve skills and knowledge to roll out biofortified NUA 45, the public research institution such as the Department of Research and Specialist Services should work closely with seed companies in biofortification breeding, also in partnership with experienced organisations such as Harvest Plus. There will be the need to partner with seed companies and provide them with the relevant training. The project also engaged the farmers to test the varieties in seed multiplication and raise awareness on the advantages of biofortified food. The project has planned to hold a policy dialogue workshop to share experience on biofortification on 26 March 2024. This is aimed at catalysing scale up of biofortification and share evidence, learning and tools with other partners including government, civil society, farmers, and private sector. The outcome of the workshop will provide policy options to government on biofortification.

104. The project is in the process of engaging a consultant to come up with best practices in block farming, lead farmer approach, GALS, and irrigation water efficiency use. The outcome of the studies will be disseminated through a stakeholder workshop. SIRP adopted the lead farmer approach through capacitating innovative local farmers to effectively share knowledge and skills with follower farmers in the same community. The lead farmers work closely with the local extension staff and will continue to provide training to follower farmers after the project has ended. The lead farmers were incentivised through provision of bicycles and uniforms. Lead farmers are also invited to meetings to share their experiences and knowledge. It is noted that the government has adopted the lead farmers approach through the introduction of FFS in every village led by the village head, who will host the demonstration plot. The lead farmers will disseminate information to their follower farmers. Ideally for the approach to be financially sustainable, the follower farmers should pay the lead farmer an incentive. SIRP managed to exceed targets using the lead farmer's approach. The project M&E will be handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture who will continue monitoring after the project has ended.

105. SIRP implemented GALS to tackle the root causes for gender inequality and achieve gender transformation. SIRP staff and implementing partners were trained on GALS through FANCHIG. The trained staff in turn trained GALS champions within the community to train follower farmers. A hired consultant will document best practices on GALS to strengthen implementation for

future up scaling. The main issue is the limited budget to enable all sessions of GALS to be conducted before the farmer's graduate. It takes at least 18 months and 8 months for the households and community GALS to graduate respectively.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Document lessons learnt, and best practices on Keyhole gardens, GALS and Lead farmer approach</b>  Document lessons learnt, and best practices on Keyhole gardens, GALS and Lead farmer approach	PCU	12/2023
<b>Identify and document innovative areas for scaling up</b>  Identify and document innovative areas for scaling up	Project Coordinator	04/2024
<b>Document best practices and lessons learned.</b>  Document best practices and lessons learned on lead farmer approach, GALS, water use efficiency and biofortification	M&E Specialist	05/2024

### c. Project Management

<b>Quality of Project Management</b>	<b>Rating: 4</b>	<b>Previous rating: 4</b>
--------------------------------------	------------------	---------------------------

#### Justification of rating

106. The rating is confirmed as "Moderately Satisfactory". Since the previous mission, the Government has finalized the selection of the new coordinator, marking a significant improvement in the project's management. The mission team has observed notable enhancements in project oversight and coordination under the leadership of the new coordinator. His proactive involvement in following up on the implementation processes and fostering teamwork among the project components has contributed to a more integrated approach to achieving the project objectives.

#### Main issues

107. However, although the integration of the new coordinator has led to improvements in the overall performance of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU), challenges in procurement and finance persist. A particular concern emerged during the revision of the 2024 Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB), where a new budget gap was identified. This gap is attributed to the insufficient capacity and communication breakdown between the finance and procurement officers, highlighting ongoing issues in these critical areas.

108. On a more positive note, the internal communication among the team has seen substantial improvement. Weekly meetings have been instituted as a platform for discussing progress, identifying bottlenecks, and proposing solutions. Additionally, a weekly progress tracker has been implemented to meticulously monitor the advancement of each infrastructure activity. This tool enables the project team to keep a detailed and up-to-date record of progress, ensuring that any deviations from the planned timeline are promptly identified and addressed. These initiatives have positively impacted the pace of implementing infrastructure activities, indicating a more cohesive and efficient team effort.

109. However, it's crucial that this tracking tool extends beyond infrastructure activities to encompass all remaining activities across the various components of the project. Implementing a comprehensive tracking mechanism will ensure that progress in every aspect of the project is closely monitored, allowing for timely interventions where necessary.

110. Furthermore, the involvement of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has bolstered the monitoring capacity of infrastructure activities. They provide insightful recommendations to the project team, helping to navigate and address challenges, thereby enhancing the project's overall effectiveness and efficiency. However, while UNOPS has provided valuable assistance, there remains room for improvement. Therefore, the project team should engage in discussions with UNOPS to explore opportunities for increased support within the legal boundaries of the ongoing agreement.

111. Finally, despite the agreement with UNOPS being formalized on September 6, 2023, with an original end date of May 15, payment processing was delayed until November 29. This delay in funding subsequently postponed the commencement of UNOPS's support. Given these circumstances, it is advisable for the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) to proactively engage with UNOPS to discuss a no-cost extension of the contract. This extension would align the contract's duration with the SIRP Project Completion Date, ensuring continuous support and maintaining momentum in project execution. It's evident that while UNOPS has provided valuable assistance, there remains room for improvement. Therefore, the project team should engage in discussions with UNOPS to explore opportunities for increased support within the legal boundaries of the ongoing agreement.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<p><b>Secondment of Finance Officer.</b></p> <p>The programme continues to experience weak capacity in procurement and financial management which is negatively affecting programme implementation. To address these concerns, it is recommended that the Government considers seconding a Finance Officer at their own expense to support the SIRP programme until its closure.</p>	Government	11/2023
<p><b>Programme Offices.</b></p> <p>The current state of the Programme Offices is far from adequate, significantly hindering the Programme team's ability to carry out their routine activities effectively. Persistent power cuts and frequent internet connectivity issues pose serious challenges, disrupting daily operations. Moreover, the absence of high-quality office facilities compels the Programme Team to work from home, exacerbating the situation and resulting in substantial issues. We strongly recommend that the Government takes immediate action to enhance the quality of these structures. Establishing a well-equipped workspace is crucial to foster a conducive environment for the Programme, free from the disruptions caused by intermittent services.</p>	Government	12/2023
<p><b>Government considers seconding a Finance Officer at their own expense to support the SIRP programme until its closure</b></p> <p>As also indicated in the past missions, the programme continues to experience weak capacity in procurement and financial management which is negatively affecting programme implementation. To address these concerns, it is recommended that the Government considers seconding a Finance Officer at their own expense to support the SIRP programme until its closure.</p>	PS, Project Coordinator, PCU	04/2024
<p><b>PMU to proactively engage with UNOPS to discuss a no-cost extension</b></p> <p>The PMU to proactively engage with UNOPS to discuss a no-cost extension of the contract and explore opportunities for increased support within the legal boundaries of the ongoing agreement. This extension would align the contract's duration with the SIRP Project Completion Date, ensuring continuous support and maintaining momentum in project execution.</p>	Project Coordinator	04/2024
<p><b>The PMU to continue holding weekly meetings with the UNOPS and IFAD Team to discuss and track the progress of the project.</b></p> <p>The PMU to continue holding weekly meetings with the UNOPS and IFAD Team to discuss and track the progress of the project.</p>	Project Coordinator	
<p><b>Regularly utilize the tracking tool that extends beyond infrastructure activities</b></p> <p>Regularly utilize the tracking tool that extends beyond infrastructure activities and that encompass all remaining activities across the various components of the project. This will ensure thorough monitoring of progress in every aspect of the project and enable timely interventions as needed.</p>	Project Coordinator, PCU	

**Knowledge Management**

**Rating: 5**

**Previous rating: 5**

#### **Justification of rating**

112. SIRP has made significant progress in consistently developing various knowledge management (KM) products, visibility, and communication materials. The multimedia approach adopted for disseminating knowledge and raising awareness of interventions has proven successful. Additionally, SIRP has endeavored to leverage this visibility to engage policymakers through policy dialogue workshops, including those on Gender Action Learning System (GALS) and biofortification. As the program nears completion, it is crucial for SIRP to document, package, and disseminate best practices and lessons learned as part of the KM exit and sustainability plan. This will ensure that the valuable insights gained from the project are preserved and shared for the benefit of future initiatives.

#### **Main issues**

113. **KM Progress and Documentation.** As part of the completion process, the previous mission recommended the engagement of a KM Consultant to develop, package and disseminate evidence-based documentation on best practices. This documentation also forms part of the evidence required in the project completion mission to allow the validation of the reported results. In addition, it is also the key documentation needed for the discussion at the final project stakeholders' workshop. SIRP has identified the

following key areas of documentation; (i) GALs, (ii) Lead Farmer approach; (iii) block irrigation systems; and (iv) Irrigation water user efficiency. There was a delay in the development of the ToRs and a NO was provided at the start of the mission. It is also recommended that at the draft stage, the report is shared to IFAD for comments and recommendations, if any, before finalization.

114. **KM for Policy.** Efforts have been implemented to elevate policy discussions and development based on the programme implementation successes and lessons. These include the following: (i) a policy dialogue of the GALs methodology that was attended by the Ministry of Women Affairs and other development partners; and (ii) support on the production of the national soil and water policy through the provision of funding for stakeholder consultation workshops. Though GALs is a known approach, SIRP attributes its popularity due to programme interventions and knowledge sharing on the methodology through success stories. This has resulted in the Ministry of Women Affairs adopting the approach. During implementation, SIRP has identified the use of biofortification to be successful and effective. As a result, SIRP has planned a policy dialogue to be conducted after the mission. The mission recommends that a knowledge report on the discussions and agreements of this dialogue are documented and disseminated to development partners and policy stakeholders.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Initiate and finalise the Secondment of an Assistant KM &amp; Communications Officer</b>	PCU	12/2020
<b>Recruit a part time KM Specialist to oversee implementation of the KM strategy in addition to the M&amp;E officer</b>	PCU	03/2021
<b>Finalise policy dialogue and documentation on biofortification.</b> (i) Develop a knowledge report on the discussions and agreements of the biofortification policy dialogue event; (ii) disseminate this knowledge report to development partners and relevant policy stakeholders.	SIRP KM Specialist/PCU	04/2024
<b>Package Knowledge Products for Completion Process</b> Prepare lessons learnt and disseminate them during final workshop Compile and package key take away messages for different stakeholder groups. Disseminate these in innovative forms relevant to the respective stakeholder groups. e.g., Government- Policy Briefs; Beneficiaries- Illustrated Poster Chats in local languages; Local Leaders- Booklets etc. ● Translate any beneficiary relevant knowledge products produced during the life of the project into the two main local languages and disseminate these in the project area (to Rural District Councils, Village Headmen, and Beneficiary groups)	M&E Specialist and Knowledge Management Assistant	05/2024
<b>Completion workshop</b> Organise final stakeholder workshop	M&E Specialist and Knowledge Management Assistant	06/2024
<b>Finalise the development, packaging and dissemination of best practices and lessons.</b> In preparation of the project completion and sustainability, SIRP should develop and package documentation of best practice before completion. The following should be completed: (i) finalisation of the recruitment of a KM Consultant; (ii) Submission of draft report to stakeholders for peer review and comments; (iii) finalisation and dissemination of documentation in preparation for discussion on the way forward at the project stakeholders' workshop.	SIRP KM Specialist/PCU	06/2024

**Value for Money**

**Rating: 3**

**Previous rating: 3**

#### **Justification of rating**

115. Most of the project activities are implemented with delays. In some completed schemes, the quality of works are not satisfactory while in others, the power and/or water sources are not reliable. The project has carried out several cost optimisation exercises aiming at reducing the unit cost per hectare of irrigation infrastructure, while keeping, as much as possible, the original target, in terms of area (ha) and number of beneficiaries, unchanged. While these efforts were successful in part of the schemes, this was not the case in some other schemes where various interventions which were dropped from the schemes' contracts due to budget restrictions, would have ensured a better schemes' functionality and sustainability.

#### **Main issues**

116. In 2023, a couple of value for money audit/reviews were concluded by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) and by the MLAFWRD (internal). Despite some findings related to specific contract's variations and/or the quality of works should require the project attention to ensure defects are timely attended by the relevant contractors, both reports seem referring to qualitative

physical inspection of the work rather than quantitative inspection. Consequently, one of the main audit objectives, which of looking for causes of budget deficits, couldn't be fully attained.

117. Power supply for irrigation water pumping is exclusively from ZESA without any backup solution implemented which entails a sustainability risk due to the common power outages if no adequate measures are taken, e.g. in the short run by prioritizing continuous power supply to the irrigation schemes, while in the mid-long run by strengthening the power system by integrating alternative power source).

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Expedite procurement of contractors for remaining irrigation works</b> Ensure that the remaining irrigation works are contracted before commencement of the 2022/2023 production season.	PCU/DOI	06/2022
<b>Value for money audit</b> Project should ensure all the outstanding issues from audit reviews are satisfactory concluded for successful closeout of the project. Project should develop a comprehensive action plan for all outstanding issues and follow their closure. Any questioned amounts not substantiated will be considered as potentially ineligible payments.	Project Coordinator, Project Accountant	04/2024

**Coherence between AWPB and Implementation** **Rating: 3** **Previous rating: 3**

**Justification of rating**

118. SIRP continues to encounter delays in the approval of the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB). The current AWPB was approved in February 2024 due to overcommitment on certain activities, resulting in a budget deficit and necessitating resource reallocation. These persistent challenges in producing high-quality AWPBs and managing financial resources have further impeded program implementation. Additionally, the mission identified ongoing challenges in finalizing specific infrastructure and required completion activities, such as the endline survey, which has further slowed down implementation. Consequently, the program faces a high risk of not completing infrastructure works by the program completion date.

**AWPB Inputs and Outputs Review and Implementation Progress**

119. **Output 1.1a: Small-scale irrigation schemes revitalized.** Cumulatively, SIRP has reported an achievement of approximately 87% physical progress in this output. During the reporting period, the Programme has rehabilitated an additional 463 ha (35% of annual target) of farmland under water-related infrastructure. The mission found that SIRP is still experiencing delays in finalizing the rehabilitation of some of the irrigation schemes, were a cumulative of 48 (80%) schemes out of a revised target of 60 have been rehabilitated. As SIRP nears completion, it still faces major risks of incompleteness of the on-going infrastructure works.
120. **Output 1.2a: Irrigators and their WUOs obtain knowledge in efficient irrigation management.** In the reporting period, SIRP has reported to have trained 2% (70 out of a planned annual target of 2,945) irrigators in irrigation management. Cumulatively, against the revised targets, SIRP has trained 8161 (96% of the revised target) of irrigators. Regarding the number of WUOs supported, SIRP has cumulatively achieved 92% of the revised targets. However, the planned 5 WUOs in the 2024 AWPB are yet to be supported. SIRP also planned to support youth vocational training on irrigational equipment repair and maintenance. The mission found that these activities are yet to be completed. However, SIRP has already trained 757 youth in this area, reflecting a 151% cumulative achievement on the revised target.
121. **Output 1.3b: Enhanced capacity in Government staff on irrigation service delivery.** SIRP has reported to have cumulatively trained 250 government staff in irrigation and operations and maintenance topics. In the 2024 AWPB, the Programme did not have any planned activities under this output.
122. **Output 2.1 a: Strengthened capacity of farmers and their organizations.** Under this output, SIRP has reported to have met and surpassed most of the revised physical targets of activities in this sub-component. The following are some of key cumulative achievements: (i) 127 (127% of revised target) FFS have been established; (ii) 19339 (122% of revised target) rain-fed farmers have been trained in GALS, GAPs and CSA; (iii) 9 (100% of revised target) Natural Resource Management Facilities (small projects) have been established; (iv) 36 (90% of target) of exchange visits have been conducted; (v) 94 (157% of revised target) on cooking/feeding demonstrations have been conducted even though only 72% of planned targeted farmers participated in these programmes; (vi) 89 (148% of revised target) nutrition demonstration gardens have been organized where 150% of end targeted farmers participated; (vii) 16,957 (141% of the revised end target) have been trained in the GALS approach; (viii) cumulatively 25,570 (93% of revised target) farmers have been trained in FAAB. In the reporting period, the Programme has reached 36% of its planned annual targets; and (ix) 17,408 (86% of revised target) farmers have been cumulatively trained in post-harvest management and so far 30% of the planned physical targets of the current AWPB have been reached.
123. **Enhanced Institutional Capacity for Market-led Production.** SIRP has cumulatively achieved 214% of the revised target in the number AGRITEX staff trained and mentored. However, the Programme has achieved 5 (45%) out of the planned stakeholder dialogue workshops targeted. In the reporting period, 3 workshops have been planned but the target is yet to be achieved.

**Performance of M&E System** **Rating: 5** **Previous rating: 5**



## Justification of rating

124. SIRP has effectively utilized a functional Management Information System (MIS) for routine monitoring and updating of their Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System with beneficiary and intervention data. While an operational M&E plan is in place and M&E results are utilized in decision-making and knowledge documentation, delays have been observed in preparing the endline survey and updating MIS data, particularly outcome indicators from the annual outcome survey. These inputs are crucial for the project's completion phase. Therefore, it's imperative for the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) to expedite these M&E completion activities with urgency, adhering to IFAD completion processes and guidelines. Additionally, SIRP needs to solidify plans for MIS sustainability and finalize its handover.

## M&E System Review

125. **Progress.** SIRP has successfully established a functioning Management Information System (MIS) aimed at capturing key outputs including beneficiaries' database, physical targets and achievements, indicator tracking at various levels, and archiving project files and reports. However, due to implementation delays, the system was operationalized in later project years, requiring verification of active project beneficiaries and updating of data related to activity, output, and outcome indicator achievements. While the program has made continuous progress in verifying and updating beneficiary data, spatially mapping all schemes, and uploading program documents and knowledge management products, there are still some data gaps to address. As the program approaches completion, it's crucial for SIRP to seize this opportunity to fully update the MIS, ensuring up-to-date data of outcome indicators and archiving/updating outstanding project documents such as Annual Outcome Survey (AOS) reports.
126. **MIS Sustainability.** Beyond closure, the successes, and lessons from SIRP will serve as a valuable resource of evidence-based data to inform planning and learning for the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) and both existing and future IFAD-funded projects/programs. As part of the exit strategy, SIRP has initiated plans to hand over an updated Management Information System (MIS) to the Ministry. Training sessions for district and provincial officers in system usage and navigation have commenced, with a draft data entry manual developed by the system developer for guidance. To ensure effective exit and sustainability, it is recommended to capitalize on the new SACP MIS, developed by the same consultant, to create an interface facilitating the integration of the SIRP MIS and other future IFAD-funded projects under one umbrella. This integration will enable all projects within the portfolio to access data and documentation on implementation lessons from both past and ongoing initiatives.
127. **Endline Survey.** During the last supervision mission, it was agreed to conduct an endline survey as part of the required activities for project completion. However, there were delays in developing Terms of Reference (ToRs) that adhere to IFAD mandatory core indicator (COI) guidelines. Following further revisions, an IFAD NO objection was provided during the mission. This gives SIRP three months to procure a Service Provider and produce the endline report by the completion date. It is crucial for SIRP to collaborate with IFAD throughout this process, from inception to draft reporting stages, to ensure compliance with COI guidelines. The finalized endline survey report is a key input of evidence-based results for the Programme Completion Report. Therefore, the planning of the programme completion mission should align with the finalization of the endline report and the update of the ORMS logframe accordingly.
128. **Programme Completion.** The programme completion process is a collaborative effort involving the Government, IFAD, and other stakeholders to assess performance, document key challenges, lessons, innovations, and opportunities. Its primary goal is to better inform the operations of existing and future Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) and IFAD-funded projects in the country. However, plans for the completion mission have yet to be initiated. Therefore, with IFAD support, it is recommended that the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) develop Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the completion mission aligned with IFAD completion guidelines. This will ensure a structured and comprehensive assessment of the program's achievements and contribute to effective knowledge sharing

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<p><b>Development of PCR Terms of Reference.</b></p> <p>In close collaboration with IFAD, develop and finalise detailed ToRs for the Programme Completion mission and report in line with the IFAD completion guidelines and methodology.</p>	IFAD, PCU	05/2024
<p><b>Carry out Final Verification of Project Data.</b></p> <p>Verify all project data before the Final Impact assessment is undertaken. Harmonise approaches in data tracking with Technical Officers and ensure no discrepancies exist in the data on the system</p>	M&E Specialist	06/2024
<p><b>Ensure the finalisation of the endline survey and report</b></p> <p>(i) finalise procurement of the Service Provider; (ii) Submit inception report for IFAD peer review; (iii) Submit draft report and submit to IFAD for peer review; (iii) Finalise and disseminate final report to all stakeholders.</p>	SIRP M&E Specialist/PCU	06/2024
<p><b>Fully update the MIS and ORMS LF data in preparation for completion mission.</b></p> <p>Update the Programme MIS and ORMS logframe with latest data and ensure that up to date programme indicator results data and annual outcome survey reports.</p>	SIRP M&E Specialist/PCU	06/2024
<p><b>Update ORMS IFAD logframe.</b></p> <p>In preparation for completion, fully update, validate, and upload the ORMS logframe.</p>	SIRP M&E Specialist/IFAD	06/2024

**Social, Environment, and Climate Standards requirements**

**Rating: 4**

**Previous rating: 4**

#### Justification of rating

129. The project has developed an overall Environmental and Social, Safeguards Framework (ESSF), Site Specific ESMPs (45 approved & 15 still with EMA) and some of the schemes have produced Natural Resources Management Plans. SIRP has trained beneficiaries in the implementation of the requisite safeguards. However, the dissemination of these safeguards instruments has been poor as few people in the project know about the ESSF and the ESMPs. The NRM plans are not even related to the ESMPs. So, the schemes are not fully implementing the requirements of the ESMF and ESMPs.

#### SECAP Review

130. SIRP is a category B Project with a climate risk classification of moderate. Because of this the preparation of ESMPs for the subprojects is mandatory. Thus, besides the overall Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework the project has developed site specific ESMPs. 45 of them have been approved by the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and 15 are still being assessed. SIRP has trained the beneficiaries in in the implementation of the requisite safeguards, but the assessment on the ground revealed that the training did not fully expose the beneficiaries to the requirements of SECAP and did not fully equip them to competently implement them.

131. Some of the schemes have produced Natural Resources Management Plans. All development is done in adherence to the national environmental standards. All infrastructural works have environmental management plans in place that guide the projects' adherence to environmental standards. However, it was noted that the NRM plans were not linked or related to the ESMPs. So, the schemes are not implementing the requirements of the ESMF and ESMPs.

132. Contractors engaged by the project are also required to develop Environmental Management Plan, and Occupational Health and Safety Plans for every works they are engaged in. All these form part of the contract that is signed by both parties and adherence to these is referred to when payment of certificates is done for contractors. Some contractors had developed their own ESMPs and plans and are implementing them through their SHE officers. It was noted also that the SHE Officers were not aware of the Project ESSF and the site Specific ESMPs.

133. The project has a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) which is embedded in the ESSF. The GRM has not been well publicised too and thus it has not been implemented. The GRM in The ESSF is not detailed enough for effective implementation as it does not contain the community-based approach and a proper grievance reception mechanism which clearly articulates the grievance process flow, including the various levels of escalation. Also, there are no functional GRM committees at all the schemes. They have set up disciplinary committees which may need to be upgraded into real GRM committees and formalise the project GRM.



<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Strengthen ESSF, ESMPs and NRM Plans:</b> Further cascade the trainings on the Safeguard instruments that have been developed (ESSF, ESMPs, NRM Plans) down to the farmers and ensure that they implement them.	PCU, SIRP Environment and Climate Focal Person	06/2024
<b>Formalise the Grievance Redress Mechanism:</b> Improve the project GRM to include the communal based component and proper grievance reception mechanisms. Train farmers on the formal GRM, help them establish GRM Committees and start implementing the improved project GRM.	PCU, SIRP Environment and Climate Focal Person	06/2024

#### d. Financial Management & Execution

<b>Acceptable Disbursement Rate</b>	<b>Rating: 4.0</b>	<b>Previous rating: 3</b>
-------------------------------------	--------------------	---------------------------

##### Justification of rating

134. Automated rating based on IFAD disbursement data

##### Main issues

135. The current active sources of funds for the project, which are being channeled through IFAD are IFAD grant, OFID loan and NORAD grant which have disbursements levels of 82.47%, 65.73% and 100% respectively. For OFID Loan, there were delays in disbursements of funds for quarter ended 31 December 2023 due to delays in government in honouring instalments payments. The funds were only disbursed in February 2024. The project is currently using IFRs for withdrawal applications in line with current IFAD procedures. The prior noted variances between expenditure figures reflected in ICP and the projects books were reconciled.

136. There are substantial activities not yet completed that risks the project to having ineligible expenditure on account of activities not complete by the completion deadline. Winding up activities that would be carried out during the grace period before project closure should also have a schedule that is cleared by IFAD. This schedule is yet to be prepared.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Project completion and closeout preparation.</b> Prepare a schedule of winding up activities and submit to IFAD for approval. Except for winding up activities, all other activities should be finalized by the completion date to avoid having ineligible expenditure.  Extended deadline	Finance Manager	04/2024
<b>winding up activities schedule</b> Prepare a winding up activities schedule and submit to IFAD for no-objection/clearance. Except for winding up activities, all other activities should be finalized by the completion date to avoid having ineligible expenditure.	Project Coordinator, SIRP Project Accountant	04/2024

#### Fiduciary aspects

<b>Quality of Financial Management</b>	<b>Rating: 3</b>	<b>Previous rating: 3</b>
--	------------------	---------------------------

##### Justification of rating

137. There are some significant areas of improvements noted as follows: - i) There have been significant delays in submission of DSA claims by officers going beyond the 14 days requirements and some being submitted with a delay of over 1 year. The project also does not maintain a tracking schedule to establish DSA claims yet to be submitted (payables) hence does not accurately know how much is outstanding; ii) there was still over-commitment on the recent AWPB; iii) VAT amounting to USD 16,777.15 was paid from IFAD Grant and the prior ineligible payment of USD 4,548.81 from VAT paid is yet to be refunded to the project account.

##### Main issues

- **Organization and staffing.** The finance staff are well qualified. However, there are still were some gaps noted in finance management performance as detailed below which requires improvements. The Project Accountant and Accounts Assistant

will be retained till project closure to ensure smooth closure and continued operationalisations of adequate internal checks within the project.

- The AWPB for the FY 2024 has been approved. As was for the FY 2023, the initial AWPB submitted for 2024 had over-commitment by over USD 1 million due to mis-coordination between technical, procurements and finance teams in planning and analysis of outstanding commitments. The issue has since been resolved.

- **Accounting & Financial Reporting.**

- **IMTT Charges.** The project was not able to stop deduction of IMTT charges by the bank since the banking system has been set to deduct these automatically. The agreement with the bank is that the reversal is pursued and these have been done immediately once pursued. The recent claim for reversal was for the period March to Dec 2023. These need to be done promptly, at least on a monthly basis after every bank reconciliation.
- **VAT paid from IFAD.** VAT of USD 16,777.15 was paid on an invoice processed in December 2023 to China Geo leading to ineligible expenditure. The refunds for the prior cases noted in the prior mission for USD 4,548.81 are yet to be refunded to the project account.
- **Errors in IFRs.** There are still recurring errors in accuracy of IFRs which has been leading to back and forth before IFRs clearance. At time of mission, the IFR for Dec 2023 was yet to be cleared.
- **Submission of Audit report for Dec 2023 and the final audit report.** At the time of the mission the project was finalising procurement of the External Auditor for the period ended 31 Dec 2023 and the final audit for period from 1 January 2024 to the closeout of the project. The ToR were noted to have an error on audit scope and submission timeline for the final audit which was indicated as being 31 December 2024 and 30 April 2025 respectively which is erroneous. The final audit reporting period should be up to project completion date, in this case 30 June 2024, where unpaid winding up expenditure would be accrued and disclosed, with the submission deadline being latest by the project closeout date.

- **Internal Control including Internal Audit.** The following were noted: -

- **Long outstanding DSA claims.** There have been significant delays in submission of DSA claims by officers especially staff from implementing agencies eg DOI. Some claims for activities carried out in April 2023 were noted to be submitted in March 2024 which is almost one year after the activity was done, against the 14 days rule. This exposes the project to ineligible payments. The project also does not maintain a tracking schedule to establish DSA claims yet to be submitted (payables) hence does not accurately know how much is outstanding. There are several cases also where DSA claims are not supported with original copy of travel authorisation. These were indicated to be with administration office supporting fuel issuance or with staff. The procedures on having original travel authorisation kept by finance has not been enforced. The Payment vouchers/claims should always be supported with original documents.
- **Assets handover plan.** This will be re-submitted incorporating feedback provided by IFAD among them consideration to handover various project moveable assets like vehicles to the ongoing projects under IFAD.
- **Outstanding cash compensation from insurance.** The project had opted for cash compensation for one of the vehicles that had been involved in accident. By the time this decision was made, the insurance company is reported to have already bought a compensation vehicle hence this is being sold by car agency to submit the funds to the project. There have been delays in obtaining these funds which has led to reconsideration of pursuing compensation through a new vehicle. These need to be aggressively followed-up to allow smooth closure with no outstanding issues. If a vehicle is provided, it should be included in the handover plan and if cash, these need to be utilised for project activities or refunded to IFAD if unspent.
- **Fuel management.** While fuel coupons register is well maintained, and vehicles movement schedules for each vehicle prepared, the fuel consumptions rate for each vehicle is not computed and analysed and the vehicle movement logbook is not signed for verifications by Fleet/Administration Officer.
- **Follow-up and closeout on outstanding audit issues.** There have been various financial reviews done by various parties among them i) Internal audit Value for money review, ii) Reviews by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG). All the outstanding issues from these reviews need to be satisfactory concluded for successful closeout of the project.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>DSA Claims</b> Prepare and send out a Memo to all implementing agencies and key staff that have been involved in project implementation to requests all staff with outstanding claims to be submitted within 14 days of activities implementation. Any prior DSA claims that would not be processed within the 14 days period would not be eligible for payments. Subsequently, there should be track of a travel authorisation who DSA claims are yet to be made so as have accurate status of payables.	Project Coordinator, Project Accountant	04/2024

<p><b>Assets handover</b></p> <p>Resubmit an assets handover plan for all SIRP assets to IFAD for review and clearance.</p>	Project Coordinator	04/2024
<p><b>IMTT Charges</b></p> <p>Reversal of IMTT charges should be pursued with the bank promptly, at least on a monthly basis after every bank reconciliation review.</p>	Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>External audit reporting</b></p> <p>Ensure the ToRs for the audit is revised to reflect the accurate audit scope for the final audit and submission of the final audit report. It was agreed the project would have the final audit report submitted within four months after completion, ahead of the 6 months submission timelines.</p>	Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Recording of advances and retention in the accounting system</b></p> <p>The finance team should ensure the advances recoverable and retention money payable are also tracked from the accounting system so as to have additional oversight in the financial system including ageing analysis. Financial reports and IFRs should include a schedule of outstanding advances to be recovered and retention money to be paid.</p> <p>Extended deadline</p>	Finance Manager	04/2024
<p><b>Ineligible expenditure paid/recorded</b></p> <p>Make refunds of ineligible expenditure of USD 4,548.81 related to VAT that were paid from IFAD. The erroneous double recording of USD 36,114.38 made in December 2022 and included in justifications to IFAD should also be adjusted in both the accounting system and ICP. There should be keen analysis of financial reports to pick-out any errors that could have been made.</p> <p>Extended deadline</p>	Finance Manager	04/2024
<p><b>Assets.</b></p> <p>Prepare an assets handover plan for all SIRP assets and submit to IFAD for review and clearance.</p> <p>Revisions and resubmission was requested</p>	Project Coordinator	04/2024
<p><b>Compensation of project vehicle</b></p> <p>Follow-up on immediate finalization of compensation for the vehicle. If cash compensations is pursued, the funds would further need to be utilized on project activities and if not would be refunded to IFAD.</p>	Project Coordinator	04/2024
<p><b>Ineligible Expenditure</b></p> <p>Make refunds of ineligible expenditure of USD 4,548.81 related to VAT that were paid from IFAD. For the VAT payments to China Geo, it was noted there are upcoming payment in which deductions will be made to recover the amounts paid out.</p>	Project Coordinator, Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Vehicles log books</b></p> <p>Vehicle log books should be adequately reviewed and signed for verifications by Administration officer. The review before any additional fuel coupons are issued, should also include checking that fuel consumption is within the standard rate of 1 Litre for 10 Kilometers for ordinary project vehicles.</p>	Administration Officer.	04/2024

<p><b>Payments supporting documents</b></p> <p>The Payment vouchers should always be supported with original documents. In terms of payments for contracted services, all payments supporting documents after contracts are made should be included in payment voucher with other documents held by procurement teams.</p>	Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Preparation of IFRs</b></p> <p>Keenly prepare and review draft IFRs to ensure submission to IFAD do not have errors that have been recurring and leading to back and forth in IFRs clearance process.</p>	Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Outstanding audit issues</b></p> <p>Project should ensure all the outstanding issues from audit reviews would need to be satisfactory concluded for successful closeout of the project. Project should develop a comprehensive action plan for all outstanding issues and follow their closure. Any questioned amounts not substantiated will be considered as potentially ineligible payments.</p>	Project Coordinator, Project Accountant	04/2024

**Quality and Timeliness of Audit**

**Rating: 3**

**Previous rating: 3**

**Justification of rating**

138. The audit report was submitted on September 28, 2023 hence a delay of 90 days from the required submission deadline. Improvements will also be required in the presentation of financial statements.

**Main issues**

139. The external audit for the project is carried out by a private auditor. The most recent external audit report was for the period ended 31 December 2022. The audit report was submitted on September 28, 2023 hence a delay of 90 days from the required submission deadline of 30 June 2023.

140. The Audit opinion explicitly referred to IFAD grant number 2000001640 while the audited financial statements include the accounts for OFID Loan Number 12878P, RPSF grant number 2000003592; NORAD Grant Number 2000003825, and RPSF II Grant no 2000003866. The audit report schedules allocate expenditures under only three components, with the detailed schedule for statement of operating performance by components for the year ended 31 December 2022 allocating all NORAD and RPSF expenditure to Programme Coordination. These material errors raise doubts on the adequacy of the audit reviews done. The special account reconciliation statements are not adequately labelled to specify the financing sources under the project i.e IFAD grant number 2000001640, OFID Loan Number 12878P, RPSF grant number 2000003592; NORAD Grant Number 2000003825, and RPSF II Grant no 2000003866).

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Financial records for farmers irrigation schemes at provinces</b> Monthly bank reconciliations for schemes should be conducted in compliance with the project implementation manual. Further, cash counts should be carried out to determine the authenticity of cash balances in the presence of Senior Management.	PCU Finance Manager	12/2023
<b>Procurement of Livestock and poultry in provinces where they are to be delivered.</b> Livestock and poultry should be procured within the provinces they are to be delivered to reduce fatal animal stress. Farmers should also be trained on how to keep livestock before the livestock are delivered to them.	PCU Finance Manager	12/2023
<b>Daily backups for automated system</b> There should be daily backups done for all system of the entity.	PCU Finance Manager	12/2023
<b>Farmers contributions</b> Follow-up with farmers that are not paying their beneficiary contributions as required by the Financing Agreement.	PCU Finance Manager	12/2023
<b>Financial records for farmers irrigation schemes at provinces</b> Monthly bank reconciliations for schemes should be conducted in compliance with the project implementation manual. Further, cash counts should be carried out to determine the authenticity of cash balances in the presence of Senior Management.	PCU Finance Manager	04/2024
<b>Farmers contributions</b> Follow-up with farmers that are not paying their beneficiary contributions as required by the Financing Agreement.	PCU Finance Manager	04/2024

**Counterparts Funds**

**Rating: 3**

**Previous rating: 3**

#### Justification of rating

141. The total Government contribution planned for financial year (FY) 2023 was USD 4.02million of which USD 1.8 million was achieved. For FY 2024, the planned contribution is USD 3.4 million of which no disbursements had been made as at the time of the mission. There are several activities mapped to be undertaken through financing by Counterpart funds as well as outstanding payments for VAT payments to suppliers/contractors which has not been honoured due to delays in counterpart contributions. Regarding beneficiaries' contributions, the budgeted cash contribution for FY 2023 was USD 520,000 of which only USD 92,293 was realised. There are also weaknesses in data collection for in-kind contribution leading to understatements of contributions made.

#### Main issues

142. The contribution by the Government of Zimbabwe comprises of both cash and in-kind contributions. The cumulative disbursements for the Government are at 56% against appraisal target while for beneficiaries is at 24%. There have been delays in cash contributions by both the Government and beneficiaries. For financial year 2023, the cash and in-kind contribution for Government and beneficiaries were as follows:-

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Budgeted (USD)</b>	<b>Actual (USD)</b>	<b>%</b>
Government - Cash	4,026,770	1,802,000	45%
Government – In Kind	0	259,672	-
Beneficiaries - Cash	520,000	92,293	18%

Beneficiaries – In Kind	200,000	500,262	250%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,746,770</b>	<b>2,654,227</b>	

143. While there were USD 500,262 and USD 259,672 recorded on in-kind contribution, it was noted there are still weaknesses in data collection as there are several areas of contributions with no data. The budgeting also has some weaknesses as FY 2023 had not quantified expected in-kind contribution from Government and substantially under-estimated contribution from beneficiaries.

144. For FY 2024, the planned contribution is USD 3.4 million of which no disbursements had been made as at the time of the mission. There are several activities mapped to be undertaken through financing by Counterpart funds as well as outstanding payments for VAT payments to suppliers/contractors which has not been honoured due to delays in counterpart contributions.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<b>Settlement of VAT in USD</b> Continue engaging MOFED/ZIMRA to agree on the change in the policy with regards to payment of VAT in USD by contractors/suppliers for SIRP, or to provide VAT exemption. (Action already recommended in 2021 supervision and not implemented)	PCU Coordinator/Chief Accountant/MOFED/ZIMRA	04/2024
<b>Taxes paid (IMTT), ineligible expenses</b> - Obtain from GoZ the refund of IMTT unduly paid on IFAD funded activities since February 2022 - Refund IFAD for IMTT unduly paid through WAs.  Extended deadline	PCU Coordinator/Chief Accountant/MOFED/ZIMRA	04/2024
<b>Adequate beneficiary contribution</b> Follow-up and stimulate provision of beneficiary cash and in-kind contribution, by adequate planning into AWPB 2022 and 2023 to reach project investment target by completion date.  Extended deadline	PCU	04/2024
<b>Regular recording of in-kind contribution</b> Ensure the data on realized in-kind contribution is regularly recorded, at least on quarterly basis. The uncollected data should be gathered immediately and recorded.  Extended deadline	Project Coordinator	04/2024
<b>Counterpart Disbursement</b> Liaise with the Ministry of Finance to ensure there is timely disbursements of Counterpart financing from the Government for timely payments of activities earmarked to be processed under Counterpart financing among them the VAT payments for contractors.	Project Accountant	04/2024
<b>Recording In-kind Contribution</b> The uncollected data on in-kind contribution should be gathered immediately and recorded. Ensure the data on realized in-kind contribution is regularly recorded, at least on quarterly basis	PM - SIRP	04/2024

**Compliance with Loan Covenants**

**Rating: 4**

**Previous rating: 3**

**Justification of rating**

145. Compliance with loan covenants is rated Moderately Satisfactory (4). The mission noted payments of VAT from IFAD grant and

delays in counterpart contributions.

## Main issues

146. Appendix 3 provides a detailed analysis of compliance with loan covenants.

## Procurement

Procurement	Rating: 3	Previous rating: 3
-------------	-----------	--------------------

### Justification of rating

147. The Mission maintained the procurement rating at 3 (moderately unsatisfactory), given the significant delays in the implementation of the procurement plan. Despite being in the last three months of the Project closing date, several activities were at the early stages of the procurement process. Numerous gaps were observed in the bidding, evaluation and contracting phases that may affect the transparency and fairness of the procurement process. There are several weaknesses in contract management leading to delayed deliverables by suppliers and contractors. Procurement records are kept orderly in file records and the PMU demonstrated efficiency and transparency in providing all the documentation and information requested.

### Procurement Review

148. The level of staff capacity was noted to be insufficient to cope with the demanding workload in the Procurement Unit. The Unit consists of an Admin/Procurement Assistant and an intern.

149. By the time of the mission the 2024 PP was not yet approved. All the activities that were ongoing were carried forward from 2023 PP. This is attributed to the delayed approval of the PP which was granted IFAD NO in October 2023. The 2023 PP is consistent with the IFAD format and the nature and quantity of goods, works and services are aligned to the AWPB. Homogenous and similar activities were aggregated together, and the packaging was done in a way that generally facilitates greater price competition.

150. The 2023 PP had 37 planned activities and only two activities equivalent to 5% of the total PP activities were completed, while 19 activities (48%) were at an advanced stage of completion. Seven activities were at an early stage of procurement processing while four activities were not yet initiated, and four activities were cancelled.

151. A sample review of procurement activities confirmed the PCU has implemented most of the recommendations of the previous mission. Processes and procedures generally comply with National procurement regulations and laws, but some gaps and inconsistencies were observed in several contracts:

- There were no approvals for the composition of ad hoc evaluation committees.
- Evaluators did not sign declarations of impartiality and confidentiality prior to undertaking the procurement.
- Some evaluation reports did not bear the signatures of evaluators.
- NOITA was missing in some contract files.
- Vendor's acceptance/acknowledgement was missing for some local purchase orders.
- Lack of supplier/contractor self-certification.
- Missing signatures of some evaluation committee in the pages that carry final recommendation and final scores in evaluation reports.
- Approvals of ad hoc evaluation committees were not on file.
- Contract awards were not published for public information.
- One case was noted where an audit firm was disqualified without adequately documented justification.

152. Contracts are managed by technical departments and the consultant supervising engineer firms. Contract management is generally weak, and this has led to delayed deliverables by suppliers and contractors. There are many cases of protracted delays in advance payments and in payment of contractor's interim certificates. This has negatively impacted project implementation.

153. Contract provisions are not triggered for non-performing suppliers, contractors, and consultants. The mission noted requests for contract amendments outside of contract validity periods. The mission found cases where contracts were not closely supervised or were supervised by inexperienced staff especially for the contracts allocated to the two engineering and supervising firms.

154. The CMT contains contract data updates, although at the time of the mission a few contracts had not been included in the online tool because the system was not functioning properly. However, the problem was fixed before the end of the mission and the CMT was updated.

155. Overall, there WAS considerable improvement in the rate of physical implementation of contracts for the irrigation schemes compared to the status during the previous supervision mission. Works for the rehabilitation/construction of 5,200 ha have been contracted out, of which 4,320 ha (83%) have already been completed, while works are still on-going for 880 ha (17%). The completed works represent 60% of the signed contracts while the rest of the contracts are at an advanced stage of physical completion. Significant delays in payment of Contractor's interim certificates have negatively impacted project implementation. Other factors that caused the works to slow down include limited capacity of some contractors, and specific challenges related to procurement of equipment, delays in land clearing and delays in electrification of some schemes.

156. There are six contracts with a high risk of non-completion of works by the project completion date. The contract for the rehabilitation of Mbembeswana Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS N00018867), the contract for the rehabilitation Chemakudo Irrigation

Scheme (N00018872), the contract for the rehabilitation of Machena Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS DOSSIER N000188789), the contract for the rehabilitation of Old Biri Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS DOSSIER N00013932), the contract for the rehabilitation of Rustler's Gorge Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS DOSSIER N00019098) and the contract for the rehabilitation of Romsley Lot 2 Irrigation Schemes (NOTUS DOSSIER N00013930) may fail to reach completion by 30 June 2024 as the contractors require the invoices to be settled in United States Dollars while the GoZ prefers to pay the equivalent amounts in local currency through RTGS. The mission recommends that the Ministry of Finance makes a firm commitment to promptly pay the contractors in US Dollars as per contract. In addition, the mission recommends close monitoring of ongoing contracts to ensure timely completion and delivery of goods, and timely payment of certificates for works and services before the project completion date.

<b>Agreed Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Agreed Date</b>
<p><b>Contract Management.</b></p> <p>Review all ongoing Works contracts and accurately determine completion periods as per approved Works programmes, and where necessary process Extension of Time. Ensure valid performance securities and insurances as per contract.</p>	Procurement Specialist	10/2023
<p><b>Processing of Procurement Activities.</b></p> <p>Obtain internal approvals wherever processing activities, and document procurement decisions appropriately. Allow for Bank Guarantees in exchange of withheld sums for the Defects Liability Periods beyond project completion. Where necessary, pending Bank Guarantees at project completion to be amended and have Dol as the beneficiary.</p>	Procurement Specialist	12/2023
<p><b>Remedial Works.</b></p> <p>Considering that project resources have been exhausted, the investment in Mbembeswana will be undertaken only when Government provides written commitment to IFAD to provide funding from Government resources. The procurement of the Works can commence with initial stages, pending Notice of Intention to Award stage, until funds are availed from Government. The commitment from Government to also cover payment for any scope of Work beyond contract completion period. PP and AWPB will be revised to indicate this arrangement.</p>	PCU	12/2023
<p><b>Compliance with regulations and guidelines.</b></p> <p>Consistently adhere to National Regulations and IFAD Guidelines and procedures regarding appointment of tender evaluation panels, declaration of conflict of interest and confidentiality, Contractor and Supplier Self-Certification, and in obtaining the contractor/supplier acknowledgement of Local Purchase Orders</p>	PCU Coordinator, Procurement Officer	03/2024
<p><b>Accelerate the conclusion of the key procurement processes and ensure that awards take into consideration the remaining duration.</b></p>	Procurement Officer	03/2024
<p><b>Timely payment of contractor's interim certificates.</b></p>	PCU Coordinator; Director DOI	03/2024
<p><b>Mbembeswana and Malikango Irrigation schemes</b></p> <p>Negotiate and seek IFAD approval for new contracts for Mbembeswana and Malikango Irrigation schemes to facilitate the completion of pending works.</p>	PCU Coordinator; Procurement Officer	03/2024



<p><b>Management of ongoing contracts</b></p> <p>Closely monitor and manage the following contracts to ensure timely completion and delivery of goods, works and services by June 2024:</p> <p>i) contract for the rehabilitation of Mbembeswana Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS N00018867);</p> <p>ii) contract for the rehabilitation Chemakudo Irrigation Scheme (N00018872),</p> <p>iii) contract for the rehabilitation of Machena Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N000188789);</p> <p>iv) the contract for the rehabilitation of Old Biri Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00013932);</p> <p>v) the contract for the rehabilitation of Rustler’s Gorge Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00019098) and vi) contract for the rehabilitation of Romsley Lot 2 irrigation scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00013930)</p> <p>vii) contract for the rehabilitation of Gudo smallholder irrigation scheme (OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233--0031-W-NS);</p> <p>viii) contract for the NORAD endline survey (OPEN dossier ZWE-20000001233-0043-CS-LCS).</p>	<p>PCU Coordinator, Procurement Officer</p>	<p>06/2024</p>
<p><b>Ongoing works</b></p> <p>For works that may not be feasible to complete prior to the completion date, obtain commitment from Government to cover obligations that may be outstanding beyond the completion date.</p>	<p>PCU Coordinator; Director DOI</p>	<p>06/2024</p>

## e. Key SIS Indicators

Likelihood of Achieving the Development Objective	Rating: 4.65	Previous rating: 4.65
Assessment of the Overall Implementation Performance	Rating: 3.67	Previous rating: 3.5

## F. Relevance

Relevance	Rating: 5	Previous rating: 5
-----------	-----------	--------------------

### Justification of rating

157. The SIRP design is highly consistent with the needs of the target group who are the poor smallholder farmers residing in the dry agro-ecological regions of NR III, IV and V, where irrigation is required most. The design is also in line with the IFAD’s policies and Government of Zimbabwe’s national priorities outlined in the National Development Strategy 1. Both the goal and the project development objectives remain relevant.

### Main issues

158. The goal of SIRP is for poor rural households to achieve food and nutrition security and ensure resilience to climate change effects and economic shocks in the targeted districts. The programme development objective is for rural households to sustainably increase their income in SIRP supported schemes and adjacent rainfed areas. The project component 1 sought to revitalise non-performing smallholder irrigation, while component 2 provided GAPS, FAAB, post-harvest management, nutrition, mainstreaming gender and social inclusion and natural resources management.

159. The project rehabilitated 83% of the revised target of 5200ha. The 2023 AOS, shows that the project substantially improved household income, food security and welfare outcomes especially for irrigator beneficiaries. About 77% of irrigator beneficiaries reported increased income in the past year compared to only 56% of non-beneficiaries. Irrigator beneficiaries had the highest average household income at \$1,071.77 compared to all beneficiaries at \$820.03 and non-beneficiaries at \$367. Averaged across climate smart technologies, adoption score was higher for beneficiary irrigators (43.43%), than beneficiary-non-irrigators (35.41%) and was lowest for the control group that were not part SIRP (2.33%). Averaged across beneficiary types, adoption scores were highest for conservation agriculture and integrated soil fertility management and were lowest for gully reclamation and natural resources management and agroforestry. While 92.6% practiced dryland farming and 75.7% reported increased productivity, as high as 69.1% of beneficiaries reported increased irrigated yields, largely attributing this to the project. Beneficiary irrigators had significantly higher yields especially for maize constituting 38% of total irrigated area under cultivation, and incomes compared to other beneficiary groups. The high adoption scores for irrigator beneficiaries indicate the improved uptake of high-yield crop varieties, farm machinery and agricultural inputs relative to non-irrigator beneficiaries, likely reflecting enhanced agricultural productivity among this group due to project irrigation interventions.

160. The 2023 Annual Outcome Survey (AOS) indicates an overall increase in crop yields, although some crops fall below target

figures: (i) Maize yields reached 3.68 tonnes per hectare, surpassing the baseline of 1.9 tonnes but below the 5-tonne target. (ii) Rainfed maize yields at 1.38 tonnes per hectare exceeded both the baseline of 0.5 tonnes and the 1-tonne target. (iii) Beans averaged 2.34 tonnes per hectare, exceeding the baseline of 0.88 tonnes and the 1.75-tonne target. (iv) Rainfed sorghum yields at 1.19 tonnes per hectare surpassed the baseline of 0.33 tonnes and the 1.4-tonne target. (v) Rainfed groundnut yields reached 0.86 tonnes per hectare, surpassing the baseline of 0.37 tonnes but below the 1-tonne target. (vi) Tomato yields at 12.96 tonnes per hectare slightly exceeded the baseline of 12.5 tonnes but fell short of the 30-tonne target.

161. The project is implemented through government entities. The Department of Irrigation for the irrigation component and ARDAS is responsible for Climate Smart Agriculture and market access. This ensures sustainability after the project comes to an end.

## G. Project Modifications

Responsibility	Modification type	Description
PCU	Logical Framework	SIRP underwent a cost optimisation exercise as recommended at MTR, in order to fit the already set target of 6100ha of irrigation infrastructure to be rehabilitated by project completion, within the allocated resources. The exercise resulted in a reduction in the number of schemes from 125 originally targeted to 60 schemes confirmed for rehabilitation. This therefore affected key indicator targets particularly in relation to the outreach of irrigators and rainfed farmers as well as related output targets. The logframe targets have thus been revised in accordance with these changes and new ones set. Additionally, interventions related to capacity building for rural financial services were removed to enable more focused interventions on increasing access to finance and FaaBs.
FM/IFAD/Min of Agriculture	Reallocation	<i>Reallocation among categories, in accordance with Section 4.07 c) i) of the General Conditions. Provide justification and inclusion of proposed revised table of project costs by financier and expenditure account. Please attach proposed table. The table will replace table under paragraph 1 of Schedule 2 of the Financing agreement. It should include information for each expenditure category on amounts authorized, already withdrawn, amounts reserved to Special Commitments if any, and anticipated future expenditures. The table should also show "Withdrawal applications submitted but not yet processed in FXC.</i>

## H. Lessons Learned

### Irrigation Infrastructure Development

162. Irrigation infrastructure development plays a central role in enhancing production systems and is integral to the implementation of various project activities. Delays in implementing irrigation/infrastructure activities can significantly impact overall project progress and achievements. Therefore, careful planning, both technically and financially, and close monitoring of infrastructure development activities are essential for the project's success. This planning should consider local institutional and service provider capacities while ensuring technical feasibility and social and environmental sustainability. By prioritizing these aspects, the project can effectively enhance agricultural productivity while promoting long-term sustainability and resilience.

### Maintaining a balance between High Value Crops vs Food Crops

163. Maintaining a balance between food security and high-value crops is essential for the sustainability of irrigation schemes. Currently, enterprise selection is largely influenced by the Government of Zimbabwe's inputs support program, leading to the dominance of wheat and maize during winter and summer crops, respectively. It's crucial to assess the viability of these crops with and without government support and present the findings to farmers. There should be consideration for limiting the area dedicated to these crops to allow farmers to explore the production of higher value crops, particularly those supported by outgrower companies and the private sector. This approach will promote diversification, enhance income generation, and improve the overall resilience of the schemes.

### Block System in crop production

164. The block system, or crop consolidation, involves farmers planting the same crop on an irrigation block, facilitating efficient crop management and irrigation scheduling. This approach is particularly suitable for schemes with center pivots. Crop consolidation enables group marketing and enhances production scale, thereby attracting private sector engagement. Three private sector players, Whitney Paprika, Kacholo, and Chilli Pepper Company, have increased contracting for high-value crops in schemes practicing the block system, fostering increased production of commodities.

## **Project construction work should only commence after ESMP is approved by the designated environment office**

165. Project construction work should only commence after ESMP is approved by the designated environment office and implementation should be supervised by independent consultant

## **Any development project should be made part of the contract document**

166. ESMP prepared for any development project should be made part of the contract document for the contractor to implement impact mitigation measures prescribed in the ESMP

## **Importance of mobilising strategic partnerships in key areas**

167. The success of a project is also based on the acceptance and support it may find by third parties. Partnership, collaboration, financial and technical support are clear signs of appreciation of the goals pursued and work implemented.

168. Of great relevance in that framework is the financial and substantive support received by: (i) NORAD which have facilitated a grant for nutrition; (ii) JICA Smallholder horticulture Empowerment and Promotion and; (iii) GACSA climate smart agriculture, which have supported technically the project implementation.

169. Sharing experiences and capitalizing on the pitfalls of others may be very relevant in the quest of success of a project.

## **Planning and Timing for infrastructure works**

170. Infrastructure works may require lengthy and cumbersome adoption procedures and implementation that - because of the long duration - should not be modified at the mid-term or end of the project.

171. For that reason, while envisaging large investments in: i) irrigation schemes, ii) feasibility studies, iii) impact analysis, and; iv) lengthy procurement processes for the identification of contractors, it is of tantamount importance to set the scene from the very beginning at the time of the Design and early project implementation.

172. Organizing this type of activity while approaching the mid-term of the project existence, or worse while it approaches its closing is reckless or in any case very risky for the project success.

## **Invest in a strong programme management unit (PMU)**

173. The Programme Management Unit has the burden and the honour of driving the project through its implementation and to the expected goals.

174. This is the reason for investing in a strong and qualified PMU from the programme incipit and throughout project implementation. An adequate project staffing made of people having adequate technical skills, in particular on i) capacity of project management; ii) project coordination; iii) Financial management and; iv) procurement, is critical for ensuring the project is successful. In case a PMU member does not match 100% of the required project's task skills, this should not be seen as an obstacle but rather as a "gap to bridge" through adequate training and support.

175. Investing especially in the first year of the project (but also beyond) in PMU capacity building, particularly in the Project Coordination, Financial Management and Procurement aspects, can ensure the project success.

## **Smooth and timely approval procedure**

176. To assure a smooth and timely approval procedure in case of processes that involve clearances from several departments and/or different ministries, it is of great importance to review the entire process with all the parts involved, identify all the steps, agree on focal persons for each step together with timelines. It is also good to review the processes with certain regularity to identify obstacles and delays and address them.

## **Pre-identification of requirement for O, M & D cost recovery in irrigation scheme investments**

177. There should not be any pre-identification of requirement for O, M & D cost recovery in irrigation scheme investments, as this can send an unclear message to beneficiaries. While full commitments for O, M & D costs are required as a pre-condition to enable sustainability, they are scheme-specific, and should be identified, calculated and agreed during the design and construction period.

## **Mandatory evaluation criteria**

178. All mandatory evaluation criteria stipulated in the tender document must strictly be applied during the evaluation process by the panel which should include at minimum one finance specialist. One observation that consistently appeared during the review of the sample was the lack to consider the overall capacity of preferred bidders whom, were awarded one or more contract(s) ongoing at the time of undertaking the supervision. This raises the concern whether the same company has the ability to undertake all works simultaneously without inducing delays to the other project activities. Notwithstanding, a number of civil works are also interlinked with other procurement activities which can potentially stretch further the execution of selected

activities.

## PROJECT PROCUREMENT

179. 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

180. 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

181. 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

182. 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

183. 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

184. 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

185. 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

186. 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

187. **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

188. **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.

## I. Agreed Actions

<i>Agreed Action</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Agreed Date</i>
<b>Overview and Project Progress</b>		
<p><b>Schemes at risk of not been completed by the project completion date</b></p> <p>Strengthen works supervision and intensify work progress monitoring particularly for those schemes at high risk of not been completeworks by the project completion date, and timely intervene to boost/accelerate work progress. Interventions may include prompting mobilization of additional workforce and/or equipment, prompting contractual shift of additional workload to subcontractors in case of delinquent main contractor.</p>	DOI, PCU TA, Supervisors, UNOPS	04/2024
<p><b>USD/RTGS Payments</b></p> <p>Urgently seek Ministry of Finance firm commitment to timely pay contractors in US Dollars as per contracts' terms. If needed, escalate the matter to higher/ ministerial level for acceleration.</p>	MLAFWRD/DOI, PCU Coordinator, MOF	04/2024
<p><b>Beneficiary in kind contribution</b></p> <p>The uncollected data on in-kind contribution should be gathered immediately and recorded. Ensure the data on realized in-kind contribution is regularly recorded, at least on quarterly basis</p>	Project Coordinator, M&E Specialist, Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Assist and guide farmers on contracting arrangements</b></p> <p>Scrutinise the JV contracts between irrigation schemes and private players to ensure fairness, and transfer of skills and technologies to the farmers</p>	PCU, Value Chain, MLAFWRD	04/2024
<p><b>Replace and capacitate scheme business managers.</b></p> <p>Engage ARDA and find a sustainable way of ensuring irrigation schemes are adequately staffed with motivated and properly equipped business managers.</p>	ARDA, MLAWFRD	04/2024
<p><b>Extension Services Support</b></p> <p>ensure that the rehabilitated schemes that are facing water availability challenges are well reported to the relevant extension offices at central and district level for close guidance and support in terms of water management, cropping patterns optimisation, and irrigation scheduling, to cope with drought and water deficit conditions.</p>	PCU Coordinator, PCU TA, DOI	06/2024
<p><b>Facilitate strong market linkages with private sector</b></p> <p>Organise workshops, meetings, and fairs to showcase the facilities and capabilities of the irrigation schemes to the private sector and facilitate contracting arrangements</p>	PCU, Value Chain, ARDA Business Managers, Zimtrade	06/2024

<p><b>Finalise the handover of the MIS.</b></p> <p>(i) Finalise the development of the MIS user manual; (ii) Finalise the training of District and Provincial Officers on the use of the MIS; and (iii) as part of sustainability, engage SACP to integrate and interface SIRP MIS data and documentation on the SACP MIS.</p>	PCU	06/2024
<p><b>Increase the proportion of high value crops on schemes</b></p> <p>Diversify the range of crops grown at irrigation schemes to include high value crops to improve scheme viability and sustainability.</p>	PCU, Value Chain, ARDA Business Managers.	06/2024
<p><b>Strengthen scheme revolving funds.</b></p> <p>Continue to promote and strengthen scheme Revolving Funds to enable procurement of inputs. Encourage farmers to retain a portion of crop sales proceeds to the revolving fund.</p>	PCU, Value Chain, ARDAS	06/2024
<p><b>Sustainable water resources and drought management</b></p> <p>Support the rehabilitated schemes that are facing water availability challenges (due to design deficiencies, or due to drought) by following up with the relevant extension officers on how to optimize cropping patterns, command area, and irrigation scheduling to cope with potential shortage of water resources.</p>	DoI, PCU TA	
<p><b>Ensure clear disaggregation between first-time trainees and trainees who received refresher courses</b></p> <p>The Logframe should only report first time trainees, while annual report present the total persons trained with first-time trainees clearly disaggregated from those who received refresher courses.</p>	PCU M&E Specialist	
<p><b>Strengthen coordination between all Programme staff and implementing partners</b></p> <p>Ensure concerned parties do not work in silos, and financial reports are shared and discussed on a regular basis so that activities are realistically planned and budgeted for</p>	PCU Project Coordinator	
<p><b>Comply with the IFAD Procurement Procedures</b></p> <p>In order to avoid any ineligible expenditures, it is important to ensure that the PCU receives a "No Objection" before proceeding with any procurement activities. The PCU needs to address all the comments, including the pending ones, and ensure that the NO has been provided by IFAD on all outstanding NOTUS dossiers.</p>	PCU Procurement Officer	
<p><b>Contracts' no cost extensions</b></p> <p>Pro-actively assess the need for no cost extension of specific works' contracts as needed and seek IFAD NO in due time.</p>	PCU, Supervisors, UNOPS	
<p><b>Defects Liability Period and Retention management</b></p> <p>Supervisors of irrigation schemes works, even after project completion - under DOI oversight- to continue ensuring periodic checks on schemes under defects liability period. Ensure that defects are well attended by contractors before the scheme final handover, in particular those defects depicted in the Auditor General Report.</p> <p>For the defects liability periods completing after the project closing date (31/12/2024), the retention fees can be released before the project closing date against bank guarantees to be handed over to DOI.</p>	DOI, PCU, Supervisors	
<b>Development Effectiveness</b>		

<b>Speed up the rolling out GALS to communities with the help of GALS champions</b>	Gender Specialist	06/2021
<b>Include the Environment and Climate Specialist in the UNDP GCF project and SIRP steering committee</b>  Include the Environment and Climate Specialist in the UNDP GCF project and SIRP steering committee to enable strong collaboration and cost sharing on climate and environment related areas	PCU	10/2021
<b>Explore the possibility of additional climate financing from the Adaptation Fund by engaging the focal point and advising IFAD on the way forward</b>  Explore the possibility of additional climate financing from the Adaptation Fund by engaging the focal point and advising IFAD on the way forward	PCU, IFAD Liaison Officer, SIRP Environment and Climate Specialist	10/2021
<b>Expedite implementation in the 11 schemes with awarded contracts</b>  Expedite implementation in the 11 schemes with awarded contracts	DOI	04/2022
<b>Expedite construction of the Multipurpose post-harvest centres</b>  Expedite the construction of the multipurpose post-harvest centres to enable the realisation of related expected outcomes from their utilisation	Dept. Of Mechanisation/PCU	06/2022
<b>Conduct an impact survey on GALS</b>  Conduct an impact survey on GALS	M&E and Social inclusion Specialist	06/2022
<b>Expedite delivery of irrigation infrastructure to catalyse realisation of expected development outcomes</b>  Expedite rehabilitation of 2577ha worth of irrigation infrastructure in order to improve performance of the output to at least 3563ha (64% of end target) by September 2022 and enable realisation of expected outcomes. Ensure tendering of the remaining infrastructure equivalent to 2537Ha is completed by June 2022 and implementation commences immediately	DOI/PCU	09/2022
<b>Finalise implementation of post-harvest activities</b>  Finalise implementation of post-harvest activities that are lagging	Mechanisation	09/2022
<b>Provide the youth support</b>  Provide the youth support towards cost reduction and building economies of scale in order to lower the costs of the solar dryers.	PCU	11/2022
<b>Train ARDA staff</b>  Train ARDA staff in the remaining project period and reduce training for DOI and Agritex staff	PCU	12/2022
<b>Expedite delivery of irrigation infrastructure to realise realisation of expected development outcomes</b>  Expedite rehabilitation of 1370 ha worth of irrigation infrastructure to enable realisation of expected outcomes. Ensure tendering of the remaining infrastructure is completed by January 2022 and implementation commences immediately	DOI	01/2023
<b>Provide mobile training for 300 female youth</b>  Provide mobile training for 300 female youth to allow them to participate	PCU	03/2023

<p><b>Expedite the implementation remaining rehabilitation works</b></p> <p>Expedite the implementation remaining rehabilitation works to allow for the achievement of set target for irrigators</p>	PCU/IPs	06/2023
<p><b>Beneficiary contribution.</b></p> <p>Improve on capturing beneficiary contribution through ARDAS staff who are resident on schemes</p>	PCU/ARDAS	10/2023
<p><b>Beneficiary profiles</b></p> <p>Finalise the collection and registration of beneficiary data and benefits received from the project</p>	M&E/Social Inclusion expert	12/2023
<p><b>Lessons learned.</b></p> <p>Document outcomes, best practices lessons learned on targeting issues to inform other projects</p>	M&E/ Social Inclusion expert	12/2023
<p><b>Collaborate with the UNDP GCF project</b></p> <p>Collaborate with the UNDP GCF project on the provision of weather information to farmers through the SIRP bulk SMS platform.</p>	PCU and UNDP	12/2023
<p><b>Provide certificate of attendance to youth trained under SIRP</b></p> <p>Provide certificates of attendance to youth trained by SIRP</p>	Social inclusion Specialist	04/2024
<p><b>Finalise beneficiary registration</b></p> <p>Finalise registration of beneficiaries and benefits received from the project</p>	M&E Specialist	04/2024
<p><b>Document outcomes, lessons learned and best practice.</b></p> <p>Continue to document outcomes, and share lessons learned and best practices on SIRP's GEWE and gender transformation interventions</p>	Social Inclusion expert	04/2024
<p><b>Create a platform for GALS champions.</b></p> <p>Establish a platform for GALS champions to transfer and exchange knowledge gained through GALS. Provide refresher training for GALS champions</p>	Social Inclusion expert	04/2024
<p><b>Request no-cost extension for NORAD SF grant</b></p> <p>Request a no-cost extension with a new completion date of 30 June 2024 for the NORAD SF grant agreement.</p>	PMU	04/2024
<p><b>Expedite the procurement of youth starter kits and women's labour-saving technology</b></p> <p>Expedite the procurement of youth starter kits and women's labour-saving technology</p>	PMU/IFAD	04/2024
<p><b>Provide virtual training for MLAFWRD and MWACSMED staff.</b></p> <p>Organise a virtual training for MLAFWRD and MWACSMED staff</p>	Social Inclusion expert	05/2024
<p><b>Finalise rehabilitation works on remaining schemes</b></p> <p>Expedite the finalisation rehabilitation of the remaining 880ha</p>	Project Coordinator/Irrigation Engineer TA, DOI	06/2024



<p><b>Reinforce messaging on GAPs</b></p> <p>Reinforce and continue relevant GAP training, with the FFS and Lead Farmer concepts and capacitate extension workers and business managers with the relevant ToT and crop management practices.</p>	ARDAS, PCU Value Chain	06/2024
<p><b>Promote block cropping system</b></p> <p>Continue promoting the block system on all irrigation schemes, as this level of organisation will improve yields and attract contractors and offtakers.</p>	ARDAS, PCU Value Chain	06/2024
<p><b>Collaborate with the UNDP GCF project</b></p> <p>Collaborate with the UNDP and FAO GCF project and GEF 7 on the provision of weather information to farmers and around conservation interventions at irrigation schemes.</p>	PCU, SIRP Environment and Climate Focal Person	06/2024
<p><b>Training on climate proofing</b></p> <p>Training on climate proofing of the project to be strengthened.</p>	PCU, SIRP Environment and Climate Focal Person	06/2024
<p><b>Liaise with MLAWRR and the Meteorology Department:</b></p> <p>Liaise with MLAWRR and the Meteorology Department to strengthen the provision of climate and weather advisories to SIRP farmers, and identify a sustainable financing model for the same</p>	PCU, MLAWRR, Met Department	06/2024
<p><b>Collaborate with the UNDP GCF project</b></p> <p>Collaborate with the UNDP GCF project on the provision of weather information to farmers through the SIRP bulk SMS platform.</p>	PCU and UNDP	06/2024
<p><b>Document best practices and lessons learned for nutrition.</b></p>	PMU	09/2024
<p><b>Accelerate progress at implementation</b></p> <p>Increase focus on results as well as accelerate implementation to attain expected results</p>	PCU	
<b>Sustainability and Scaling up</b>		
<p><b>Initiate Additional Partnerships</b></p> <p>Initiate contact with other potential partners, especially ICRISAT, Specialist suppliers, potential off-takers and financial institutions</p>	PCU, DOI, Agritex and Farmers	01/2020
<p><b>Strengthen partnerships</b></p> <p>Strengthen partnerships through formalising MOU on partnerships for the achievement of project outputs, outcomes and objectives.</p>	PCU	12/2022
<p><b>Define an exit strategy</b></p> <p>Define an exit Strategy and roadmap for ARDA involvement in the schemes</p>	PCU/ARDA	12/2022
<p><b>Calculate scheme OM costs</b></p> <p>Calculate scheme OM costs and establish annual fund targets for each scheme</p>	Agritex/ARDA	12/2022

<p><b>Stakeholder Dialogue Workshops.</b></p> <p>Stakeholder Dialogue Workshops. Conduct dialogue workshops on Water Pricing Policy and Soil and Water Conservation respectively</p>	PCU	12/2023
<p><b>Dissemination of SEA and GRM</b></p> <p>Finalise the dissemination of SEA and GRM to the remaining schemes</p>	ARDAS/DOI	12/2023
<p><b>Lesson learned.</b></p> <p>Provide lesson learned on target group engagement and feedback</p>	M&E	12/2023
<p><b>Link the proposed NRM activities with income generation activities</b></p> <p>Link the proposed NRM activities with income generation activities</p>	PCU	12/2023
<p><b>Carry out supervision and monitoring on a regular basis</b></p> <p>Carry out supervision and monitoring on a regular basis to assess performance of the farmers in natural resource management and give guidance on how to go about it.</p>	PCU	12/2023
<p><b>Elaborate on the distribution of project assets in exit strategy</b></p> <p>Elaborate on the distribution of project assets in exit strategy</p>	PCU/MLAFWRD	12/2023
<p><b>Document lessons learnt, and best practices on Keyhole gardens, GALS and Lead farmer approach</b></p> <p>Document lessons learnt, and best practices on Keyhole gardens, GALS and Lead farmer approach</p>	PCU	12/2023
<p><b>Stakeholder policy dialogue workshops.</b></p> <p>Finalise the outstanding policy dialogue workshops under Component 1 and 2 and document outcomes</p>	PMU	04/2024
<p><b>Regularise PPP partnerships.</b></p> <p>Ensure that all PPP contracts are regularised with MLAFWRD</p>	SIRP Value Chain expert	04/2024
<p><b>Engage Zimtrade for partnership.</b></p> <p>Facilitate linkages with Zimtrade and other private fresh produce exporting companies that have access to guaranteed markets in the region ensuring compliance with GAP requirements.</p>	SIRP Value Chain expert	04/2024
<p><b>Finalise training on PHM, NRM and FAAB</b></p> <p>Finalise training on PHM, NRM and FAAB</p>	Value Chain Specialist ARDAS, Mechanisation, AMA	04/2024
<p><b>Document the beneficiary feedback and include it in the M&amp;E System</b></p> <p>Document the beneficiary feedback and include it in the M&amp;E System</p>	M&E Specialist	04/2024
<p><b>Disseminate the GRM</b></p> <p>Raise awareness of beneficiaries on the GRM mainstreaming in all the training</p>	Social Inclusion expert	04/2024

<p><b>Engage the contractors to address outstanding work.</b></p> <p>Engage contractors to finalise the outstanding as highlighted in the Value for Money Audit</p>	Irrigation Engineer TA, DOI	04/2024
<p><b>Identify and document innovative areas for scaling up</b></p> <p>Identify and document innovative areas for scaling up</p>	Project Coordinator	04/2024
<p><b>Engage Knowledge and Policy Partners</b></p> <p>Work with knowledge and policy partners to share draw lessons learned and best practices on SIRP interventions</p>	SIRP KM Specialist	05/2024
<p><b>Document lessons learned and best practices.</b></p> <p>Document lessons learned and best practices on human social capital and empowerment.</p>	Value chain Specialist	05/2024
<p><b>Engage private sector marketing companies for uptake of produce.</b></p> <p>Arrange value chain platform meeting to link farmers with markets</p>	VC specialist	05/2024
<p><b>Complementary interventions List</b></p> <p>Prepare a list of complementary interventions specific to each irrigation scheme developed to be integrated in the project exit strategy along with estimated costs. Such interventions are intended to prepare a basis for future enhancement of schemes functionality and sustainability and should include, but not limited to those activities dropped due to budget restrictions.</p>	PCU TA	05/2024
<p><b>Document best practices and lessons learned.</b></p> <p>Document best practices and lessons learned on lead farmer approach, GALS, water use efficiency and biofortification</p>	M&E Specialist	05/2024
<p><b>Conservation works run concurrent with infrastructure works:</b></p> <p>Conservation works should run concurrent with such activities as land clearance to avoid and chances of land degradation.</p>	PCU, SIRP Environment and Climate Focal Person	06/2024
<p><b>Contribute to national policy dialogues on ENRM:</b></p> <p>Contribute to national policy dialogues on ENRM through evidence sharing on what works well and where</p>	PCU	06/2024
<p><b>Follow more structured approach:</b></p> <p>Follow more structured approach to ensure proposed NRM interventions are linked with income generation activities to provide livelihood alternatives to farmers</p>	PCU	06/2024
<p><b>Irrigation Schemes O&amp;M</b></p> <p>Continue ensuring that irrigation system-specific O&amp;M manuals and O&amp;M trainings are delivered to the beneficiaries as soon as works are completed. Particular focus should be on those schemes equipped with centre pivot systems. DOI provincial/district engineers to fill the capacity gaps after project closing, as needed.</p>	DOI, PCU TA, Supervisors	12/2024
<p><b>Continue to build partnerships to realise the objectives of the programme</b></p> <p>Continue to build partnerships to realise the objectives of the programme</p>	PCU	

<p><b>Contribute to national policy dialogues on ENRM through evidence sharing on what works where</b></p> <p>Contribute to national policy dialogues on ENRM through evidence sharing on what works where</p>	PCU	
<b>Project Management</b>		
<p><b>Prepare a clear strategy of how the ESMPs will be implemented within the structure of the project, including budgetary provisions</b></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><b>Initiate and finalise the Secondment of an Assistant KM &amp; Communications Officer</b></p>	PCU	12/2020
<p><b>Recruit a part time KM Specialist to oversee implementation of the KM strategy in addition to the M&amp;E officer</b></p>	PCU	03/2021
<p><b>Expedite procurement of contractors for remaining irrigation works</b></p> <p>Ensure that the remaining irrigation works are contracted before commencement of the 2022/2023 production season.</p>	PCU/DOI	06/2022
<p><b>Secondment of Finance Officer.</b></p> <p>The programme continues to experience weak capacity in procurement and financial management which is negatively affecting programme implementation. To address these concerns, it is recommended that the Government considers seconding a Finance Officer at their own expense to support the SIRP programme until its closure.</p>	Government	11/2023
<p><b>Programme Offices.</b></p> <p>The current state of the Programme Offices is far from adequate, significantly hindering the Programme team's ability to carry out their routine activities effectively. Persistent power cuts and frequent internet connectivity issues pose serious challenges, disrupting daily operations. Moreover, the absence of high-quality office facilities compels the Programme Team to work from home, exacerbating the situation and resulting in substantial issues. We strongly recommend that the Government takes immediate action to enhance the quality of these structures. Establishing a well-equipped workspace is crucial to foster a conducive environment for the Programme, free from the disruptions caused by intermittent services.</p>	Government	12/2023
<p><b>Government considers seconding a Finance Officer at their own expense to support the SIRP programme until its closure</b></p> <p>As also indicated in the past missions, the programme continues to experience weak capacity in procurement and financial management which is negatively affecting programme implementation. To address these concerns, it is recommended that the Government considers seconding a Finance Officer at their own expense to support the SIRP programme until its closure.</p>	PS, Project Coordinator, PCU	04/2024
<p><b>PMU to proactively engage with UNOPS to discuss a no-cost extension</b></p> <p>The PMU to proactively engage with UNOPS to discuss a no-cost extension of the contract and explore opportunities for increased support within the legal boundaries of the ongoing agreement. This extension would align the contract's duration with the SIRP Project Completion Date, ensuring continuous support and maintaining momentum in project execution.</p>	Project Coordinator	04/2024

<p><b>Finalise policy dialogue and documentation on biofortification.</b></p> <p>(i) Develop a knowledge report on the discussions and agreements of the biofortification policy dialogue event; (ii) disseminate this knowledge report to development partners and relevant policy stakeholders.</p>	SIRP KM Specialist/PCU	04/2024
<p><b>Value for money audit</b></p> <p>Project should ensure all the outstanding issues from audit reviews are satisfactory concluded for successful closeout of the project. Project should develop a comprehensive action plan for all outstanding issues and follow their closure. Any questioned amounts not substantiated will be considered as potentially ineligible payments.</p>	Project Coordinator, Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Package Knowledge Products for Completion Process</b></p> <p>Prepare lessons learnt and disseminate them during final workshop  Compile and package key take away messages for different stakeholder groups. Disseminate these in innovative forms relevant to the respective stakeholder groups. e.g., Government- Policy Briefs; Beneficiaries- Illustrated Poster Chats in local languages; Local Leaders- Booklets etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translate any beneficiary relevant knowledge products produced during the life of the project into the two main local languages and disseminate these in the project area (to Rural District Councils, Village Headmen, and Beneficiary groups)</li> </ul>	M&E Specialist and Knowledge Management Assistant	05/2024
<p><b>Development of PCR Terms of Reference.</b></p> <p>In close collaboration with IFAD, develop and finalise detailed ToRs for the Programme Completion mission and report in line with the IFAD completion guidelines and methodology.</p>	IFAD, PCU	05/2024
<p><b>Completion workshop</b></p> <p>Organise final stakeholder workshop</p>	M&E Specialist and Knowledge Management Assistant	06/2024
<p><b>Carry out Final Verification of Project Data.</b></p> <p>Verify all project data before the Final Impact assessment is undertaken. Harmonise approaches in data tracking with Technical Officers and ensure no discrepancies exist in the data on the system</p>	M&E Specialist	06/2024
<p><b>Finalise the development, packaging and dissemination of best practices and lessons.</b></p> <p>In preparation of the project completion and sustainability, SIRP should develop and package documentation of best practice before completion. The following should be completed: (i) finalisation of the recruitment of a KM Consultant; (ii) Submission of draft report to stakeholders for peer review and comments; (iii) finalisation and dissemination of documentation in preparation for discussion on the way forward at the project stakeholders' workshop.</p>	SIRP KM Specialist/PCU	06/2024
<p><b>Ensure the finalisation of the endline survey and report</b></p> <p>(i) finalise procurement of the Service Provider; (ii) Submit inception report for IFAD peer review; (iii) Submit draft report and submit to IFAD for peer review; (iii) Finalise and disseminate final report to all stakeholders.</p>	SIRP M&E Specialist/ PCU	06/2024

<p><b>Fully update the MIS and ORMS LF data in preparation for completion mission.</b></p> <p>Update the Programme MIS and ORMS logframe with latest data and ensure that up to date programme indicator results data and annual outcome survey reports.</p>	SIRP M&E Specialist/PCU	06/2024
<p><b>Update ORMS IFAD logframe.</b></p> <p>In preparation for completion, fully update, validate, and upload the ORMS logframe.</p>	SIRP M&E Specialist/IFAD	06/2024
<p><b>Strengthen ESSF, ESMPs and NRM Plans:</b></p> <p>Further cascade the trainings on the Safeguard instruments that have been developed (ESSF, ESMPs, NRM Plans) down to the farmers and ensure that they implement them.</p>	PCU, SIRP Environment and Climate Focal Person	06/2024
<p><b>Formalise the Grievance Redress Mechanism:</b></p> <p>Improve the project GRM to include the communal based component and proper grievance reception mechanisms. Train farmers on the formal GRM, help them establish GRM Committees and start implementing the improved project GRM.</p>	PCU, SIRP Environment and Climate Focal Person	06/2024
<p><b>The PMU to continue holding weekly meetings with the UNOPS and IFAD Team to discuss and track the progress of the project.</b></p> <p>The PMU to continue holding weekly meetings with the UNOPS and IFAD Team to discuss and track the progress of the project.</p>	Project Coordinator	
<p><b>Regularly utilize the tracking tool that extends beyond infrastructure activities</b></p> <p>Regularly utilize the tracking tool that extends beyond infrastructure activities and that encompass all remaining activities across the various components of the project. This will ensure thorough monitoring of progress in every aspect of the project and enable timely interventions as needed.</p>	Project Coordinator, PCU	
<b>Financial Management &amp; Execution</b>		
<p><b>Contract Management.</b></p> <p>Review all ongoing Works contracts and accurately determine completion periods as per approved Works programmes, and where necessary process Extension of Time. Ensure valid performance securities and insurances as per contract.</p>	Procurement Specialist	10/2023
<p><b>Processing of Procurement Activities.</b></p> <p>Obtain internal approvals wherever processing activities, and document procurement decisions appropriately. Allow for Bank Guarantees in exchange of withheld sums for the Defects Liability Periods beyond project completion. Where necessary, pending Bank Guarantees at project completion to be amended and have DoI as the beneficiary.</p>	Procurement Specialist	12/2023

<p><b>Remedial Works.</b></p> <p>Considering that project resources have been exhausted, the investment in Mbembeswana will be undertaken only when Government provides written commitment to IFAD to provide funding from Government resources. The procurement of the Works can commence with initial stages, pending Notice of Intention to Award stage, until funds are availed from Government. The commitment from Government to also cover payment for any scope of Work beyond contract completion period. PP and AWPB will be revised to indicate this arrangement.</p>	PCU	12/2023
<p><b>Financial records for farmers irrigation schemes at provinces</b></p> <p>Monthly bank reconciliations for schemes should be conducted in compliance with the project implementation manual. Further, cash counts should be carried out to determine the authenticity of cash balances in the presence of Senior Management.</p>	PCU Finance Manager	12/2023
<p><b>Procurement of Livestock and poultry in provinces where they are to be delivered.</b></p> <p>Livestock and poultry should be procured within the provinces they are to be delivered to reduce fatal animal stress. Farmers should also be trained on how to keep livestock before the livestock are delivered to them.</p>	PCU Finance Manager	12/2023
<p><b>Daily backups for automated system</b></p> <p>There should be daily backups done for all system of the entity.</p>	PCU Finance Manager	12/2023
<p><b>Farmers contributions</b></p> <p>Follow-up with farmers that are not paying their beneficiary contributions as required by the Financing Agreement.</p>	PCU Finance Manager	12/2023
<p><b>Compliance with regulations and guidelines.</b></p> <p>Consistently adhere to National Regulations and IFAD Guidelines and procedures regarding appointment of tender evaluation panels, declaration of conflict of interest and confidentiality, Contractor and Supplier Self-Certification, and in obtaining the contractor/supplier acknowledgement of Local Purchase Orders</p>	PCU Coordinator, Procurement Officer	03/2024
<p><b>Accelerate the conclusion of the key procurement processes and ensure that awards take into consideration the remaining duration.</b></p>	Procurement Officer	03/2024
<p><b>Timely payment of contractor's interim certificates.</b></p>	PCU Coordinator; Director DOI	03/2024
<p><b>Mbembeswana and Malikango Irrigation schemes</b></p> <p>Negotiate and seek IFAD approval for new contracts for Mbembeswana and Malikango Irrigation schemes to facilitate the completion of pending works.</p>	PCU Coordinator; Procurement Officer	03/2024
<p><b>DSA Claims</b></p> <p>Prepare and send out a Memo to all implementing agencies and key staff that have been involved in project implementation to requests all staff with outstanding claims to be submitted within 14 days of activities implementation. Any prior DSA claims that would not be processed within the 14 days period would not be eligible for payments. Subsequently, there should be track of a travel authorisation who DSA claims are yet to be made so as have accurate status of payables.</p>	Project Coordinator, Project Accountant	04/2024

<p><b>Assets handover</b></p> <p>Resubmit an assets handover plan for all SIRP assets to IFAD for review and clearance.</p>	Project Coordinator	04/2024
<p><b>IMTT Charges</b></p> <p>Reversal of IMTT charges should be pursued with the bank promptly, at least on a monthly basis after every bank reconciliation review.</p>	Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>External audit reporting</b></p> <p>Ensure the ToRs for the audit is revised to reflect the accurate audit scope for the final audit and submission of the final audit report. It was agreed the project would have the final audit report submitted within four months after completion, ahead of the 6 months submission timelines.</p>	Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Settlement of VAT in USD</b></p> <p>Continue engaging MOFED/ZIMRA to agree on the change in the policy with regards to payment of VAT in USD by contractors/suppliers for SIRP, or to provide VAT exemption. (Action already recommended in 2021 supervision and not implemented)</p>	PCU Coordinator/Chief Accountant/MOFED/ZIMRA	04/2024
<p><b>Taxes paid (IMTT), ineligibles expenses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obtain from GoZ the refund of IMTT unduly paid on IFAD funded activities since February 2022</li> <li>- Refund IFAD for IMTT unduly paid through WAs.</li> </ul> <p>Extended deadline</p>	PCU Coordinator/Chief Accountant/MOFED/ZIMRA	04/2024
<p><b>Adequate beneficiary contribution</b></p> <p>Follow-up and stimulate provision of beneficiary cash and in-kind contribution, by adequate planning into AWPB 2022 and 2023 to reach project investment target by completion date.</p> <p>Extended deadline</p>	PCU	04/2024
<p><b>Project completion and closeout preparation.</b></p> <p>Prepare a schedule of winding up activities and submit to IFAD for approval. Except for winding up activities, all other activities should be finalized by the completion date to avoid having ineligible expenditure.</p> <p>Extended deadline</p>	Finance Manager	04/2024
<p><b>Regular recording of in-kind contribution</b></p> <p>Ensure the data on realized in-kind contribution is regularly recorded, at least on quarterly basis. The uncollected data should be gathered immediately and recorded.</p> <p>Extended deadline</p>	Project Coordinator	04/2024
<p><b>Recording of advances and retention in the accounting system</b></p> <p>The finance team should ensure the advances recoverable and retention money payable are also tracked from the accounting system so as to have additional oversight in the financial system including ageing analysis. Financial reports and IFRs should include a schedule of outstanding advances to be recovered and retention money to be paid.</p> <p>Extended deadline</p>	Finance Manager	04/2024



<p><b>Ineligible expenditure paid/recorded</b></p> <p>Make refunds of ineligible expenditure of USD 4,548.81 related to VAT that were paid from IFAD. The erroneous double recording of USD 36,114.38 made in December 2022 and included in justifications to IFAD should also be adjusted in both the accounting system and ICP. There should be keen analysis of financial reports to pick-out any errors that could have been made.</p> <p>Extended deadline</p>	Finance Manager	04/2024
<p><b>Assets.</b></p> <p>Prepare an assets handover plan for all SIRP assets and submit to IFAD for review and clearance.</p> <p>Revisions and resubmission was requested</p>	Project Coordinator	04/2024
<p><b>Financial records for farmers irrigation schemes at provinces</b></p> <p>Monthly bank reconciliations for schemes should be conducted in compliance with the project implementation manual. Further, cash counts should be carried out to determine the authenticity of cash balances in the presence of Senior Management.</p>	PCU Finance Manager	04/2024
<p><b>Farmers contributions</b></p> <p>Follow-up with farmers that are not paying their beneficiary contributions as required by the Financing Agreement.</p>	PCU Finance Manager	04/2024
<p><b>winding up activities schedule</b></p> <p>Prepare a winding up activities schedule and submit to IFAD for no-objection/clearance. Except for winding up activities, all other activities should be finalized by the completion date to avoid having ineligible expenditure.</p>	Project Coordinator, SIRP Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Counterpart Disbursement</b></p> <p>Liaise with the Ministry of Finance to ensure there is timely disbursements of Counterpart financing from the Government for timely payments of activities earmarked to be processed under Counterpart financing among them the VAT payments for contractors.</p>	Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Recording In-kind Contribution</b></p> <p>The uncollected data on in-kind contribution should be gathered immediately and recorded. Ensure the data on realized in-kind contribution is regularly recorded, at least on quarterly basis</p>	PM - SIRP	04/2024
<p><b>Compensation of project vehicle</b></p> <p>Follow-up on immediate finalization of compensation for the vehicle. If cash compensations is pursued, the funds would further need to be utilized on project activities and if not would be refunded to IFAD.</p>	Project Coordinator	04/2024
<p><b>Ineligible Expenditure</b></p> <p>Make refunds of ineligible expenditure of USD 4,548.81 related to VAT that were paid from IFAD. For the VAT payments to China Geo, it was noted there are upcoming payment in which deductions will be made to recover the amounts paid out.</p>	Project Coordinator, Project Accountant	04/2024

<p><b>Vehicles log books</b></p> <p>Vehicle log books should be adequately reviewed and signed for verifications by Administration officer. The review before any additional fuel coupons are issued, should also include checking that fuel consumption is within the standard rate of 1 Litre for 10 Kilometers for ordinary project vehicles.</p>	Administration Officer.	04/2024
<p><b>Payments supporting documents</b></p> <p>The Payment vouchers should always be supported with original documents. In terms of payments for contracted services, all payments supporting documents after contracts are made should be included in payment voucher with other documents held by procurement teams.</p>	Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Preparation of IFRs</b></p> <p>Keenly prepare and review draft IFRs to ensure submission to IFAD do not have errors that have been recurring and leading to back and forth in IFRs clearance process.</p>	Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Outstanding audit issues</b></p> <p>Project should ensure all the outstanding issues from audit reviews would need to be satisfactory concluded for successful closeout of the project. Project should develop a comprehensive action plan for all outstanding issues and follow their closure. Any questioned amounts not substantiated will be considered as potentially ineligible payments.</p>	Project Coordinator, Project Accountant	04/2024
<p><b>Management of ongoing contracts</b></p> <p>Closely monitor and manage the following contracts to ensure timely completion and delivery of goods, works and services by June 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) contract for the rehabilitation of Mbembeswana Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS N00018867);</li> <li>ii) contract for the rehabilitation Chemakudo Irrigation Scheme (N00018872),</li> <li>iii) contract for the rehabilitation of Machena Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N000188789);</li> <li>iv) the contract for the rehabilitation of Old Biri Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00013932);</li> <li>v) the contract for the rehabilitation of Rustler's Gorge Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00019098) and vi) contract for the rehabilitation of Romsley Lot 2 irrigation scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00013930)</li> <li>vii) contract for the rehabilitation of Gudo smallholder irrigation scheme (OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233--0031-W-NS);</li> <li>viii) contract for the NORAD endline survey (OPEN dossier ZWE-20000001233-0043-CS-LCS).</li> </ul>	PCU Coordinator, Procurement Officer	06/2024
<p><b>Ongoing works</b></p> <p>For works that may not be feasible to complete prior to the completion date, obtain commitment from Government to cover obligations that may be outstanding beyond the completion date.</p>	PCU Coordinator; Director DOI	06/2024

## Zimbabwe

---

### Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

### Supervision Report

### : Logical Framework

Mission Dates: 11/03/2024 to 22/03/2024

Document Date: 02/05/2024

Project No. 2000001233

Report No. 6840-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 (2024)	Cumulative Result (2024)	Cumulative Result % (2024)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
<b>Outreach</b>	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	8 232	201 960	135.771				
	1.a Corresponding number of households reached							M&E system	Annually	M&E officer	
	Women-headed households	0	3 630	9 900	576	13 756	138.9				
	Non-women-headed households	0	2 420	17 600	796	19 904	113.1				
	Households	0	6 050	27 500	1 372	33 660	122.4				
	1 Persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project							Progress reports	Annual	MAMID PDU	
	Males	0	4 125	13 750	577	13 719	99.8				
	Females	0	4 125	13 750	795	19 941	145				
	Young		825	8 250	199	5 894	71.4				
Total number of persons receiving services	0	8 250	27 500	1 372	33 660	122.4					
<b>Project Goal</b> Rural households achieve food and nutrition security and are resilient to climate change effects and economic shocks in the programme districts	Improved nutrition, knowledge, attitude and practices (households)							completion survey	Baseline, MTR, and completion	M&E officer	Macro-economic stability (A)
	% of women reporting improved quality of their diets. - Percentage (%)			60	0	62.3	103.833				
	Improved household assets ownership index (RIMS)							Baseline, MTR and completion surveys	Baseline, MTR, and completion	M&E officer	
	Household assets ownership	49	54	64	0	50.3	78.6				
	Households reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices							M&E system	Annual	M&E officer	
	Household	51.5	61	61	0	49	80.3				

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2024)	Cumulative Result (2024)	Cumulative Result % (2024)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
<b>Development Objective</b> 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	3	9	12	0	7	58.333				
	Income in SIRP supported schemes and adjacent rainfed areas							ZIMVAC, ZNSA	Baseline, MTR, and completion	M&E officer	
	Annual household income	1 337	1 500	2 500	0	820	32.8				
<b>Outcome</b> 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)		20	75	9	83	110.667				
<b>Output</b> 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	5 202.2	463	4 320	83.042				
<b>Output</b> 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	5 000	7 626	63	7 863	103.108				
	Men trained		2 500	3 813	32	3 231	84.736				
	Women trained		2 500	3 813	31	4 632	121.479				
	Young trained		500	1 500	8	927	61.8				
	Non-young trained		4 500	6 126	55	6 581	107.427				
<b>Output</b> 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	0	440	176				
	Males	0	164	165	0	286	173.333				
	Females	0	85	85	0	154	181.176				
<b>Outcome</b> 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)	1.9	5	5	0	3.7	74				

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2024)	Cumulative Result (2024)	Cumulative Result % (2024)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
	Beans MT/ha	0.88	1.75	1.75	0	2.3	131.429				
	Tomato MT/ha	12.5	30	30	0	12.96	43.2				
	Maize rainfed MT/ha	0.5	1	1	0	1.4	140				
	Sorghum rainfed MT/ha	0.33	1.4	1	0	1.19	119				
	Groundnut rainfed MT/ha	0.37	1	1	0	1.81	181				
	1.2.4 Households reporting an increase in production							Progress reports; AOS; IMC records	Annually	M&E officer/AGRITEX	
	Total number of household members	0	24 750	82 500	0	122 988	149.1				
	Households	0	15	50	0	68.5	137				
	Women-headed households	0	2 063	6 875	0	6 764	98.4				
	Households	0	4 125	13 750	0	20 498	149.1				
	1.2.2 Households reporting adoption of new/improved inputs, technologies or practices							Progress reports; AOS; IMC records	Annually	M&E officer/AGRITEX	
	Total number of household members	0	24 750	82 500	0	139 506	169.1				
	Households	0	15	50	0	77.7	155.4				
	Women-headed households	0	15	50	0	7 673	15 346				
	Households	0	6 875	13 750	0	23 251	169.1				
<b>Output</b> 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
	Men trained in crop	0	4 125	13 750	577	12 465	90.655				
	Women trained in crop	0	4 125	13 750	795	18 831	136.953				
	Young people trained in crop	0	825	6 250	305	3 530	56.48				
	Total persons trained in crop	0	8 250	27 500	1 372	31 296	113.804				
<b>Outcome</b> 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	0	20	50	0	20.9	41.8				

Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2024)	Cumulative Result (2024)	Cumulative Result % (2024)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
	Households reporting improved physical access to processing facilities	0	20	50	0	0	0				
	Households reporting improved physical access to storage facilities	0	20	50	0	0	0				
<b>Output</b> 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
	Males		3 800	13 750	346	10 001	72.735				
	Females		3 800	13 750	714	15 569	113.229				
	Young		760	6 250	131	3 798	60.768				
	Persons trained in IGAs or BM (total)	0	7 600	27 500	1 060	25 570	92.982				
<b>Output</b> 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	3	7	0	3	42.857				
	Storage facilities constructed/rehabilitated	0	3	7	0	3	42.857				
<b>Output</b> 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	0	1 070	214				
	Number of Government staff trained - male	0	400	400	0	565	141.25				
	Number of Government staff trained - female		100	100	0	505	505				
<b>Outcome</b> Outcome 2 c: Percentage of women, 15-49 years of age, who consume at least 5 out of 10 food groups (MDD-W)	1.2.8 Women reporting minimum dietary diversity (MDDW)										
	Women (%)			60	0	62	103.333				
	Women (number)			13 750	0	10 642	77.396				
	Households (%)			50	0	62	124				
	Households (number)			13 750	0	10 642	77.396				
	Household members			82 500	0	63 852	77.396				



Results Hierarchy	Indicators							Means of Verification			Assumptions
	Name	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Annual Result (2024)	Cumulative Result (2024)	Cumulative Result % (2024)	Source	Frequency	Responsibility	
	Women-headed households			4 950	0	4 469	90.283				
<b>Output</b> Output 2.1 c: Number of persons provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition	1.1.8 Households provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition										
	Total persons participating			27 500	263	25 242	91.789				
	Males			13 750	135	9 714	70.647				
	Females			13 750	128	15 528	112.931				
	Households			27 500	263	25 242	91.789				
	Household members benefitted			137 500	1 578	151 452	110.147				
	Young			6 250	72	3 551	56.816				
	Number of farmers participating in demonstration plots on cooking/feeding										
	Number of farmers participating in demonstration plots on cooking/feeding - men	0	347	2 500	0	3 835	153.4				
	Number of farmers participating in demonstration plots on cooking/feeding -women	0	923	10 000	0	7 208	72.1				
Number of farmers participating in demonstration plots on cooking/feeding - participants _Total number of people	0	1 270	12 500	0	11 043	88.3					
<b>Output</b> Output 2.3 d: Enhance the capacity of youth to start their micro-enterprises in the target area	Number of youths who received vocational trading							Progress reports	Baseline, midline, completion	AGRITEX	
	Number of youths who received vocational trading			2 000	0	2 364	118.2				
	Young Male			1 000	0	1 254	125.4				
	Young Female			1 000	0	1 110	111				

## Zimbabwe

---

### Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

### Supervision Report

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

Mission Dates: 11/03/2024 to 22/03/2024

Document Date: 02/05/2024

Project No. 2000001233

Report No. 6840-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division  
Programme Management Department



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

Table 1A: Financial performance by financier

<b>FINANCIER:</b>	<b>Appraisal</b>	<b>Disbursement</b>	<b>Percent disbursed</b>
	<b>(USD 000)</b>	<b>(USD 000)</b>	<b>%</b>
IFAD Grant	25,500	20,578	81%
OFID Loan	15,000	12,463	83%
Government	7,985	4,506	56%
Beneficiaries	3,280	793	24%
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT</b>	<b>51,765</b>	<b>38,340</b>	<b>74%</b>
NORAD Grant	456	456	100%
<b>Other Financing to SIRP</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 1B: Financial performance by financier by component (USD '000)**

COMPONENT:	IFAD Grant			OFID			Government			Beneficiaries			TOTAL		
	Appraisal (USD 000)	Actual (USD 000)	%	Appraisal (USD 000)	Actual (USD 000)	%	Appraisal (USD 000)	Actual (USD 000)	%	Appraisal (USD 000)	Actual (USD 000)	%	Appraisal (USD 000)	Actual (USD 000)	%
<b>Sustainable smallholder irrigation development</b>	<b>10,173</b>	<b>9,190</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>13,808</b>	<b>12,264</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>4,732</b>	<b>1,987</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>30,951</b>	<b>24,234</b>	<b>78%</b>
1.1 scheme selection and rehabilitation	7,211	8,017	111%	13,808	12,264	89%	3,693	1,769	48%				24,712	22,050	89%
1.2 improved smallholder irrigation management	1,483	552	37%				635	41	6%	2,238.0	793	35%	4,356	1,386	32%
1.3 enhance institutional capacity for irrigation dev.	1,479	621	42%				404	177	44%				1,883	798	42%
<b>Climate smart agriculture and market access</b>	<b>12,136</b>	<b>5,255</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>2,327</b>	<b>852.0</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>1,042</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>16,697</b>	<b>6,425</b>	<b>38%</b>
2.1 enhanced agri-practices and farmers org. capacity	4,989	2,666	53%		165		495	218	44%	182.0		0%	5,666	3,049	54%
2.2 market access and rural finance service	4,314	1,321	31%	1,192	153	13%	595	122	21%	860.0		0%	6,961	1,596	23%
2.3 enhanced instit. capacity for market-led agriculture	2,833	1,269	45%				1,237	512	41%				4,070	1,781	44%
<b>Project Management</b>	<b>3,191</b>	<b>4,238</b>	<b>133%</b>				<b>926</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>80%</b>				<b>4,117</b>	<b>4,977</b>	<b>121%</b>
<b>SUB-TOTAL (programme expenditure)</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>18,683</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>12,582</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>7,985</b>	<b>3,578</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>3,280</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>51,765</b>	<b>35,636</b>	<b>69%</b>
		0													
		0												0	
<b>TOTAL (disbursement)</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>20,578</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>12,582</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>7,985</b>	<b>3,578</b>	<b>44.8%</b>	<b>3,280</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>51,765</b>	<b>35,636</b>	<b>69%</b>

**Table 1C: IFAD Grant No. 200001640- disbursement**

	<b>CATEGORY:</b>	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation	Expenditure	WAs pending	Balance*	% Expenditure*
		<i>(USD 000)</i>	<i>(USD 000)</i>	<i>(USD 000)</i>	<i>(USD 000)</i>	<i>(USD 000)</i>	
1	Works	5,992	10,983	9,019	0.0	1,964	82%
2	Consultancies	4,111	4,614	4,491	0.0	123	97%
3	Goods, Services, Inputs	4,877	2,927	2,953	0.0	-26	101%
4	Operating costs	1,951	1,551	1,595	0.0	-44	103%
5	Salaries and allowances	1,672	2,169	1,982	0.0	186	91%
6	Training	4,389	3,257	2,889	0.0	368	89%
7	Unallocated	2,508	0			0	
				0		0	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>25,500</b>	<b>22,928</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,572</b>	<b>89.9%</b>
	* Excluding WAs to be issued			2572.2			

**Table 1C: OFID Grant 12878P - disbursement (USD 000)**

<b>CATEGORY:</b>	Original Allocation	Revised Allocation	Disbursed	WAs pending	Balance*	% Disb*
	<i>(USD 000)</i>	<i>(USD 000)</i>	<i>(USD 000)</i>	<i>(USD 000)</i>	<i>(USD 000)</i>	
Works - COMPONENT A	14,390	14,390	12,264	1,869	2,126	85%
Consultancies - COMPONENT B	610	610	199	0	411	33%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>12,463</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>83%</b>

## Zimbabwe

---

### Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

### Supervision Report

### Appendix 2: Physical progress measured against AWP&B

Mission Dates: 11/03/2024 to 22/03/2024

Document Date: 02/05/2024

Project No. 2000001233

Report No. 6840-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division  
Programme Management Department





## Appendix 2: Physical progress measured against AWP&B

Component/Outcome Sub-component or Output	Indicator	Unit	Period: 2016 to March 2024			Cumulative Actual	Appraisal Target	Revised Target	%
			AWP&B	Actual	%				
<b>Component 1</b>									
<i>Output 1.1 a: Small-scale irrigation schemes revitalized</i>	Number of hectares of farmland under water-related infrastructure constructed/rehabilitated	ha	1342	463	35	4320	6100	5202	83
	Number of feasibility studies conducted	ha	0	0	0	6914	9000	7000	99
	Number of irrigation schemes constructed/rehabilitated	Number	0	0	0	48	125	60	80
<i>Output 1.2 a: Irrigators and their WUOs obtain knowledge in efficient irrigation management</i>	Number of irrigators trained in irrigation management	Irrigators	2945	70	2	7863	15000	8161	96
		men	1472	37	3	3231	7500	4081	79
		women	1473	33	2	4632	7500	4080	114
		youth (30%)	884	8	1	927	4500	2448	38
	Number of WUOs supported	WUO	5	0	0	55	700	60	92
		Members	145	17	12	1669	15000	700	238
		men	72	11	15	834	7500	350	238
		women	73	6	8	835	7500	350	239
		youth	44	0	0	139	4500	210	66
	Number of youths trained and provided with starter kits	Number	0	0	0	400	1000	500	80
	Number of youths receiving vocational training on irrigation equipment repair and maintenance	Total youth	25	0	0	757	1000	500	151
		Male	12	0	0	546	500	250	218
Female		13	0	0	211	500	250	84	
Value of beneficiary contributions	USD/million	520200	0	0	1385556	2633000	2245391	62	
<i>Output 1.3 b: Enhanced capacity in Gov. staff on irrigation service delivery</i>	Number of Government staff trained in irrigation and O&M selected topics	Total persons	0	0	0	440	500	250	176
		Male	0	0	0	286	250	125	229
		Female	0	0	0	154	250	125	123
<b>Component 2</b>									
<i>Output 2.1 a: Strengthened capacity of farmers and their organizations</i>	Number of FFS established	Number	52	0	0	127	210	100	127
	Number of rainfed farmers trained ( FFS , GAPS, CSA) new	Total persons	0	1279	100	23634	12500	19339	122
		men	0	442	100	9118	6250	9670	94
		women	0	837	100	14516	6250	9690	150
	youth	0	281	100	3256	3750	5802	56	

	Number of irrigation scheme agriculture committees trained	Total persons	81	137	169	835	910	462	181
		men	40	57	143	417	450	231	181
		women	41	80	195	418	450	231	181
		youth	24	10	42	68	273	139	49
	Number of farmers trained on GAPS irrigation schemes	persons	800	656	82	8804	15250	8161	108
		men	400	381	95	3869	7625	4081	95
		women	400	275	69	4935	7625	4080	121
		youth	240	78	33	928	4575	2448	38
	Field days/ Exchange	visits	28	12	43	67	200	96	70%
	Number of Committee Members trained on NRM	Total persons	35	11	31	1775	2500	1200	148
		men	15	8	53	666	1250	600	111
		women	17	3	18	1109	1250	600	185
		youth	11	2	18	266	750	360	74
	Number of NRM plans developed	Number	0	0	0	53	125	60	88
	Number of farmers trained in greater scheme area on NRM	Total persons	1257	1078	86	19048	10000	19339	98
		men	628	368	59	7736	5000	9670	80
		women	629	710	113	11312	5000	9690	117
		youth	377	221	59	3002	3000	5802	52
	Number of Natural Resource Management Facilities (small projects) established	Number	0	0	0	9	125	9	100
	Number of income generating (High Impact ) projects supported by the NRMF	Number	0	0	0	8	15	8	100
	Number of farmers supported by the NRMF	Total persons	0	0	0	2511	4000	2136	118
		men	0	0	0	826	2000	1068	77
		women	0	0	0	1685	2000	1068	158
		youth	0	0	0	412	400	441	93
	Exchange visits (NRM)	Number	13	9	69	36	40	40	90
	Number of demonstrations on cooking/feeding	demo	18	0	0	94,0	125	60	157
	Number of farmers participating in cooking/feeding	Total persons	1678		0	4322	12500	6000	72
		men (10%)	168	0	0	1045	1250	3000	35
		women(90%)	1510	0	0	3277	11250	3000	109
		youth	503	0	0	851	3750	1800	47
	Number of demonstrations for nutrition gardens	Number of demos	0	0	0	89	125	60	148

	Number of farmers participating in demo plots on nutrition gardens	Total Persons	0	0	0	7520	5000	5000	150
		men	0	0	0	2980	1000	1000	298
		women	0	0	0	4540	4000	4000	114
	Number of sessions gender main streaming GALS/SHEP approach	Number of sessions	0	14	100	199	200	96	207
	Number of people trained on gender main streaming GALS/SHEP approach	Total persons	0	238	100	16957	12000	12000	141
		men	0	106	100	6878	6000	6000	115
		women	0	132	100	10079	6000	6000	168
		youth	0	55	100	2693	3600	3600	75
	Number of sessions in facilitating and strengthening womens' organizations	Sessions	0	0	0	111	200	96	116%
		participants	0	0	0	14000	12000	5760	243
		men	0	0	0	5667	1200	6000	94
		women	0	0	0	8333	10800	6000	139
		youth	0	0	0	2115	3600	1728	122
	Number of Nutrition education sessions	Number of sessions	0	14	100	294,0	250	120	245
	Number of people participating in nutrition education sessions	Total persons	0	263	100	21913	14000	14000	157
		men	0	135	100	8609	1400	1400	615
		women	0	128	100	13304	12600	12600	106
		Youth	0	72	100	3396	4200	4200	81
	Number of people participating in nutrition interventions	Total persons	2258	1218	54	25242	14000	27500	92
		men	226	530	235	9714	1400	2750	353
		women	2032	688	34	15528	12600	24750	63
	Number of farmers which are trained on FAAB	Total persons	2960	1060	36	25570	27500	27500	93
		men	1480	346	23	10001	13750	13750	73
		women	1480	714	48	15569	13750	13750	113
		youth	888	131	15	3798	2750	2750	138
	Number of scheme level Marketing Committees members trained	Total members	433	0	0	634	1250	600	106
		men (70%)	216	0	0	347	875	420	83
		women(30%)	217	0	0	287	375	180	159
		youth(10%)	130	0	0	41	125	60	68
	Number of On-farm demonstration of post-harvest technologies	demos	0	0	0	236	437	300	79
	Number of farmers trained in post harvest	Total persons	4861	1450	30	17408	20250	20250	86
		men	2430	478	20	6425	10125	10125	63
		women	2431	972	40	10983	10125	10125	108

		youth	1458	448	31	2422	6075	6075	40		
		Construction of multipurpose post-harvest centre	2	0	0	3	125	3	100		
		Number of youths trained on vocational training on post-harvest technologies	Total youth	0	0	0	1607	1000	1500	107	
			male	0	0	0	708	500	750	94	
			female	0	0	0	899	500	750	120	
		Number of kilometres of roads constructed, rehabilitated or upgraded	Number of km	0	0	0	12	100	12	100	
	<i>Enhanced Institutional Capacity for Market-led Production</i>	Number of AGRITEX staff trained and mentored	Number of persons	70	27	39	1070	500	500	214	
				men	35	14	40	565	250	250	226
				women	35	13	37	505	250	250	202
			Number of Stakeholder Dialogue Workshops	Number of workshops	3	0	0	5	11	11	45

## Zimbabwe

---

### Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

### Supervision Report

### Appendix 3: Compliance with legal covenants: status of implementation

Mission Dates: 11/03/2024 to 22/03/2024

Document Date: 02/05/2024

Project No. 2000001233

Report No. 6840-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division  
Programme Management Department



### Appendix 3: Compliance with legal covenants: status of implementation

Section	Covenant	Target/Action Due Date	Compliance Status/Date	Remarks
GC Section 7.01.	The Project shall be implemented on the basis of AWPB. The Lead Project Agency shall prepare a draft Project AWPB, which shall include a detailed description of planned Project activities during the coming Project Year, a Procurement Plan, and the sources and uses of funds.	Continuous	Not fully complied	The AWPB was submitted with delays
GC Section 7.01.	The Lead Project Agency shall submit the draft AWPB to the oversight body designated by the Borrower/Recipient for its review. When so reviewed, the Lead Project Agency shall submit the draft AWPB to the Fund for comments no later than 60 days before the beginning of the relevant Project Year. If the Fund does not comment on the draft AWPB within 30 days of receipt, the AWPB shall be deemed acceptable to the Fund	Continuous	Not fully complied	The AWPB was submitted with delays
GC Section 7.02.	The Borrower/Recipient may open and maintain one or more Project Accounts for Project operations in a bank acceptable to the Fund, and shall identify the Project Party responsible for operating such account or accounts.	Continuous	Complied	
GC Section 7.04.	In order to ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with Section 7.01, the Borrower/Recipient shall ensure that the relevant activities of its ministries, departments and agencies, and those of each Project Party, are conducted and coordinated in accordance with sound administrative policies and procedures.	Continuous	Complied	
GC Section 11.01.)	The use of any proceeds of the Financing to pay for Taxes is subject to the Fund's policy of requiring economy and efficiency in the use of its Financing. Therefore, if the Fund at any time determines that the amount of any such Tax is excessive, discriminatory or otherwise unreasonable, the Fund may reduce the percentages of Eligible Expenditures to be financed by the Financing.	Continuous	Not fully complied	VAT of USD 16,777.15 was paid on an invoice processed in December 2023 to China Geo leading to ineligible expenditure. The refunds for the prior cases noted in the prior mission for USD 4,548.81 are yet to be refunded to the project account.

## Zimbabwe

---

### Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

### Supervision Report

### Appendix 4: Technical background analysis

Mission Dates: 11/03/2024 to 22/03/2024

Document Date: 02/05/2024

Project No. 2000001233

Report No. 6840-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division  
Programme Management Department





## Appendix 4: Technical background analysis

### Partnership-Building

#### SIRP Partnerships March 2024

##### Co-financing partners

Partner	Agreement with SIRP	Details of Partnership			
		Value Chain/Thematic area	Model	Achievements	Overall Plans/Strategies
Rural Electrification Agency (REA)	MOU	Rural Electrification	Technical expertise and co financing	Electrification of projects. recently installed a transformer at Insukumani Post harvest centre. Technical support to all electrification projects such as Mankonkoni, Malikango, Rustlers, Bambanani Smallholder Irrigation Scheme etc.	Co financing and technical support towards electrification works.
District Development Fund	MOU	Design and Construction	Technical expertise and co financing	During commissioning of schemes, the organisation provided road equipment leveling roads to Insukamini from Gweru, Exchange from Kwekwe, Biri cluster from Zvishavane etc.	Road works and other relevant works.
OPEC Fund for International Development	FA	Rehabilitation of schemes	Financing	The project has so far rehabilitated 48 out of 60 schemes	The final 12 schemes are at virus stages of rehabilitation
NORAD	FA	Nutrition sensitive interventions	Financing	Nutrition sensitive interventions focussed in 16 schemes	Provision of funding enable up scaling of nutrition interventions

##### KM and Policy partners

Partner Name	Details Of Partnership	
	Agreement under SIRP	Interventions, Strategies, achieved
Department of Strategic Planning and Business Development	Non signed collaboration	The department has led feedback sessions and deliberations on the two strategic meetings on the Transformation of Irrigation Schemes in Zimbabwe held in Bulawayo and Masvingo Provinces. Led the feedback session in Mutare of implementation of the scheme business manager model. Currently working with SIRP to facilitate policy discussions on contract farming, Biofortified foods,

		soil conservation and a repeat on the scheme business manager model. This is the department critical to policy formulation in Zimbabwe.
Midlands State University,- Disability Desk	Non signed collaboration	Disability inclusion and mainstreaming, Presented during SIRP disability webinar
Ntengwe for Community Development	Non signed collaboration	Disability inclusion partner who also presented strategies for effective disability inclusion
National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCDPZ)	Non signed collaboration	Disability mainstreaming partner who also presented strategies for effective disability inclusion
Ministry of Housing and Social Amenities	Non signed collaboration	Disability mainstreaming, presented during the disability webinar
Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ)	Contract	Consultancy to conduct nutrition surveys
Nutri@ctive	Contract	Consultancy to conduct nutrition surveys
Diamond FM	Signed contract to provide radio airspace	Provide platform for radio lessons targeting farmers in Manicaland Province. The lessons covered all thematic areas
Hevoi FM	Signed contract to provide radio air space	Provide platform for radio lessons targeting farmers in Masvingo Province. The lessons covered all thematic areas
Central FM	Signed contract to provide radio air space	Provide a platform for radio lessons targeting farmers in Midlands Province. The lessons covered all thematic areas
Newsday	Signed contract to provide advertising space	Partnered with SIRP on their supplement marking World Wetlands Day
Zimpapers (Chronicle, Herald, Sunday News, Sunday Mail)	Non signed collaboration	Partnered with SIRP to give coverage of impact, milestones resulting in visibility Partnered with SIRP to produce learning articles on Post Harvest Mgt, Gender and Social Inclusion as well as Climate Smart Technologies that include irrigation and the use of hydrogel
Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation	Non signed collaboration	Providing media coverage for SIRP events, impact and milestones

#### Private Sector

Partner Name	Details of Partnership				
	Agreement with SIRP	Value Chain/ Thematic area	Model with farmers	Achievements	Overall Plans/Strategies/ Targets
Zimbabwe Mercantile	MOU	Maize, Wheat, Sugar beans	Commodity Exchange	2 Virtual and physical Learning platforms facilitated for technical SIRP team, Scheme business managers and Implementing	Pilot 2-3 irrigation schemes targeting grains. Itinerary

Exchange (Private) Limited (ZMX)			providing an Warehouse Receipt System	partners (54 Supervisors and Extension Officers). Commodity Exchange providing an Warehouse Receipt System and an automated platform for the trading and settlement of agricultural commodities that include grains, oil seeds, horticulture and livestock	developed for ZMX to engage selected irrigation schemes under SIRP. However, the plan is yet to be implemented with the organisation waiting for crop assessments to determine productive areas to reach out.
Murimi 247	Draft MOU under review at Murimi 247	Various crops as registered by a farmer on the platform. Sugar beans, horticulture, maize, wheat, groundnuts initially.	E-agronomy, e-record keeping and equipment hiring services.	Engagement meetings and development of a draft MOU.	Murimi 247 to engage at least 15 schemes in 2024.
Whitney Paprika	MOU	Export Paprika	Contract Farming	<p>2023/24 season, planted seed beds for 163ha with 81% germination. Initial reach was 11 schemes but two schemes opted out for grains. Benefiting schemes are Exchange, Malikango, Biri cluster, Mushandike, Chibuwe, Rupangwana, Mayorca, Fuve B and Tshovane.</p> <p>There were some challenges with the 2022/23 pilot model at Biri old and extension last season. Only planted 5ha out of the planned 18ha. The technical teams from the schemes did not give enough extension support to farmers due to some internal problems. Purchased 3.7t of which 85% was Grade A quality. Could not buy the molded crop. Whitney agreed to increase the extension teams and not depend on ARDAS support entirely. The problems were solved and the field technical team is working better together.</p>	Low dam levels and poor rainfalls are the biggest threat to the crop. Whitney to visit all schemes to access and ascertain final area and estimated yields. It is estimated that over 40% of the crop was affected.
Kacholo	Collaboration	Chilli and paprika	Contracting	Contracted 53.ha export chilli at Mushandike irrigation scheme benefiting 413 farmers. Purchased 348t fresh chilli at \$0.80 per kg. Currently contracted 10ha of paprika pausing chilli program due to unfavourable market prices.	Paprika and chilli contract depending on market demand.
Tensort Systems	Collaboration	Maize and beans	Contracting	2023/24 season contracting of 40ha maize and 10ha sugarbeans at Chibuwe irrigation scheme centre pivot block. A joint venture where the company will manage the crop 100% supplying all equipment and inputs and a 20% profit share to farmers. Erected a 5km fence at the company's expense.	5 seasons of the Joint Venture.
MKM Fertilizers	MOU	Organic Fertilizers	Input Supply	In August 2023, we held product awareness meetings at two irrigation schemes: Mayorca and Musikavanhu. The farmers were keen to learn about the technology that could reduce their input costs. The chairperson of Musikavanhu bought the fertilizers and used them on tomato and sugar bean crops over 0.5ha. He reported a 30% increase in yield compared to the previous season. Results expected to trigger sales at the scheme. At Insukamini a maize demo plot showed over 25% increase in yield compared to non treated crops.	Provided MKM with contacts of potential schemes for engagement. Also recommended further demonstrations across schemes, marketing and supply of affordable fertilizers. Adoption of new technologies by farmers requires a patient process.

Deluxe Fresh	MOU	Horticulture (Cabbage, broccoli, carrots, peas, butternuts)	Service agreements and Contracting	Farmer interface meetings were conducted at Insukamini scheme in 2023. Farmers agreed to work with the company and prepared 2-5ha for butternuts. However, the company suspended plans due to cash flow challenges. The company delivered produce to a government institution worth over US\$25 000 resulting in significant delayed payments affecting liquidity.	To re-engage farmers once in a more stable financial position.
Paperhole Investments	MOU	Sugar beans	Service agreements and Contracting	Farmer interface meetings were held with 7 schemes in 2023. Offered US\$750/t against a demand of US\$1 000/t. Farmers withheld produce initially in anticipation of price increases. Farmers eventually sold over 150t to PHI and Peak trading at prices ranging \$700-\$800/t. Demand and supply factors were at play.	Commodity is demand driven. PHI is still assessing demand and then avail quantities they would want to buy in 2024. Engagements to continue.
Soris (Pvt) Ltd	MOU	Garlic, Tumeric	Demo Plots, Contracting	During the 2021/22 season, the programme set up 1.5ha of garlic demo plots to train farmers on how to grow the crop. The farmers showed good skills and produced quality garlic but poor post harvest management at some of the schemes. Soris did not have field extension teams for full extension support. Towards commercialisation efforts, Soris did not give a clear plan on how to buy the garlic in large quantities from the farmers. The programme was worried that Soris might not pay the farmers or find a market for the garlic. The programme stopped working with Soris and looked for another buyer, but did not find one.	SIRP suspended the partnership because the partner wanted to continue with demonstrations without a substantive commercial off-take plan which was not sustainable. The company's financial capacity to buy was also questionable because they could not prove a concrete market.
Tsimba Holdings	MOU	Export Peas	Contracting	The company held meetings with Mayorca and Insukamini farmers in 2022. However, the schemes did not materialize for various reasons. Insukamini farmers rejected the one-month payment period as too long. Mayorca farmers could not secure funding on time. The company also lost interest in other schemes as it involved long distances from Harare and small areas of less than 5ha. Further attempts to negotiate with the company were unsuccessful.	Had planned 7-20ha of staggered planting.
AFZ	Collaboration	Groundnuts	Contracting	Held discussions with the company in 2023 with potential for Musikavanhu to produce 500ha of groundnuts. The company was anticipating grant funding. The model was to support 0.5ha input packages and agronomy services.	500 of groundnuts. Grant deliberations are still ongoing.
CCMT	MOU on training	Provision of farmer training services	Farmer training	266 farmers( 159F, 107M) received Training for transformation at Romsley Irrigation scheme, 13 Scheme business managers and 24 ARDAS staff receiving conflict management training enabling the implementing partners to better manage and resolve conflicts at irrigation schemes.	Transform farmers to enhance their farming skills. Will continue to engage where there is need especially for recently completed schemes.

Mzilikazi Red Goat Stud	Collaboration	Training on improved goat production	Farmer training	Hosted 20 farmers and 8 Extension officers at their own farm on an exchange visit to learn on Improved goat production techniques. Khalahari Red, Matabele and Boer goats	Exchange Visits and direct farmer training
Zimbabwe Fertilizer Company	Contract	Supply of RPSF Inputs	Input Supply	Supplied 18t Nua 45, 90.25t Compound D and various chemicals to under RPSF facility	Input Supply across all provinces and Demonstration inputs for 2023/24 season.
Zimbabwe Free Range Poultry Association	Contract	Supply of RPSF Inputs	Input Supply and Training	Supplied 32 183 Improved indigenous chickens, feeds and chemicals to all four Provinces under the RPSF facility. In addition, provided production training to beneficiaries.	Input supply and training across all provinces
OneBW Hardware	Contract	Supply of hardware Material under RPSF	Hardware material supply	Supplied 500L water tanks, gutters and other accessories to 50 schools and clinics for water harvesting under RPSF facility.	Hardware material supply
Irrigation Institute of Engineers Zimbabwe	MOU underway	Irrigation construction standardization	Supply of reputable contacting Engineers	Stakeholder conference was held to discuss how industry capacity can be improved	Target is to have reputable suppliers do works under SIRP programming
Zimbabwe Institute of Engineers	MOU	Irrigation Consultancy and arbitration	Supply of reputable engineers from their members	Regular meetings are held. Members from the institute are assigned as arbitrators in case of disputes in contract execution	To have a reputable standby committee that resolves disputes
Institute of Project Management Zimbabwe	MOU	Training of Staff members on project management and contract management	Train staff on management of contracts	Trained 130 members of staff and registered 25 as members of the institute	To improve the management of contracts in SIRP supervision of works

ARUP, Zimbabwe consulting Engineers	Contract	Provision of feasibility and detailed designs, training farmers on operation and maintenance	Production of detailed designs, O and M manuals and training of farmers	Produced detailed designs on 3700ha under component 1	To achieve a sustainable rehabilitation programme
SWS and JIMAT consulting Engineers	Contract	Provision of feasibility and detailed designs, training farmers on operation and maintenance	Production of detailed designs, O and M manuals and training of farmers	Produced detailed designs on 769ha under component 1	To achieve a sustainable rehabilitation programme
Hydro engineering services	Contract	Contracting service provider to support Water Use organisation strengthening /c	WUO strengthening	Strengthened WUO	To have functional WUO that are effective and fully capacitated.
China Geo Corporation	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 190ha under the programme Cashel Valley 600Ha	Sustainable irrigation development at Gudo, Chikwarakwara and Guyu Chelesa, Cashel Valley
Civil works	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 100ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development Insukamini
Tensor Systems	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 920ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Maryoca, Tsvovani, Romsley and Mushandike
Comhold Services	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 300ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Musikavanhu and Romsley Irrigation Project

Manah Construction	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 117ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Biri Extension
Wellod traders	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 200ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Hamamavhaire and Mushandike
Conadic Private Limited	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 120ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Banga and Mushandike Remedial Works: Rupangwana, Gudo, Musikavanhu
Matdom construction	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 120ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Fuve Panganai B and Biri Old
Modrich Enterprises	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 300ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Rupangwana, Fungai and Musikavanhu
Foster Irrigation	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 202ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Makwe and Bambanani
Verslag Engineering	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 600ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Silalabuhwa, Exchange, Mambanjeni and Mbembeswana



Fine Rain	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructing 50ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Mankonkoni
Maka Holdings	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructing 31ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Rustlers Gorge
Modrich Enterprises	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructing 309ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Malikango & Chamakudo
Verslag Engineering	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructing 278ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Mambanjeni & Mbembeswane
Foster Irrigation	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructing 90ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Bambarani
Sador	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 9ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Fuve Pangai A
Vicardley	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 35ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Musaverema

Dean Sparks	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 64ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Valley
Burchan	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed toilets & canal rehabilitation under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Machena, Fungai & Rupangwana
Zambezi Bulk Drilling	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed 353ha under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Musikavanhu
Chituriro	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed toilets under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Sebasa
Bangal	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Erection of Fence at Exchange Smallholder irrigation Scheme	Sustainable irrigation development at Exchange Smallholder Irrigation Scheme
Asphalt	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Rehabilitation of canals and hydraulic structures 65ha	Sustainable irrigation development at Sebasa & Exchange
Drawcard	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Designed, Supplied and erected boundary fence	Sustainable irrigation development at Musikavanhu

Manifest	Contract on works	Provision of construction services	Irrigation area development	Constructed toilets under the programme	Sustainable irrigation development at Musikavanhu
----------	-------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------	---	---

#### NGO/Development Organisations

Partner Name	Details Of Partnership				
	Agreement with SIRP	Value Chain/Thematic area	Model	Achievements	Overall Plans/Strategies
Self Help Development Foundation	MOU	Business Development	Training	26 Women PPE groups trained across 4 provinces. Improved marketing, planning, and branding. Constitutions and business plans were developed.	Training on emerging/tailor-made business skills training.
Environment Buddies	MOU	Tree planting	Women empowerment in the forestry sector	48 nurseries structures established across 4 provinces.	Establishment of nurseries completed.
Grow a Tree Foundation: Nendoro Holdings	MOU	Forestry agro-value chains	Value addition of forest-based products	Supplied 16 000 trees distributed to 3200 households. Also supplied seeds to produce 96 500 trees, Mulberry, papaya, mango, oranges, gumtree, fidebia, indigenous trees. Conserved an estimated 96.5ha. Training on Profile ecosystem, social and nutritional benefits of planted species provided.	Remote training of farmers and market linkages especially for papaya.
United States African Development Foundation (USADF)	MOU	Business Development and access to finance	Revolving funds through a grant facility	This partnership resulted in 14 irrigation schemes registering as cooperatives. Seven grant applications worth \$489 490 from Biri old and extension, Phakama bakery, Insukamini, Silala Vukani, Tshovani and Hamamavhaire irrigation schemes were approved and await funding through USADF internal funding systems. A total of 149 applications were received and 16 enterprises were selected and assessed with the 7 finally approved.	Provide technical support to qualifying groups and support USADF in all preparatory processes until funding.

UNOPS	UN agent Contract	Supervision of works		UNOPS was engaged to supervise the outstanding Works Contracts.	To supervise ongoing 10 work contracts.
Technoserve	MOU pending	Export Horticulture (Peas and potatoes)	Contracting	The project team held several meetings with the Insukamini cluster to discuss the peas value chain. Technoserve initially proposed to set up a 2ha demonstration plot for peas, but the farmers were unable to provide land in time. 2023/24 season reengagements plan to plant 4ha peas starting in March. Business plan was developed to the new plan awaiting final implementation. The team also organized an exchange visit to Lingfield, where the farmers learned from a successful peas export model. 34 farmers from four different schemes (Insukamini, London, Mkoba, Mbambanjeni) and several partners attended the visit.	4ha pilot export peas production. To look out for local horticulture crops as well.
Harvest Plus	MOU	Bio-fortification	Training Demonstration plots	cooking demonstrations of biofortified crops. Hosting of seed fairs and distribution of fliers and pamphlets on biofortified crops. Establishment of 16 nursery sites of Alisha orange fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) in 8 functional irrigation schemes for vine multiplication and pass on reaching 143 farmers.	Continue establishment of demo plots of biofortified crops in irrigation and greater schemes.
Cluster Agriculture Development Service (CADS)	MOU	Value addition, capacity building	Training	IEC material translations Trained farmers on keyhole garden construction Documentation of best practices and impact stories	Food processing and value addition of crops. Establishment of cooking clubs Trainings on SBCC
FACHIG	MOU	Gender Action Learning System	Training	Training GALS champions for them to roll out targeting others farmers 4 training sessions with one inception sessions per province	Four sessions conducted in Midlands (Exchange), Mat south, Masvingo & Manicaland in Musikavanhu and Chiredzi.

#### Parastatals

Partner	Agreement with SIRP	Details of Partnership			
		Value Chain/ Thematic area	Model	Achievements	Overall Plans/Strategies
Agriculture and Rural Development Authority	MOU signing engagements did not yield fruit	Business Development	Deployment of Scheme Business Managers.	ARDA deployed 16 Business Managers who received technical training on how to develop business plans, engage with markets, register businesses, manage conflicts and connect with private sector companies through SIRP. 69% of the managers developed business plans and facilitated market engagements with offtakers and financiers. For example at the Mushandike irrigation scheme,	Commercialization of SIRP-Supported irrigation Schemes.

				two tractors, wheat, maize and sunflower production loans and contracts worth over \$101 000 were facilitated.	
AFC	Efforts to sign an MOU were not successful	Irrigated crops	Finance	The bank supported 804 farmers with WC and CAPEX loans totaling US\$168 191 and ZWL295 245.76. The farmers cultivated 706ha of land and harvested 1 380t of crops, including wheat, maize and sugar beans. However, Tshovani scheme faced challenges with irrigation system failure and low water levels at Mayorca, resulting in poor yields of less than 2t/ha. Tshovani could not repay the loan, but agreed to a repayment plan. All other five schemes repaid their loans successfully. All financed farmers received financial literacy training through the bank.	Extend financial support for all completed schemes
Agricultural Marketing Authority	MOU	Business Development	Training and market linkages	Developed a training module and facilitated sugar beans buyer interface meetings for 7 schemes. Trained 69 marketing committees across all SIRP schemes. Have registered 46 schemes to date under AMA. Registration of all schemes targeted by April 2024 with other schemes not yet in production. Currently facilitating market linkages for productive schemes.	Registration, training, and market linkages
Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA )	MOU	Irrigation Development and Dam Rehabilitation	Technical expertise	Approval of dam rehabilitation works, construction of conveyance canals	Partnerships in revitalization of works
Rural District Councils	MOU	Road Rehabilitation	Financing and technical expertise	Revitalization of irrigation scheme roads	Sustainable development
Food and Nutrition Council	Letter of Collaboration	Capacity building Vulnerability assessment	Coordination	Cooking demonstrations Resuscitation of Food and Nutrition Security Council Committees Participation in ZIMVAC and other vulnerability assessments survey	Coordinated implementation

**Government Ministries/Departments**

Partner name	Agreement with SIRP	Details of Partnership			Overall Plans/Strategies
		Value Chain/ Thematic area	Model	Achievements	
Department of Agricultural Education	MOU	Vocational Training	Youth training	7 Vocational centers partnered, and over 1 607 youths trained to date. Courses include bricklaying, carpentry, bakery, sewing, building, agriculture, welding etc	1 500 youths targeted
Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development	Letter on collaboration	Business Development and Registration	SMEs and group formalization and business skills training	109 groups trained in business skills. SMEs team deployed to various schemes to facilitate registration for groups applying for the SIRP-USADF grant facility.	Scheme and Group registrations and business training
Ministry of Health and Child Care – Nutrition Unit	Letter on collaboration	Capacity building	Healthy Harvest Approach Coordination	Development of programme NSBCC strategy Farmer trainings	Work with care groups to scale implementation of SBCC Coordinated implementation
Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education.	Letter on collaboration	Nutrition and biofortification in schools	Coordination	30 schools in 12 SIRP districts selected for school gardens and school health days. To date 16 school health days have been conducted	30 School health days conducted and 30 schools supported with inputs and technical assistance for nutrition gardens. Home grown school feeding programme initiative in the 30 schools
Department of Research and Specialists Services (DRSS)	Letter on collaboration	Biofortification Value addition	Demonstration plots Cooking demonstrations	Established demo plots of Beauregard OFSP variety in functional nutrition gardens and irrigation schemes for vine multiplication and pass on. Cooking demonstrations	Establish demo plots in the remaining irrigation schemes Continue cooking demos and establish cooking clubs

**Coordination/Implementing Partners**

Partner Name	Details Of Partnership	
	Agreement under SIRP	Interventions, Strategies
ARDAS (Agriculture, Rural Development and Advisory Services)	Implementing partner	Training of farmers in GAPS, FAAB, Business skills development, Nutrition

AEMSC (Agricultural Engineering, Mechanisation and Soil Conservation)	Implementing Partner	Post-Harvest training, implementation of High impact and Natural resources management activities
Department of Irrigation (DOI)	Implementing Partner	The revitalization of irrigation schemes
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	Implementing Partners	Signatory and responsible for all monetary issues, approvals, transfers, disbursement requests etc.

## Agreed Actions for October 2023 Mission

25/57 fully executed = 44%

31/57 ongoing/partially executed = 54%

1/57 – Not done = 1%

1/57 – no longer necessary = 1%

N	Actions	Responsibility	Deadline	Update
1	<b>Urgently address Financing Gap:</b> Government should find additional resources to close the financing gap. The decision by the Government should be communicated in writing to IFAD by 30 October 2023.	Ministry of Finance and Investment Promotion	30/10/2023	<b>Fully executed</b> Request signed and approved by MOFED and dispatched to IFAD
2	<b>Review 2023-2024 AWPB:</b> IFAD should review the AWPB submitted the 19th of October and should provide feedback before Monday 23 October 2023	IFAD	23/10/2023	<b>Fully executed</b>
3	<b>Submit revised 2023 PP</b>	PCU	23/10/2023	<b>Fully executed</b>
4	<b>Request no-cost extension for NORAD SF grant:</b> Request a no-cost extension with a new completion date of 31 March 2024 for the NORAD SF grant agreement.	Government of Zimbabwe & PCU	30/10/2023	<b>Fully executed</b> No cost extension was granted

5	<b>Revise CADS contract to clarify</b> deliverables and timeline to support the sustainability and knowledge management of nutrition actions.	PCU/Nutrition Specialist	Immediate	<b>Fully executed</b> CADS contract came to an end 31 December 2023. A meeting was held in November to reduce scope of work and another meeting was held on the 27th of December 2023 to reduce contract value to an amount in line with the met deliverables. In the meeting contract value was reduced to USD 6051,20 from USD 14 000. Meeting minutes available.  The savings of USD 7948.80 made from that contract will be used to pay the salary of the Nutrition Specialist from April to June 2024.
6	<b>Agreement between MLAFWRD and UNOPS:</b> The GoZ should engage UNOPS to explore potential solutions, which may include reducing the contract value or assigning UNOPS additional schemes. Additionally, the GoZ should explore the possibility to revise the agreement and award more executive mandates to UNOPS when monitoring the physical construction (currently excluded from the scope of work) rather than just advisory services to ensure a better performance of both contractors and supervisors, and rehabilitation works are complying with sustainable engineering practices and technical specifications.	MLAFWRD, UNOPS	30/10/2023	<b>Fully Executed</b> Meetings were convened with UNOPS. UNOPS has no scope for taking up additional roles. Their role in projects is limited to an advisory role. UNOPS will still work on the 10 identified schemes as per original plan.
7	<b>Convene bi-weekly</b> meetings between IFAD, SIRP and UNOPS for timely identification of challenges and proposed solutions.	IFAD, PCU, UNOPS	Immediate and continuous	<b>On going</b> The technical team of UNOPS-PCU-MLWFRD is meeting every Thursday from 2 pm to 3 pm, starting from November 9, 2023. In addition, biweekly meetings with IFAD are taking place, with the first one held on November 28, 2023. Meetings are ongoing.
8	<b>USADF:</b> Request USADF to reimburse the USD 500,000 to SIRP through an official letter from the PCU.	PCU	25/10/2023	<b>Fully executed</b> \$500 000 received on 15 February 2024
<b>Component 1 Agreements</b>				
9	<b>Payment of Arrears and Pending Certificates:</b> Proceed with immediate payment of all possible pending certificates as soon as the revised AWPB is approved.	PCU Finance Officer, PCU TA	10/2023	<b>Fully Executed</b> Following the approval of the revised 2023 budget all arrears were paid. In addition, all pending certificates rolled over from 2023 were cleared by the 28th of February after the 2024 AWPB was approved. As of the 29th of February the PCU had no certificates in its receipt outstanding except the two for China Geo amounting to US\$447k that are being processed at IFAD/OFID level. These are being paid to the contractor's account in Zambia.



s	<b>Revise the programme targets:</b> If the government cannot secure funding to cover the gap, the PCU should revise the program's achievements and accurately measure the total irrigated area (in hectares) and the number of beneficiaries effectively benefiting from the program investments.	PCU Coordinator, MLAFWRD, MFED	Immediate	<b>Fully Executed</b> Total area is 5 202ha targeting 8 161 irrigators and 19 339 greater scheme farmers.
11	<b>Land Clearing Support:</b> Seek MLAFWRD intervention to support farmers with mechanised land clearing, at least in the most challenging sites.	PCU Coordinator, DOI, PCU TA	Immediate	<b>Ongoing</b> A letter was written to the Chief Director and Director Irrigation. The Director of Irrigation Development has confirmed and authorized use of DOI equipment. Land clearing commenced at Romsley where 293ha is targeted and 38ha at Rupangwana for stone removal. Land clearing is now 51% at Romsley as at 29 February 2024. 152ha done out of the 293ha. Rock removal at Rupangwana 100% as at 13 March 2024,
12	<b>Works Supervision:</b> Strengthen works monitoring and supervision especially of those works at risk of delay or sensitive to rain/runoff and ensure that supervisors are well committed and adequately mobilised in the respective schemes.	UNOPS, DOI, PCU TA, Supervisors	Immediate	<b>Ongoing</b> These measures have been implemented and weekly meetings between UNOPS-PCU-MLAFWRD-IFAD have been resumed which are helping in tracking progress and addressing delays. Weekly meetings with the contractors have been resumed since the end of October and have resumed after the annual shut down. Daily updates have been introduced as of 29 February 2024 especially for schemes like Romsley Lot 2.
13	<b>Romsley Irrigation scheme:</b> Accelerate the excavation works of the 18 km earth canal while making sure to comply with the technical specifications especially in terms of lining of specific canal reaches and sections and ensure bank stability and vegetation clearing.	PCU Coordinator, PCU TA, DOI	Immediate	<b>Ongoing</b> This has been effected and more machinery has been deployed to Romsley by DOI to speed up the process. Also the Lot 2 contractor is being tightly monitored to improve his performance. Daily progress updates are being shared in order to track progress on a daily basis. COMHOLD the main contractor has engaged a sub contractor Tensor Systems. Tensor systems established site as of 26th February 2024. The Programme Coordinator and the PCU Senior Infrastructure TA met the contractor on site, the contractor has since improved slightly. The contractors have just been paid their outstanding certificates (Tensor & Comhold) so we are expecting a huge jump in the rate of progress in the coming few weeks. Some sections of the canal have already been lined.
14	<b>Mushandike village 16 irrigation schemes:</b> Proceed with a very urgent contract extension and variation to implement the following works: i) mechanised land levelling of specific	PCU Procurement Officer, PCU,TA, DoI	Immediate	<b>Fully Executed</b> This has been incorporated. An application for extension of time to 31/12/2023 was done. A variation to include drainage works was approved

	plots, and ii) excavation of an adequate drainage system especially in those areas prone to waterlogging.			The approval process was done and the contract was amended as advised by the mission. And the drainage works were completed successfully
15	<b>Defects Management:</b> Ensure that defects are well captured in a snag list by supervisors and that those are well attended by contractors in due time without necessarily waiting until the end of the defects liability period.	PCU TA, Supervisor, DoI,	Continuous	<b>Fully Executed</b> This is being implemented and before final handover of the project after defects liability period a final inspection is done by the Resident Engineer & his team before the release of the 10% retention to the contractor. Periodic checks are being done on projects under defects liability period. Furthermore the compliance team checks sites before they process the completion certificate.
16	<b>Irrigation Schemes' O&amp;M:</b> Ensure that irrigation system-specific O&M manuals are prepared and that O&M trainings are delivered to the beneficiaries as soon as works are completed. Higher attention should be dedicated to the O&M of those schemes equipped with new/unfamiliar systems for the farmers, including solar pumping systems and center pivot systems.	PCU TA, DOI	Continuous	<b>Ongoing</b> This is being implemented and O & M manuals are being prepared for the finished schemes. Since the Mission 3 O & M training have been conducted. TAs have been prepared for approval and scheduled for March 2024.
17	<b>Extension Services Support:</b> Ensure that the rehabilitated schemes that are facing water availability challenges are well reported to the relevant extension offices at central and district level for future support in terms of water management, use of drought tolerant crop varieties, cropping patterns optimisation, and irrigation scheduling, to cope with potential drought or water deficit conditions.	PCU Coordinator, PCU TA, DOI	June/2024	<b>Ongoing</b> A consolidated report of all the schemes facing challenges has been compiled with input from the teams on the ground. Dissemination of the information is ongoing and shared with Principals  Irrigation scheduling is being emphasized in partnerships AGRITEX, ARDA and DOI. This will continue to be re-emphasised especially now that we are facing an impending drought year so more awareness will be done to all schemes likely to be affected by water shortages induced by drought.

## Component 2

Nr	Actions	Responsibility	Deadline	Update
18	<b>Counselling of Farmers to put into practice what they have been trained.</b> Deploy tools (e.g., records keeping, modalities for	Agritex	December 2023	<b>Ongoing</b>

	<p>lead farmer engagement, marketing research) and to assist in operationalizing training received</p>			<p>Procurement commenced in the previous year however it was rolled over into 2024 and had to wait for the approval of 2024 Budget. Now that the budget is approved the activity is at contract award stage and Delivery of record keeping booklets expected on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March. 46 of the targeted 60 schemes are now registered with AMA (Biri Old, Biri Extension, Mayorca, Exchange, Romsley, Cashel Valley, Mankonkoni, Rustlers, Sebasa, Mushandike, Gudo, Rupangwana, Fungai, Musaverema, Machena, Fuve A, Fuve B, Banga, Gudo, Musikavanhu, Chibuwe, Tshovani, Matezva, Hamamavhaire, Insukamini, Mbambanjeni)</p> <p>What is outstanding for some of the schemes is payment of the annual subscription of \$1 per farmer. The remaining schemes are expected to be registered by April 2024 and those with outstanding works before the end of programme. Some delays to registration are caused by farmer resistance to the initiative. The initiative will open up access to markets, relevant capacity development and access to subsidised fuel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training through AMA has been ongoing at 50 schemes to date. AMA is currently engaging markets for linkages to the schemes.</li> <li>- Offtake agreements for groundnuts, tomatoes and peas are being facilitated for Mat South, Midlands and Masvingo schemes.</li> <li>- All Lead farmers are now following a standard training program across SIRP. Training is ongoing and registers for follow-on farmer training are being collected for uploading into MIS.</li> </ul> <p>However, mindset change is a process and continuous engagement of farmers and markets is required across all schemes to ensure working collaborations.</p>
	<p><b>Acquisition of inputs</b> To successfully operationalize block farming, farmers need to collectively and timely acquire their inputs, facilitate the establishment of an inputs support fund for each of the schemes and to be managed by the respective irrigation committees.</p>	<p>PCU, Value Chain</p>	<p>March 2023</p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Committees from 51 scheme have been engaged to date with the remaining 9 schemes targeted by end of March 2024. The Revolving fund concept was discussed, with all engaged schemes agreeing to set up the fund. The farmers are in the process of putting on paper and implementing their agreed modalities scheme by scheme to ensure an all farmer binding process. To date 22 Revolving Fund documents have been received detailing the setting up of the Revolving fund.</p> <p>Some schemes agreed to commence after marketing the current crops while some schemes have started contributing \$10-100 per month depending on size of the scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progressive 23 at Mushandike Irrigation schemes has so far mobilised into one account US\$3 500 and awaits another</li> </ul>

				<p>payment for 8t wheat delivered to GMB. The fund is being managed by the IMC and to be used for high value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayorca has mobilised US\$760 for paprika crop inputs and is targeting a revolving fund of US\$8 000 by June 2024. To be utilised for high value crops as well.</li> <li>• Block B5 at Musikavanhu raised \$1 040 . funds were used to buy inputs for 18ha paprika crop\</li> <li>• Block 4 with 63 farmers at the same scheme has raised \$1 280 to date targeting sugar bean crop in February/March.</li> </ul>
20	<p><b>Commodity Selection:</b> Propose a limit to the area under government supported food crops to give an opportunity for farmers to explore the production of higher value crops, especially those supported by outgrowing companies.</p>	PCU, Agritex	December 2023	<p><b>Ongoing</b> process through engagements with AEOs and Agriculture committees. SIRP recommended that high value crops should occupy at least 20% of the land in the irrigation schemes. Some of the schemes that have adopted or are adopting this recommendation at various levels are Mushandike, Musikavanhu, Chibuwe, Tshovani, Biri Old, Biri new, Insukamini, Mayorca and Valley. Crops in production include seed crops, chillies, paprika, green mealies, and various vegetables.</p> <p>SIRP is also providing training and guidance to the extension staff and scheme business managers on how to develop and follow their business plans, which should include both food security crops and high value crops. SIRP emphasises the importance of being organised and proactive in addressing any challenges that may arise. However, food security crop production remains a priority for irrigation schemes.</p>
21	<p><b>Out grower Schemes.</b> Ensure that farmers receive a complete inputs package from the participating outgrowing companies in order not to compromise yields and thus farmer returns.</p>	PCU	March 2023	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>SIRP is working with contractors such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grow plus, a possible new partner, to grow 200ha each of seed beans, sorghum and Michigan Peas. The contract model will provide required inputs, which AFC is willing to finance once all modalities are agreed. The buyers are SeedCo and Olivine Industries.</li> <li>• Kacholo produced 10ha Paprika at Musikavanhu and Chilli pepper company 20ha chilli at Fuve benefiting 126 farmers. Both companies provided inputs to farmers. Chilli input package valued at \$205.01/0.15ha. The package Included seedlings, fertilizers and chemicals.</li> <li>• Tensor Joint Venture model, Chibuwe/Tensor comes with a full input package and equipment over 50ha (40ha Maize, 10ha beans)</li> </ul> <p>Future contracts will be based on input support. Discussions with Technoserve towards export peas at the Insukamini clustre are</p>

				<p>ongoing targeting a pilot 4ha in March. Lines of credit for input support are being sought to ensure a complete package.</p> <p>SIRP will continue to engage further and explore additional markets for contracting to ensure models that are inputs supported in addition to the Revolving and Access to finance initiatives. The collaboration with AMA, AFC and capacity building of IMCs and ARDAS extension staff were efforts made towards sustainability.</p>
22	<p><b>Develop business Model and Business Plans for 2 Aggregation Centers</b> Develop and appraise business plans for the Aggregation Center's and secure business partners to manage the facilities</p>	PCU	December 2023/	<p><b>Fully executed</b></p> <p>Business plans for the two sites completed.</p> <p>MOU between Technoserve and Insukamini Cluster to be signed by the end of March. Technoserve's contract with its financiers had lapsed and this delayed the signing of the contract. Technoserve is planning to pilot a 5ha export peas production starting March at the cluster. inputs have already been secured and planting commencing week 11-15 March.</p> <p>For Rupangwana, planned remedial works will affect production plans. In the meantime AMA is in the process of engaging tomato markets for offtake agreements. According to the developed business plan the scheme targets to plant tomatoes, beans and green mealies scheduled in sync with completion of remedial works which are expected to have been completed by 30 June. Once water challenge is addressed this will open up business opportunities</p>
23	<p><b>Capacity Building of ARDA business:</b> Jointly with ARDA senior management undertake further capacity Assessment of Scheme business Manager and explore ways for SIRP support as part of its exit strategy</p>	PCU	December 2023/	<p><b>Partially Executed</b></p> <p>SIRP completed a survey on the scheme business management model, achievements, challenges and recommendations. SIRP will submit a detailed report and recommendations to the Goz by March. Emerging challenge is the high staff turnover of Scheme Business Managers threatening the capacity building efforts and resource allocation</p> <p>The programme trained 16 scheme business managers in November. To date there are emerging reports that 9 of the 16 managers trained by SIRP have either resigned or not reporting for duty. The program has agreed with SPBD to use findings from the survey to convene a policy related workshop towards how the government can best strengthen the model following lessons learnt under SIRP. This is planned between April and May 2024 upon Ministerial approval. SIRP facilitated 3 training workshops for the managers in the past one and half years. Due to budgetary constraints, SIRP is not able to provide motorbikes, airtime and laptops to the managers, which are key work accessories they do not have.</p>
<b>Targeting &amp; youth</b>				

24	<b>Beneficiary profiles:</b> Finalise the collection and registration of beneficiary data and benefits received from the project	M&E/Social Inclusion expert	December/2023	<p><b>Fully Executed Fully Executed</b></p> <p>Results of the verification showed that 42% of the beneficiaries are women and 58% were men.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Female</th> <th>Male</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dryland</td> <td>44%</td> <td>56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irrigator</td> <td>40%</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td>42</td> <td>58</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Female	Male	Dryland	44%	56%	Irrigator	40%	60%	Overall	42	58
	Female	Male														
Dryland	44%	56%														
Irrigator	40%	60%														
Overall	42	58														
25	<b>Beneficiary contribution:</b> Improve on capturing beneficiary contribution through ARDAS staff who are resident on schemes	PCU/ARDAS	Immediately	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Program has designated the resident Extension Officer as the responsible person for coordinating data on beneficiary contributions. Program accountant has capacitated the personnel to undertake the process.</p>												
26	<b>Market access:</b> Address the market access constraints being faced by farmers to enhance sustainability (from previous mission)	PCU, ARDA, AMA	immediately	<p><b>Partially Executed and ongoing</b></p> <p>To address the programme has adopted the following strategies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provision of advice - SIRP advises and supports farmers to explore other high-value markets such as chilli, paprika, peas, and seed crops.</li> <li>2. Urging all farmers who face late payments from GMB to follow up with their local depots and seek help from Agritex Provincial offices if needed.</li> <li>3. Policy Dialogue: The issue of GMB late payments is one of the proposed themes for policy discussions with SPBD.</li> <li>4. Engaged AMA to facilitate market linkages at provincial and national level. Through SIRP AMA has trained 50 marketing committees, facilitated</li> <li>5. Engagement of private sector e.g Shumbatafari at Rupangwana for chilli production Kacholo, and grow plus.</li> </ol>												
27	<b>Youth starter packs:</b> Finalise the procurement and distribution of starter packs for trained youth	PCU	December/2023	<p><b>No longer applicable</b></p> <p>Activity was removed from AWPB due to budgetary constraints.</p>												
28	<b>Lessons learned:</b> Document outcomes, best practices lessons learned on targeting issues to inform other projects	M&E/ Social Inclusion expert	December/2023	<p><b>Partially Executed</b></p>												

				<p>Documentation is ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tors have been developed and shared with IFAD and comments from IFAD addressed and resubmitted.</li> <li>- A draft success story booklet has been developed.</li> <li>- Norad survey was conducted in February report writing is in progress</li> <li>- As highlighted in gender section a policy dialogue on Gender Action learning Systems was held in December</li> <li>- Biofortification Policy dialogue concept developed and is scheduled for late March</li> <li>- Concept note for lesson learnt on infrastructure has been developed and meeting scheduled for April 2024</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p>However,</p> <p>This was affected by the absence of knowledge management assistant and social inclusion officer.</p>
29	<b>Implementation of ESMP:</b> Conduct Environmental audit on all SIRP irrigation schemes to assess to what extent the mitigation measures proposed in the ESMPs have been implemented and also propose corrective measures to minimise impacts.	PMU	December/2023	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>5 out of 47 ESMPs are outstanding from EMA. The certificates expected by end of March</p> <p>For all completed schemes, the mitigation measures were successfully implemented by the contractors responsible during construction with the active involvement of the contractor's SHEQ officer and monthly inspections by EMA. Only 5 out of the 47 certificates are outstanding on completed schemes. For ongoing works the mitigation measures are being implemented through the SHEQ officer employed by the contractor together with the periodic inspections by the EMA. .</p>
30	<b>Introduce Grievance Redress Mechanism(GRM)</b> to resolve conflicts among project stakeholders	PMU	December/2023	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Scheme level monthly meetings are held and the main participants are contractors, farmers, project engineers and the ddc. They are chaired by provincial director/Provincial Irrigation engineers.</p>

31	<b>Allocate additional budget to implement soil and water conservation activities on the catchments of the irrigation schemes to minimise soil erosion and siltation on the irrigation water conveyance systems</b>	PMU	December/2023	<b>Partially Executed</b>  This work is in progress and at Romsley a tender for conservation works has already been flighted under PSIP (government). The cost estimate is US\$500,000.00. The same is being replicated on all irrigation schemes funded under the SIRP programme.  SIRP is also targeting to complete over 9 000 ha of conservation works. TOT for officers from Mechanisation and AEOs was conducted targeting to peg the remaining 16 800ha to facilitate the actual conservation works.	
32	<b>System should be established</b> to assist farmers access timely climate information to minimise drought impacts	PMU	December/2023	<b>Ongoing</b>  There are ARDAS district and provincial whatsapp groups where climate change and other relevant issues are discussed and shared with extension staff for onward discussion with farmers. The program also facilitated district extension officers to conduct meetings with farmer groups on the impact of climate change and modalities to avert. The parent Ministry is developing e-fliers every week shared with farmers and stakeholders. Radio programs are also being implemented.	
<b>Gender equality women's empowerment</b>					
33	<b>Refresher and learning workshops:</b> Conduct refresher and learning event for GALS champions involving the responsible line Ministry and document best practice and lessons	Social Specialist	Inclusion	December/2021	<b>Fully Executed</b>  A GALS Policy dialogue in support of 16 Days of Activism against GBV was conducted in Harare on the 6th of December 2023. The Ministry of Women Affairs, UN Agencies, Zimbabwe Gender Commission and Ministry of Land and GALS champions participated. Major recommendation was to facilitate training of extension staff both from the Ministry of Women Affairs and the Ministry of Land who will ensure many wards receive GALS training.
34	<b>Roll out of GALS:</b> Facilitate the roll out of GALS and track the reach by the GALS champions	M&E/Social Specialist	Inclusion	December/2023	<b>Ongoing</b>  The project intends to conduct four provincial training sessions to facilitate the Provincial GALS network as a way of enhancing sustainability after project closure . This is earmarked for March 2024.



Financial Management and Execution				
35	<b>IMTT charges.</b> Reversal of IMTT charges needs to be pursued with the bank promptly, at least on a monthly basis after every bank reconciliation review. In the medium term, there need to be a formal exception pursued rather than them being deducted by the Bank and subsequent follow-up for reversal being made. The adjustments of prior IMTT charges should be made in the upcoming IFR for the period ended 30 September 2023 which is due by November 15, 2023.	SIRP Finance Manager	31 November 2023	<b>Fully Executed</b>  The adjustments for IMTT was made on the IFR submitted  IMTT from Jan 2023 to 4 March 2024 were reversed.We are now requesting for reversal of IMTT after every two weeks.
36	<b>Funds disbursed to USADF.</b> The advances of US\$ 500,000 recorded as expenditure should be revised in the IFR to reflect these funds as receivables. Revisions should also be made to the figure of justifications made in ICP under consultancy category.	PCU	31 December 2023	<b>Fully Executed</b>
37	<b>Recording of advances and retention in the accounting system.</b> The finance team should ensure the advances recoverable and retention money payable are also tracked from the accounting system so as to have additional oversight in the financial system including ageing analysis. Financial reports and IFRs should include a schedule of outstanding advances to be recovered and retention money to be paid.	SIRP Finance Manager	31 October 2023	<b>Fully Executed</b>  The advances are recorded in the system but the retention money is only deducted without any physical transfer into a separate account.
38	<b>Ineligible expenditure paid/recorded.</b> Make refunds of ineligible expenditure of USD 4,548.81 related to VAT that were paid from IFAD. The erroneous double recording of USD 36,114.38 made in December 2022 and included in justifications to IFAD should also be adjusted in both the accounting system and ICP. There should be keen analysis of financial reports to pick-out any errors that could have been made.	SIRP Finance Manager	15 November 2023	<b>Fully Executed</b>  The adjustments on the ineligible expenditure were done on the IFR Q3 submitted
39	<b>Withholding tax deducted.</b> Ensure withholding tax deducted and other statutory deductions made are promptly remitted to revenue authority.	SIRP Finance Manager	15 November 2023	<b>Fully Executed</b>

				<p>The Withholding tax is deducted on payment and Ministry of Finance should release the equivalent amount as government contribution which then need to be transferred to ZIMRA on a quarterly basis</p> <p>A letter requesting counterpart funds to cover the withholding tax and VAT was written to the Ministry of Finance in December 2023 and we are waiting for the release.</p>
40	<b>Category allocation of expenditure.</b> Ensure the allocations of expenditure are made to the correct categories.	SIRP Finance Manager	1/1/2024	<p><b>Fully executed</b></p> <p>All salaries are now being paid under the salaries category from Jan 2024</p>
41	<b>Project completion and closeout preparation.</b> Prepare a schedule of winding up activities and submit to IFAD for approval as per IFAD procedures. Except for winding up activities, all other activities should be finalised by the completion date of 30 June 2024 to avoid having ineligible expenditure.	SIRP Finance Manager	31 December 2023	<p><b>Partially Executed</b></p> <p>In progress, Draft document is in place and will be shared with IFAD..</p>
42	<b>Payment of retention monies whose defect liability period exceeds project closeout dates.</b> Retention fees whose defect liability period exceed the project closeout period will be processed before the closeout dates against bank guarantees. These bank guarantees will be handed over to the Department of Irrigation who will be taking over the irrigation sites.	PCU	30 June 2024	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>This is already being implemented and contractors are submitting retention guarantees in lieu of retention money.</p>
43	<b>Internal audit.</b> Finalise the ongoing value for money audit and share the report with IFAD.	Internal Audit Department	31 October 2023	<p><b>Fully Executed</b></p> <p>The Internal audit was finalised and we are the report is now available</p>
44	<b>Assets.</b> Prepare a list of all project's assets and related handover plan for all SIRP assets and submit to IFAD for review and clearance	PCU	31/11/2023	<p><b>Partially Executed</b></p> <p>List of project assets is available and a draft hand over plan has been developed. Meeting has been held with the Ministry of Finance. Draft to be shared with IFAD.</p>

45	<b>Compensation of written-off vehicles by insurance Company.</b> Finalise on what compensation option would be made by the insurance company (between vehicles replacements and cash compensation) so as to pursue these.	PCU	31/10/2023	<b>Partially Executed</b> Mike Harris submitted a commitment letter to pay in cash by way of instalments. However, the funds are yet to be received. The programme is reconsidering replacement of the physical car taking advantage of the new cars that are in stock at the company.
46	<b>External audit.</b> The external auditor should keenly analyse financial statements and ensure they are of good quality before finalisation of audits of the next audit. This should also be submitted within the required timeline.	External Auditor	30/06/2023	<b>Partially Executed</b> Procurement of audit done.External audit to start on 19/3/2024.
<b>Procurement Management</b>				

47	<b>Procurement Plan (PP).</b> Amend and transmit the 2024 PP for IFAD review through OPEN, reflecting revisions to the AWPB during the mission. Timeline for new procurement activities to allow delivery within project completion period.	Procurement Specialist	31/10/2023	<b>Fully Executed</b>
48	<b>Processing of Procurement Activities.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain internal approvals wherever processing activities, and document procurement decisions appropriately.</li> <li>Allow for Bank Guarantees in exchange of withheld sums for the Defects Liability Periods beyond project completion. Where necessary, pending Bank Guarantees at project completion to be amended and have Dol as the beneficiary.</li> </ul>	Procurement Specialist	31/10/2023	<b>Ongoing</b> A tool/form for internal approvals was developed. The approval form is signed by the SIRP focal person, recommended by the director and approved the chief Director As part of documenting procurement decisions minutes are being produced, printed and filed. For Bank Guarantees the contractors are now submitting security instruments for retention e.g the latest submission was by Tensor.
49	<b>Contract Management.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review all ongoing Works contracts and accurately determine completion periods as per approved Works programmes, and where necessary process Extension of Time.</li> <li>Ensure valid performance securities and insurances as per contract.</li> </ul>	Procurement Specialist	31/10/2023	<b>Fully Executed</b> This has been implemented and all contracts that were approaching expiry dates were extended and the performance securities were validated as well in line with the new completion dates. This is an ongoing process updates are done as they become due.
50	<b>Procurement Records.</b>	Procurement Specialist	31/12/2023	<b>Ongoing</b> Once the approved IPCs are submitted for payment. Photocopies are made including invoices and contractors claims. The originals are submitted to finance to ensure that there is a complete record of the transaction.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure complete procurement records to include checklists, all contractual correspondence, certified deliverables, and progress reports.</li> </ul>															
51	<p><b>Remedial Works.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Considering that project resources have been exhausted, and there is need to attain functionality of Investments through remedial Works, then all pending remedial Works (Old Biri, Rupangwana, Musikavanhu, Chemakudo, Bambanani, and Gudo) to be undertaken only when Government provides written commitment to IFAD to provide funding from Government resources. The procurement of the Works can commence with initial stages, pending Notice of Intention to Award stage, until funds are availed from Government. The commitment from the Government to also cover payment for any scope of Work beyond contract completion period. PP and AWPB will be revised to indicate this arrangement.</li> </ul>	PCU	31/12/2023	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>A commitment letter was submitted to IFAD for the financing of Mbembeswane using Government resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ruapangwa, Musikavanhu, Gudo and Musikavanhu are being financed by IFAD resources.</li> <li>Chemakudo and Old biri will be financed using the USD government contribution hence a letter of commitment is not required The programme reallocated resources from government contribution from the different categories so as to finance these activities</li> <li>Contract negotiations are ongoing for Chemakudo. Old biri is at evaluation stage the minutes were shared with IFAD and the programme is addressing comments received.</li> </ul>												
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management</b>																
52	<p><b>Verification of household headship data.</b> Finalise ongoing household verification exercise</p>	M&E and SI Specialists	15/11/2023	<p><b>Fully Executed</b></p> <p>Results of the verification showed that 42% of the beneficiaries are women and 58% were men.</p> <table> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Female</th> <th>Male</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Dryland</td> <td>44%</td> <td>56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Irrigator</td> <td>40%</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall</td> <td>42</td> <td>58</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Female	Male	Dryland	44%	56%	Irrigator	40%	60%	Overall	42	58
	Female	Male														
Dryland	44%	56%														
Irrigator	40%	60%														
Overall	42	58														

53	<p><b>Carry out Final Verification of Project Data.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Verify all project data before the Final Impact assessment is undertaken</li> <li>Harmonise approaches in data tracking with Technical Officers and ensure no discrepancies exist in the data on the system</li> </ul>	M&E Specialist	30/06/2024	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Data is verified continuously as implementation still in progress Data cleaning is being done on a monthly basis A workshop was done with all staff at MTB and M&amp;E presented the key areas. The workshop include the newly seconded PFs</p>
54	<p><b>Undertake Final Impact Survey.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise ToRs for the Final Impact Survey by 30th October 2023. Ensure the ToRs are in line with the COI survey guidelines. Ensure the survey includes case studies on selected thematic areas</li> <li>Initiate procurement of consultant for the survey by 1st November 2023</li> <li>Ensure the survey is completed by May 2024</li> <li>Provide inputs to the Project Completion Report</li> </ul>	M&E Specialist	30/05/2024	<p><b>Partially Executed</b></p> <p>Submitted the ToRs for the Final Impact Survey for IFAD review and clearance. Comments received on 25 January 2024 and submitted received additional comments on 1 March. Comments addressed and submitted to procurement for onward submission to IFAD.</p>
55	<p><b>Prepare NORAD Grant Completion Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare ToRs for the NORAD Nutrition support Grant Completion Report</li> <li>Initiate procurement of consultant to undertake the preparation of the report</li> <li>Prepare Grant Completion Report by March 2024</li> </ul>	M&E Specialist and Nutrition Specialist	30/03/2024	<p><b>Partially Executed</b></p> <p>The consultant has been provided with a notification of intent to award and is lasing 3 March 2023. The programme is at contract negotiation stage.</p>
56	<p><b>Completion workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise final stakeholder workshop</li> </ul>	M&E Specialist and Knowledge Management Assistant	June 2024	<p><b>Not Done.</b></p> <p>Preparations to begin end of April.</p>
57	<p><b>Package Knowledge Products for Completion Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare lessons learnt and disseminate them during final workshop</li> </ul>	M&E Specialist and Knowledge Management Assistant	May 2024	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>2023 draft lesson learnt compilations report has been done.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compile and package key take away messages for different stakeholder groups. Disseminate these in innovative forms relevant to the respective stakeholder groups. e.g Government- Policy Briefs; Beneficiaries-Illustrated Poster Chats in local languages; Local Leaders- Booklets e.t.c.</li> <li>• Translate any beneficiary relevant knowledge products produced during the life of the project into the two main local languages and disseminate these in the project area (to Rural District Councils, Village Headmen, and Beneficiary groups)</li> </ul>		<p>Development of TORs for documentation consultant done and submitted to IFAD for no objection .</p> <p>Translation is ongoing to date the record keeping booklet for farmers has been translated into Shona and Ndebele.</p> <p>Draft newsletter contains article in Shona and Ndebele</p> <p>However progress on this has been affected of the absence of the KM Assistant in the months of January and February</p>
--	---	--	---

## Zimbabwe

---

### Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

### Supervision Report

### Appendix 5: Mission preparation and planning, TORs, schedules, people met

Mission Dates: 11/03/2024 to 22/03/2024

Document Date: 02/05/2024

Project No. 2000001233

Report No. 6840-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division  
Programme Management Department





## Appendix 5: Mission preparation and planning, TORs, schedules, people met.

1. **Completion.** The Mission provided technical support to the AFAP Project team through promotion of experience exchange between the National Programme Coordinator of PROCAVA (an IFAD supported Programme in Mozambique) and the Project team. Apart from participating in technical discussions and field visits, the PROCAVA NPC facilitated a session on completion. Among others, it was agreed that the Project will focus on the implementation of the following activities and measures: (i) Reduces project activities; (ii) Strengthens take-over institutions / organizations and ensures they effectively assume project activities; (iii) Conduct impact surveys and studies; (iv) Conduct procurement for recruitment of consultants to conduct PCR; (v) Mobilize and engage consultants in the development of PCR; (iv) Discontinue implementation of activities that might not be finalized before PCD; (v) Ensure implementation of the Project exit strategy including a stakeholder engagement plan (Fishing, Environmental and **Security** Institutions); (vi) Conclude execution of all service contracts to be financed by IFAD before Project Completion Date; (vii) Review inventory of fixed assets and (viii) Constitute the Project information Archive and backups.
2. In relation to the exit and sustainability strategy as well as the PCR development, the Mission has identified the key role of the Project technical staff in the implementation of activities contributing to strengthening sustainability like training, strengthening market linkages and business focus, handover of Project activities and providing inputs to PCR through compilation of success stories, case studies and some thematic studies. Therefore, the Mission has encouraged the Project to ensure all efforts to keep the technical staff latest until December 2022. Specific to PCR, it was agreed that the Project will strictly implement activities described in Appendix **XXXXX** including compliance with the deadlines.

### MATRIX OF PCR ACTIVITIES

#	Activity	Responsible	Timeline
1	Finalize preparation of TORs for conducting PCR including dissemination among relevant stakeholders	Project team	Immediate
2	Submit tender documents (incl.: TORs for conducting PCR) to IFAD for NO Objection	Project Coordinator	April 2022
3	Conduct the overall procurement process aiming at recruiting consultants to conduct PCR	Project team	July 2022
4	Mobilization of Consultants for planning and kick-off with PCR exercise	Project team	August 2022
5	Facilitation of access to any relevant Project information and data to the Consultants	Project team (PC, M&E Officer, Finance Manager and Technical Staff)	August 2022
6	Facilitation of consultations and data collection process from Project stakeholders by the Consultants	Project Coordinator and Technical Staff	September 2022
7	Elaboration of the Draft of PCR including extensive discussions involving the Consultants, Project team and other stakeholders	Consultants	October 2022
8	Sharing of the Draft of PCR with Government and other relevant stakeholders	Project Coordinator	October 2022
9	Ensure implementation of handover activities as well as preparation of the Completion Mission	Project team (PC, M&E Officer and Technical Staff)	Continuous

10	Facilitate the Completion Mission	Project team (PC, M&E Officer and Technical Staff)	28 November - 09 December 2022
11	Ensure that the Completion Mission go through the draft of the PCR and provide inputs	Project team	28 November - 09 December 2022
12	Organize a meeting between the PCR Consultants and the Completion Mission for feedback	Project Coordinator	28 November - 09 December 2022
13	Organize the Final Validation Workshop	AFAP/IPA	28 November - 09 December 2022
14	Review the Draft of PCR ensuring incorporation of the Completion Mission Inputs and Guidance	Consultants	December 2022
15	Submission of the Draft of PCR by the Consultant (with proposed ratings)	Consultants	December 2022
16	Review of the Draft of PCR	Project team	December 2022
17	Submission of the Final Draft to IFAD	Project Coordinator	January 2023



Investing in rural people

**Terms of Reference for Consultants and other persons hired by IFAD to participate in missions under a non-staff contract.**

<b>MISSION DETAILS</b>	
<b>Country of Assignment/Location:</b>	<b>Zimbabwe</b>
<b>Mission Name:</b>	<b>Zimbabwe Supervision Mission</b>
<b>Mission Start Date:</b>	<b>11 March 2024</b>
<b>Mission End Date:</b>	<b>22 March 2024</b>
<b>Division/Department:</b>	<b>ESA/PMD</b>
<b>Reports to (name and title):</b>	<b>Francesco Rispoli, Head, Multi-Country /Country Director, Zimbabwe</b>

\*The mission will commence with a one-day meeting remotely, in field activities will start on 9 October

<b>MISSION COMPOSITION (Team members' full name and specialization)</b>	
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Specialization:</b>
Francesco Rispoli	Team Leader, Country Director IFAD South Africa
Luigi Armando	Programme Officer, IFAD Kenya
Sami Ouechtati	Irrigation, Infrastructure, Specialist, Consultant
TBD	Climate Change and NRM Specialist, Consultant,
TBC	Senior Value Chain Specialist, Consultant
Joylyn Ndoro	Targeting and Social Inclusion, IFAD Country Programme Liaison
TBC	Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management Specialist, Consultant
Victoria Wise (remotely)	Nutrition Specialist-Consultant NORAD grant IFAD
Prudence Wongbi Sangnyuykewir	Financial Management Specialist, IFAD Kenya
TBD	Procurement Specialist

## BACKGROUND

1. 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, programme beneficiaries, IFAD and OPEC Fund. 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. OPEC FUND will finance 29% (US\$15.0 million) of programme costs, covering civil works related to irrigation rehabilitation and road improvement. The Loan Agreement between OPEC Fund and the Government of Zimbabwe was signed on 8 March 2018. SIRP is being implemented by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development (MLAFWRD) 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. The project completion date was extended from 31 December 2023 to 30 June 2024 and the closing date was extended from 30 June 2024 to 31 December 2024. SIRP MTR was conducted in November 2020. The last supervision mission was held in October 2023.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The programme consists of two components as follows: Component 1: Sustainable smallholder irrigation development; and Component 2: Climate-smart agriculture and market access.
5. The programme is described in detail in the Programme Design Report, Financing Agreement as well as in the Programme Implementation Manual (PIM).

## Implementation Progress

The project experienced a delayed start. To date the project has had effective implementation period of 5 years 9 months and by project completion date of 30 June 2024, the effective project implementation duration will be 6 years after 6 months extension to the original 7 years target (7,5years duration). Other challenges faced by the project included: COVID 19 pandemic, global crisis, the delayed approval of the 2023 AWPB due to inconsistencies in the financial figures presented by the project, procurement challenges, weakness in coordination and management among others. The project incurred over expenditure on salaries and allowances as well as on works, leading to the need of a budget reallocation and extension of project duration by 6 months, following the request of GoZ.

2. Under component 1, all the feasibility studies have been completed covering 6914 ha. A number of irrigation schemes are now operational and were commissioned in 2022 and 2023. By 12 February 2024 rehabilitation on schemes covering 4212 out of 5202 ha had been completed. Completed schemes include Exchange, Musikavanhu (5 blocks), Rupangwana, Fungai, Sebasa, Gudo, Mayorca, Banga, Chikwarakwara, and Guyu. Tshovani, Silalabuhwa, Hamamavihire, Fuwe Panganai A & B, Old Biri and Biri Extension schemes. and Mushandike village 11, 15, 22 and 23, remainder of Musikavannhu, Musaverema, Makwe, Insukamini, Valley, Chibuwe, Mushandike village 16, Romsley lot 3, Mambanjeni, 70ha of Bambanani, 173ha of Cashel Valley schemes.

3. Ongoing rehabilitation is on irrigation schemes covering 988 ha: Romsley lot 2, Malikango, Machena, Mbembesanwa, Chemakudo, 427ha of Cashel Valley, 20ha of Bambanani, Mankonkoni and Rustlers Gorge. Additionally, works are ongoing for remedial works on the following schemes: Rupangwana, Musikavanhu and Gudo. Procurement process (waiting for IFAD NO) is ongoing on, Bambanani Electrification and Chemakudo Weir. Tender evaluation is ongoing on Old Biri conveyance pipeline. In summary, completed works is on 4212 ha, ongoing works are on 988 ha and remedial works ongoing for 3 schemes and tender evaluation ongoing on 3 schemes. The total targeted area for rehabilitation is 5,200 ha against the original target of 6,100 ha. To improve contract management and expedite project completion, Government has engaged UNOPS. In addition, training of water users should be expedited.

6. NORAD SF grant completion is 31 March 2024. The project developed TORs for the endline survey and the recruitment of consultant and contract signing with consultant is expected mid-February. The supplier for provision of labour-saving technologies was identified and the delivery of the equipment to the sites is expected to commence last week of February, coupled with a training on operations and maintenance. Documentation of best practices exercise is ongoing. There has been no progress on agribusiness training for youth and the purchase and delivery of starter kits as the activity awaits revision of the 2024 AWPB and PP.
7. Component 2 made significant progress despite the delayed approval of the full AWPB in 2023. By December 2023, several activities had exceeded their targets: nutrition education (218%), strengthening of women organizations (122%), gender mainstreaming (139%), training on good agricultural practices (108%), training of youths (107%), training of marketing committees (100%), training of agriculture committees (153%) and capacity development of government staff (ARDAS) (217%). Private sector participation and access to loans also increased by December 2023 with 10 irrigation schemes involved in contract farming or securing production loans such as Mushandike, Rupangwana. Some activities were behind target: natural resources training (94%), training on marketing, income-generating activities and business skills (89%), training on post-harvest management (76%), field days and exchange visits (57%). Some of the nutrition gardens and the high impact Natural Resource Management Facility (NRMF) were not fully operational.

## MISSION OBJECTIVES AND OUTPUTS

### *Overall Mission Objective*

8. From the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2024, IFAD will field a supervision mission on SIRP. The objectives of the mission will be to assist the Government to: (i) follow up on the implementation status of the agreed actions from the previous mission; (ii) assess the project performance and the progress towards the achievement of project objectives; (iii) prepare the project for project completion considering that the project completion is in less than 5 months to 30 June 2024; (iv) separately from core SIRP interventions, to assess the progress in implementation of the complementary NORAD grant; (v) identify challenges in project implementation, both in strategic aspects and well as in implementation arrangements and possible solutions; (vi) identify best practices and lessons that could be scaled up to improve the programme implementation; (vii) assess compliance with fiduciary aspects; identify if any of the ongoing infrastructure activities will not be finalized before the completion date and provide possible alternatives; (viii) make proposals to expedite implementation and assess if project targets will be met in the remaining project period; and (ix) make sure the project has a viable exit strategy.
9. The mission will build on the previous supervision and implementation missions, and it will observe in particular the status of the agreed actions of Supervision Mission of November 2023 as well as recommendations of the different review meetings held between IFAD, UNOPS, SIRP project team and GoZ counterparts.
10. Specifically, the supervision review will consider the following:
  - Assess physical quality of completed infrastructure and propose actions to address the identified defects.
  - Analyse financial progress. Assess whether the use of project funds is commensurate with the attainment of physical progress, efficacy and the timeliness of procurement and disbursement activities for component 1 and 2.
  - Assess the efficiency of project organisation and management with respect to its size and composition, organisational structure, personnel management and policy, the qualifications of local staff and consultants, reporting, effectiveness of the M&E system (in defining performance indicators and collecting and analysing monitoring data on project progress) and follow-up on primary stakeholders' reactions to project activities.
  - Assess the relevance and effectiveness of technical assistance and training (access to market, business skills, CSA) given to primary stakeholders and staff in relation to design objectives, and the extent to which they have been given based on needs assessment and followed up on to determine their impact.
  - Assess the quality of cooperation with institutions and effectiveness of coordination mechanisms, with respect to composition and membership of coordination committees, and contribution to timely decision making and problem solving. Changes in project design and the PIM in this respect will be thoroughly assessed.
  - Analyse which factors and constraints have influenced project implementation, including technical, managerial, organisational, institutional, and socio-economic policy issues, in addition to other external factors unforeseen during design.
  - Assess project results and impacts, in terms of development outcomes, based on the project's actual and potential development impact on the primary stakeholder groups, relevant institutions and wider context. This includes identifiable benefits for primary stakeholders – including wider livelihood and capacity-building – in terms of depth, spread and gender, primary stakeholder participation and environmental concerns.
  - Assess the prospects of the local primary and secondary stakeholders and host institutions for sustaining impacts after termination of the project, taking into account old and new assumptions and risks.
  - Make an overall assessment of project cost effectiveness.
  - Produce a clear set of lessons learned that can benefit the project in its remaining lifespan. In particular, consider more cost-effective implementation mechanism, for instance drawing from good practices and lessons learned.

### Mission Arrangements

1. The mission will commence with team members' virtual meeting with SIRP team on 8 March 2024 to discuss the TOR and any other issues related to the mission. The TOR and mission arrangements will further be discussed with the SIRP team and Government. Any subsequent changes to this TOR may be made orally or written upon mutual consent. The meeting will also discuss the progress made since the last supervision mission.
2. The mission will be a physical mission. The IFAD mission team will be split in groups and will travel to the field to observe programme implementation and to exchange and discuss with implementing partners and beneficiaries in the field.
3. Detailed terms of reference for the team are elaborated below. Other tasks, as reasonably required, may be requested by the team leader.
4. The supervision mission will produce an Operational Results Management System (ORMS) supervision report using the new guidelines from which a summary Aide Memoire will be prepared that highlights major issues and agreements by 22 March 2024.

### Outputs

5. The mission will produce the following outputs:
  - An Aide Memoire
  - A Management Letter to be communicated by IFAD to Government.
  - A Supervision Mission Report with Technical Annexes as needed, following strictly IFAD's template and guidelines, and in accordance with the detailed Terms of Reference as elaborated below.
6. IFAD will only accept reports that have been properly formatted using the IFAD template. It is the responsibility of each team member to ensure that they have received the correct template before starting to write their report.

### Tentative Mission Schedule

Date	Activity	Participant, Position & Institution	Time
08/03/2024 Friday	SIRP presentation on project status, last mission recommendations and implementation of AWPB.	<b>SIRP Mission Team; MLAFWRD, IFAD</b>	0900hrs – 1300hrs
	Project Progress Presentation cont. by PCU		1400hrs – 1700hrs
10/03/2024 Sunday	<b>Mission Arrival</b>	<b>IFAD Team</b>	
11/03/2024 Monday	Courtesy call	<b>Minister of MLAFWRD Minister of MOFED PS MLAFWRD PS MOFED</b>	0800hrs  TBC
	Discussions and Bilateral meetings	<b>PCU, IPs, MLAFWRD, IFAD team</b>	1000hrs – 1700hrs
12 -15 /03/2024 Tuesday -Friday	Field visit <i>Manicaland Masvingo Matebeleland South Midlands</i>	<b>PCU, MLAFWRD, IFAD, Team</b>	0630hrs – 1700hrs
15-16/03/2024 Saturday	Travel back to Harare		
17/03/2024 Sunday	Individual reading and writing sessions.	<b>IFAD, team</b>	
18/03/2024 Monday	<i>Team meeting on findings</i> Individual writing sessions for AM and ORMS consultations, meetings	<b>IFAD team</b>	0800hrs-1700hrs
19/03/2024 Tuesday	Individual writing sessions, consultations, preparing key mission findings/draft Aide memoire and Supervision Mission Report ORMS.	<b>IFAD team</b>	0800hrs-1700hrs
20/03/2023 Wednesday	Individual writing sessions, consultations, preparing key mission findings/draft Aide memoire. Submission of individual writing of AM and Supervision Mission Report ORMS.	<b>IFAD team Submit AM to GOZ for comments at pre-wrap up</b>	1400hrs-1700hrs

21/03/2024 Thursday	Circulating for Review of the recommendations with SIRP and GOZ and virtual pre-wrap up	<b>IFAD Team</b>	
22/03/2023 Friday	Wrap up meeting (remotely)	<b>PS Agriculture Mission Team &amp; SIRP PCU, MLAFWRD</b>	10-00hrs 12-00hrs

<b>INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND REQUIRED COMPLETION DATES</b>	
<b>Full Name of Staff:</b>	<b>Mr Francesco Rispoli</b> <b>IFAD Country Director and Mission Team Leader</b>
<b>Expected Start Date of Assignment:</b>	11 March 2024
<b>Expected End Date of Assignment:</b>	22 March 2024
<b>Total number of working days (max. 240 in a 12-month period):</b>	11
<b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVE(S) TO BE ACHIEVED</b>	
<b>Expected Activities:</b>	
<p>7. <b>Mr Francesco Rispoli, Country Director (Mission Team Leader):</b> will assume the overall responsibility for the coordination of the mission and guide the mission members on their specific tasks. He will backstop the mission, review the draft AM and report, and represent IFAD at the wrap-up meeting with Government.</p> <p>In addition, the CD will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide for strategic mission preparation and coordination with SIRP and the GoZ.</li> <li>• Represent IFAD, lead the policy dialogue and ensure the proper conduct of the mission and prepare the timely delivery of the mission's outputs, i.e. Aide Memoire and draft Report to Government and IFAD;</li> <li>• Keep the GOZ updated on the mission.</li> <li>• Guide the team in identification of lessons learned and observing opportunities but recognizing challenges which might occur when the workload multiplies.</li> <li>• Observe implementation of policy dialogue activities and come with recommendations of how SIRP could best contribute to the national policy dialogue.</li> <li>• Facilitate consensus building on the key messages of the mission and the related key recommendations, coherence of all written input.</li> </ul>	
<b>KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	
<b>Expected Outputs (please include any travel if applicable):</b>	<b>Required Completion Date:</b>
<p>close collaboration with the other team members, produce the following deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Delegate to each mission member responsibility for specific sections to write for the ORMS Supervision Report and prepare the summary Aide Memoire;</li> <li>▪ Coordinate with the team members on the preparations of the appendices;</li> <li>▪ Contribute to the AM and ORMS report as required.</li> </ul>	<p>March 2024</p> <p>March 2024</p> <p>March 2024</p>

<b>INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND REQUIRED COMPLETION DATES</b>	
<b>Full Name of Staff:</b>	<b>Mr Luigi Armando</b> <b>Programme Officer (IFAD Kenya)</b>
<b>Expected Start Date of Assignment:</b>	11 March 2024
<b>Expected End Date of Assignment:</b>	22 March 2024
<b>Total number of working days (max. 240 in a 12-month period):</b>	11
<b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVE(S) TO BE ACHIEVED</b>	

<b>Expected Activities:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Assess the overall progress achieved in the implementation of the agreed actions during the last supervision mission.</li> <li>b) Assess the implementation strategies for the remaining lifetime of the project for maximizing of the development impact.</li> <li>c) Assess the main SIRP partnerships in terms of quality and effectiveness of the partnership and the partnership building efforts by the project team.</li> <li>d) Assess of the extent to which the expectations in terms of potential partners and areas of collaboration, particular those identified in the COSOP (Complementary donor initiative/partnership potential) and in the Project Design Report, have been achieved.</li> <li>e) Assess the extent to which the project team has selectively and strategically explored, developed, maintained and strengthened formal and informal partnerships in line with the evolving needs of the project.</li> <li>f) Assess the how the SIRP is building partnerships with private sector organisations, for the benefit the project target group.</li> <li>g) Assess progress in enhancing coordination and synergies with other organizations and/or initiatives during project implementation.</li> <li>h) Assess the efforts by the project on leveraging the knowledge, experience, and influence of other organizations and/or initiatives to benefit the project or enhance its impact, particularly with regards to scaling-up or policy impact.</li> <li>i) Arrange with partners to obtain their feedback and insights regarding the overall quality and effectiveness of the partnership and the partnership-building efforts of the project team.</li> <li>j) Support the Irrigation Specialist in the assessment of the infrastructure activities implemented by the project;</li> </ul> <p><b>Project Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assess the adequacy of staff complement in the remaining project period.</li> <li>b. Assess the actions by government to complement gaps in project management.</li> <li>c. Assess the implementation of the salary structure in line with approved budget.</li> <li>d. Review bottlenecks in submission and clearance of certificates and give recommendations.</li> <li>e. Review the project exit strategy and make recommendations for improvements.</li> <li>f. Assess the effectiveness of the Project Steering Committee</li> <li>g. Review project measures in addressing weaknesses in coordination and containing the operating costs.</li> </ul>	
<b>KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	
<b>Expected Outputs (please include any travel if applicable):</b>	<b>Required Completion Date:</b>
<p>Close collaboration with the other team members, produce the following deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the coordination of mission’s plans.</li> <li>• Contribute to the Aide memoire relevant sections to the ORMS report and appendices.</li> </ul>	<p>March 2024 March 2024</p>

<b>1. Full Name of Staff:</b>	Sami Ouechtati <b>Irrigation Infrastructure Specialist</b>
<b>Expected Start Date of Assignment:</b>	11 March 2024
<b>Expected End Date of Assignment:</b>	22 March 2024
<b>Total number of working days (max. 240 in a 12-month period):</b>	11
<b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVE(S) TO BE ACHIEVED</b>	
<b>Expected Activities:</b>	
<p>The Consultant will focus his analysis on the following aspects of the implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess progress made on the achievement of the 5200 hectares for the reduced target from 6100ha.</li> <li>• Observe the progress made on ongoing works and the contracted works for the remainder of the project period to achieve the target. In particular observe progress for, Romsley lot 2, Malikango, Mbembesanwe, Chemakudo, Cashel Valley, Bambanani, Makonikoni and Rustlers Gorge</li> <li>• Assess the progress in tendering and rehabilitation of remedial works: Chemakudo weir, Rupangwana, Musikavanhu, Gudo, Old Biri conveyance, Bambananai electrification and for the works under Component 2.</li> </ul>	

- Observe progress on rehabilitation of works for infield irrigation systems by the farmers, agreed co-financing arrangement and supervision of works by DOI.
- Assess the quality, viability and sustainability of irrigation technologies in completed irrigation infrastructure and make recommendations to address identified defects.
- Assess progress on all works contracted out since the last supervision mission for remedial works in Musikavanhu, Gudo, Rupangwana, Old Biri, Chemakudo and Bambanani
- Assess the progress made on all subcontracted scheme – Romsely lot 2 and on-going subcontracting negotiations for Rustlers Gorge.
- Assess the damage caused by excessive rain and what has been done to repair the damage at Cashel Valley
- Identify potential bottlenecks and effectiveness in contract management and in implementation of the infrastructure activities that might cause delays in the project's completion date and propose viable solutions to mitigate them.
- Assess the scheme governance, O&M, technical and economic aspects.
- Review progress in the implementation of revitalisation plans and detailed designs.
- Observe the progress and quality of training in O&M, water management and water efficiency, and assess the feasibility to complete the training in the remaining project period.
- Assess the availability and quality of site handbook, contract management handbook, operations, and O&M manuals and come up with recommendations.
- Together with the procurement specialist, review the key issues in the on-going civil works contracts and identify bottlenecks that have delayed the finalisation of contracts on time, in particular for schemes where the payment arrangements to contractors have been changed: Mbembesane, Machena, Chemakudo and Old Biri.
- Assess the involvement of beneficiaries in scheme rehabilitation and the level of beneficiary contribution.
- Assess the performance of UNOPS in meeting its contractual obligations and the recommendations provided to speed up implementation.
- For each of the ongoing works, review timelines and provide milestones and recommendations to expedite the rehabilitation of major irrigation schemes

#### KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Expected Outputs (please include any travel if applicable):	Required Completion Date:
In close collaboration with the other team members, produce the following deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contribute to the AM and ORMS report of infrastructure issues.</li> </ul>	March 2024

#### INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND REQUIRED COMPLETION DATES

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND REQUIRED COMPLETION DATES	
<b>Full Name of Staff:</b>	Zira Maunganidze Climate Change and NRM:
<b>Expected Start Date of Assignment:</b>	11 March 2024
<b>Expected End Date of Assignment:</b>	22 March 2024
<b>Total number of working days (max. 240 in a 12-month period):</b>	11
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVE(S) TO BE ACHIEVED	
<b>Expected Activities:</b>	
The Consultant will be responsible for reviewing progress with regard to climate change issues and natural resources management. More specifically, she will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the overall progress achieved in the implementation of the agreed actions during the last supervision mission.</li> <li>• Review the progress made in NRM since the last mission and recommendations.</li> <li>• Review the quality of planned activities related to climate adaptation/mitigation and environment and NRM.</li> <li>• In collaboration with gender, targeting and partnership specialist, review the quality of targeting and approaches used in implementing climate change, environment and NRM activities.</li> <li>• Review the progress made in the finalisation of ESMPs.</li> <li>• Assess the extent to which planned component activities and interventions are addressing sustainable NRM as a contribution to the overall project objectives.</li> <li>• Assess the progress made on rolling out weather information to farmers.</li> <li>• Follow up with the responsible authorities in GCF funding resources.</li> <li>• Assess progress in the implementation of the SECAP measures and recommend measures to address emerging issues, especially in relation to infrastructure development.</li> </ul>	



- Assess climate risks along the different commodity groups and the quality of implementation of the climate change adaptation interventions. Propose adaptation/mitigation measures as required.
- Observe the progress and impact in the implementation of the Natural Resources Management Facility, in particular the nutrition gardens and goat projects.
- Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the project about mainstreaming climate risk and environmental management.
- Assess whether the project is putting into place adequate sustainability mechanisms for ownership of the activities especially infrastructure by beneficiary communities.
- Assess implementation of climate smart agriculture activities
- Assess documentation of best practices and lessons learnt.

<b>KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>	
<b>Expected Outputs (please include any travel if applicable):</b>	<b>Required Completion Date:</b>
<p>Close collaboration with the other team members, produce the following deliverables:</p> <p>Contribute to the AM and ORMS report on climate change and natural resource management issues.</p>	March 2024

<b>INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND REQUIRED COMPLETION DATES</b>	
<b>Full Name of Staff:</b>	<b>Senior VC Specialist,</b>
<b>Expected Start Date of Assignment:</b>	11 March 2024
<b>Expected End Date of Assignment:</b>	22 March 2024
<b>Total number of working days (max. 240 in a 12-month.):</b>	11
<b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVE(S) TO BE ACHIEVED</b>	
<b>Expected Activities:</b>	
<p>11. The Consultant will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the overall progress achieved in the implementation of the agreed actions during the last supervision mission.</li> <li>• Assess progress made in capacitating the farmers, with particular emphasis to market linkages and post-harvest activities which were lagging. Assess the impact, best practices and lessons learned.</li> <li>• Review the progress made in the implementation of the BDSP with ARDA scheme managers. Assess private sector involvement in contract farming.</li> <li>• Assess activities lagging such as natural resources management training, training on marketing, income-generating activities and business skills, training on post-harvest management, field days and exchange visits, high-impact goat projects and nutrition gardens and provide recommendations.</li> <li>• Assess the impact of the budget reallocation on component targets,</li> <li>• Assess the overall progress and outcomes in implementing the FFSs and the capacity of IPs to implement FFS (master training and training of extension workers) and the link with BDS.</li> <li>• Assess progress in implementation of multipurpose post-harvest centres and outcomes.</li> <li>• Identify potential technologies and practices for scaling up.</li> <li>• Assess the progress made with disclosure of scheme cost O, M &amp; D costs to farmers.</li> <li>• Assess the private sector linkages under each value chain, analysing the bottlenecks, opportunities, and way forward; especially in relation to the linkages of the VC with traders and MSMEs and other private sector entities.</li> <li>• Assess the progress achieved on market access and how market aspects are being addressed in the Project – identify some best practices.</li> <li>• Observe the commitment of farmers through beneficiary contributions.</li> <li>• Assess the effectiveness of the training by Agritex, ARDA on FAAB.</li> <li>• Assess the capacity issues of SIRP and IPs in operationalisation of Small-Scale Value Addition and commercialisation - provide guidance on the best ways to overcome the constraints; and</li> </ul>	

- Assess the effectiveness and adaption of the post-harvest technologies implemented through SIRP and make recommendations for further modernization of agricultural processes.

**Agriculture production**

- Assess the progress with the implementation and sustainability of the lead farmer approach in rainfed areas.
- Observe the progress and reaching the farmers through FFS and make recommendations.
- Assess FFS and integration of other technical aspects such as FBS, nutrition etc into the training curriculum.
- Assess the progress made with implementation of e-extension services.
- Assess the level of output from the irrigation and rainfed areas.

**KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Expected Outputs (please include any travel if applicable):	Required Completion Date:
Close collaboration with the other team members, produce the following deliverables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contribute to the AM and ORMS report as required.</li> </ul>	March 2024

**INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND REQUIRED COMPLETION DATES**

<b>Full Name of Staff:</b>	<b>Ms Joylyn Ndoro</b> <b>Targeting, Nutrition and Social Inclusion Specialist</b>
<b>Expected Start Date of Assignment:</b>	11 March 2024
<b>Expected End Date of Assignment:</b>	22 March 2024
<b>Total number of working days (max. 240 in a 12-month period):</b>	11

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVE(S) TO BE ACHIEVED**

<b>Expected Activities:</b>
The Consultant <b>will focus her analysis in particular on the following:</b>
<b>Targeting and Social Inclusion:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the overall progress achieved in the implementation of the agreed actions during the last supervision mission.</li> <li>• Assess targeting mechanisms and strategy considerations of the Project. Assess the outreach of beneficiaries including women, women headed households, men, youth (disaggregated to male and female). Review the progress in the implementation of a crosscutting targeting strategy.</li> <li>• Review the quality of targeting and outreach, gender mainstreaming level and quality of women and youth participation against the AWBP targets.</li> <li>• Review the quality of targeting and approaches used in implementing natural resources management and expanded irrigation schemes activities.</li> <li>• Assess the quality of uptake of project activities by the project groups and identify challenges faced by the groups in the process.</li> <li>• Assess the level and quality of women participation in leadership positions in WUOs, and income generating groups under natural resources management facility.</li> <li>• In collaboration with other members of the Mission, review the overall progress of implementing the Gender, Youth and Targeting interventions.</li> <li>• Assess the impact on GALS, through rolling out and training of GALS champions.</li> <li>• Assess the progress made to ensure that the M&amp;E system is equipped to handle sex-disaggregated data and produce summarized information that allows the team to make informed decisions.</li> <li>• Assess the extent and quality of gender and youth mainstreaming as well as disaggregated reporting.</li> <li>• Assess the impact in linkages on Climate change, youth, gender, and nutrition.</li> </ul>

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Expected Outputs (please include any travel if applicable):	Required Completion Date:
<p>close collaboration with the other team members, produce the following deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the AM and ORMS report as required.</li> </ul>	March 2024

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND REQUIRED COMPLETION DATES	
Full Name of Staff:	Monitoring and Evaluation and Knowledge Management Specialist
Expected Start Date of Assignment:	11 March 2024
Expected End Date of Assignment:	22 March 2024
Total number of working days (max. 240 in a 12-month period):	11

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVE(S) TO BE ACHIEVED**

**Expected Activities:**

12. The Consultant will focus on the analysis on the following:

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- Assess the overall progress achieved in the implementation of the agreed actions during the last supervision mission.
- Evaluate the progress of implementation in relation to the outputs, results and indicators defined in the project Logframe.  
Assess the achievement of project outputs, outcomes and outreach for project performance. Review the actual outreach for SIRP.
- Assess the progress with the implementation of the AWPB and the preparation for the 2024 AWPB.
- Give an outline of the steps needed to prepare SIRP for project completion.  
Review the M&E setup, particularly as regards (a) information flow, reporting tools and formats, from and between components and stakeholders; b) the quality of data generated; c) ORMS compliance; d) segregated according along the target sub-groups and by such as gender, as per targeting strategy.
- Evaluate the implications of the recommendations proposed by the mission team and based on the inputs from the other team members, lead the revision of the project Log frame and M&E system.
- Review the project reporting on outcomes. Review the Annual Outcome Survey report and any other outcome assessments carried out by the project. Propose recommendations for improvement on outcome reporting.  
Review the logical framework, and ensure that progress is reported against objectives, outcomes and outputs;
- Assess the project data management systems. Review the progress in development, operationalisation, and utilisation of the electronic monitoring database and in getting reports useful for the programme.
- Review the status of project's preparedness vis-à-vis all the steps to be taken before project completion and loan closing.
- Support the PMU in the preparation of the Completion Review process and the related Project Completion Report.
- Evaluate the contributions of the implementation partners to the Project M&E system; Observe the use of women and youth inclusion indicators, that go beyond participation (related to decision making, empowerment); make recommendations; and
- Assess the integration of GIS and M&E system.

**Knowledge Management:**

- Review the status of the knowledge management strategy and progress towards implementation of the KM plan and provide recommendations for improvements.

- Assess the existence and use of knowledge management mechanisms for capturing, packaging and disseminating successful project innovations, positive results, lessons learned, and practices fit for scale-up;
- Review the use of the calendar of knowledge products to be produced by the project clearly spelling out how they will be produced by whom, when and for which target group.
- Assess the status of the KM capacity/skills assessment and the plan for addressing skills/capacity gaps.
- Review and comment on the KM budget and resources.
- Assess progress made towards KM indicators in project log frame and together with the M&E specialist, make recommendations.
- Assess and provide recommendations for the utilization of evidence, good practices, innovations and lessons for country level Policy dialogue/engagement.
- Comment on knowledge exchange and lesson learning at national and regional level; and
- Assess the extent to which the project is contributing to lessons learnt, policy review and engagement at country and national levels.

#### KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

##### Expected Outputs (please include any travel if applicable):

##### Required Completion Date:

Close collaboration with the other team members, produce the following deliverables:

Contribute to the AM and ORMS report as required.

March 2024

#### INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND REQUIRED COMPLETION DATES

##### Full Name of Staff:

**Ms Victoria Wise**  
**Nutrition Specialist, (Remotely)**

##### Expected Start Date of Assignment:

11 March 2024

##### Expected End Date of Assignment:

22 March 2024

##### Total number of working days (max. 240 in a 12-month period):

11

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVE(S) TO BE ACHIEVED

##### Expected Activities:

- The Consultant **will focus her analysis on the following:**

##### Nutrition:

- Assess the overall progress achieved in the implementation of the agreed actions during the last supervision mission.
- Assess the progress and quality of implementation of the project's nutrition-sensitive interventions.
- Assess against the AWPB the extent to which the project is reaching the intended target groups and contributing to achieving intended nutrition-related outcomes.
- Review the status of the nutrition endline survey.
- Assess the progress on selection of youth beneficiaries.
- Review and comment on the budget for nutrition activities.
- Assess the effectiveness of the partners in place.
- Assess the progress with implementation of the NORAD nutrition grant and the feasibility of completing all project activities by completion date.
- Assess the outcomes on-nutrition gardens.
- Assess project investments in improvement of local food systems (mainly through increasing and diversifying nutrient-rich food production) and review progress in integrating nutrition considerations into various stages of the food value chain beyond production.

- Comment on nutrition knowledge and awareness-raising (through nutrition education and behaviour change communication) including hygiene and sanitation education.
- Assess the impact and lessons learned in linkages between nutrition and other mainstreaming themes (environment and climate, gender and youth).
- Comment on the project's nutrition-related policy dialogue and coordination with sectors outside agriculture and provide recommendations for strengthening of policy frameworks, and multisectoral action and partnerships which are essential for creating an enabling environment for nutrition.
- Assess outcomes for SIRP nutrition interventions.
- Undertake any other tasks as requested by CD and/or lead consultant.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Expected Outputs (please include any travel if applicable):	Required Completion Date:
<p>Close collaboration with the other team members, produce the following deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contribute to the AM and ORMS report as required.</li> </ul>	March 2024

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND REQUIRED COMPLETION DATES	
<b>Full Name of Staff:</b>	Prudence Wongbi Sangnyuykewir <b>Financial Management Specialist</b>
<b>Expected Start Date of Assignment:</b>	11 March 2024
<b>Expected End Date of Assignment:</b>	22 March 2024
<b>Total number of working days (max. 240 in a 12-month period):</b>	11
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVE(S) TO BE ACHIEVED	
<b>Expected Activities:</b>	
<p>13. The Consultant will be in charge of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the IFAD FMAQ as the basis to collect the relevant information to assess the strengths and weaknesses of financial management systems, internal controls and financial reporting systems relating to financial management and financial administration of project funds to confirm that they still satisfy IFAD's fiduciary requirements, comply with the Financing Agreement and LTB and update it accordingly.</li> <li>• Review the functionality of the accounting system and ability of the system to provide easily adequate financial reports, as needed; propose remedial actions where required.</li> <li>• Review and give guidance for the elaboration of Withdrawal Applications, review the sample of expenditures to be claimed through SOEs, focusing on the adequacy, completeness and eligibility of future claims.</li> <li>• Review the operation of the project special/designated account accounts.</li> <li>• Observe the use of the different sources of finance (IFAD grant, OPEC FUND, GoZ funding) to register Project activities correctly, observe and give guidance in particular for the templates to capture beneficiary contributions.</li> <li>• Review the fixed asset register ensuring all assets procured are properly recorded and accounted in the records of the project.</li> <li>• Review project compliance with all covenants contained in the financing agreement.</li> <li>• Together with IPs, assess value for money, identify possible problematic areas in the programme implementation in which value for money is not considered appropriately and propose solutions to improve value for money.</li> <li>• Review overall project financial performance; and</li> <li>• Estimate the salaries and benefits paid to each staff member in comparison to the budget allocated in the cost table during the design phase and assess the use of the DSA operational budget.</li> <li>• Review the previous IFRs and request additional documents from the project team to identify any potential misuse of project funds.</li> </ul>	
KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	

Expected Outputs (please include any travel if applicable):	Required Completion Date:
<p>close collaboration with the other team members, produce the following deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to the Aide-Memoire, IPRM update and ORMS supervision report on fiduciary aspects.</li> <li>• FMAQ.</li> <li>• Financial Management appendices.</li> <li>• SOEs check checklist.</li> </ul>	<p>March 2024</p>

<b>INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES, EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND REQUIRED COMPLETION DATES</b>	
<b>Full Name of Staff:</b>	TBC by ESA Procurement team <b>Procurement Specialist</b>
<b>Expected Start Date of Assignment:</b>	11 March 2024
<b>Expected End Date of Assignment:</b>	22 March 2024
<b>Total number of working days (max. 240 in a 12-month period):</b>	11
<b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVE(S) TO BE ACHIEVED</b>	
<b>Expected Activities:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a desk review of the project’s contract portfolio in the Contract Monitoring tool before the start of the mission to identify delays, big ticket and/or problematic contracts;</li> <li>• Review the current Procurement Plan in order to assess it has been fully updated and upgraded in the correct IFAD template or appropriate IFAD procurement system, ascertain its completeness, its concurrence with the AWPB, Financing Agreement, Project Procurement Arrangements (PPA) and Project Procurement Strategy (especially concerning packaging and value for money) and its consistency with the country systems and/or IFAD Procurement Guidelines and Handbook;</li> <li>• Conduct a review of any significant changes in the borrower/recipient’s procurement system and practices, and ensure project procurement procedures and systems are updated accordingly;</li> <li>• Review/update the Procurement Risk Assessment, using the IFAD Procurement Risk Matrix (Chapter I of the IFAD Procurement Manual);</li> <li>• Provide support, advice and recommendations on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Amendments to the proposed methods of procurement, thresholds, ceilings, contract types, contractual arrangements and preferences listed in the PPA;</li> <li>b. The related IFAD review procedures and provide suggestions to improve the overall quality of the procurement processes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Based on the desk review of contract data, review a minimum sample of 10% of all post-review contracts and high-risk prior review contracts during the mission for compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the applicable procurement framework: i.e.: national procurement laws and regulations consistent with the IFAD Project Procurement Guidelines and Procurement Handbook.</li> <li>b. The approved AWPB and Procurement Plan, in terms of quality and quantities.</li> <li>c. IFAD or national Procurement Bidding and Contract Templates (as applicable); and</li> <li>d. IFAD’s SECAP and other IFAD policies concerning anti-corruption, anti-money laundering and prevention of SH/SEA.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review the procurement, contracting and implementation processes (prequalification/shortlisting, receipt of bids/proposals, bid/proposal evaluation and contract award) and timeliness and appropriateness of procurement actions.</li> <li>• Review the management capacity and appropriateness of addressing SECAP risks through procurement (with specific focus on big ticket contracts and SECAP-related management at bidding stage and contract implementation stage), as outlined in the PIM;</li> <li>• Assess contract administration and management procedures and review the completeness and updated nature of contract data in the Contract Monitoring Tool;</li> <li>• Assess the procurement capacity of all entities to be reviewed in terms of manpower, levels of training of procurement staff, work environments, absence of conflict of interest with other PMU functions and the parent IA’s departments and independence of procurement staff to carry out their statutory assignments.</li> </ul>	

- Conduct specific analysis of value for money (VFM) at all levels and the reasonableness of prices for:
  - a. Goods, equipment, etc. using available price indicators.
  - b. Civil Works, compared to locally accepted standards and prices; and
  - c. Services compare quality-output to international standards and prices.
- Determine whether adequate systems are in place for procurement planning, implementation and monitoring, and whether procurement documentation and records (including securities) are maintained as per required standards and can be relied upon;
- Verify to the extent possible, whether goods, works and consulting services contracted were supplied/completed according to the required specifications and technical standards;
- Review issues identified in the previous procurement review and aide-mémoire and procurement related issues identified in project audit reports;
- Identify deficiencies and make recommendations for improvements and control mechanisms in the procurement procedures and processes;
- Bring to the attention of the SPO any instance of non-compliance deemed connected with malpractice or fraudulent and corrupt activities on the part of the borrower's or bidders' staff, including potential cases of mis-procurement or ineligible expenditures.
- Assess further procurement staff training needs and ensure relevant training is planned and provided to project management and procurement staff in a timely manner;
- Assess the procurement performance of the project with respect to five designated parameters: procurement strategy & planning process, processes and procedures from prequalification to bidding, process and procedures for bid evaluation and contract award, contract management and administration, CMT data accuracy and timeliness and record retention;
- List needed improvements in relation to performance and define the actions, timeline and responsibilities (agreed with either the Borrower/Recipient or IFAD) for implementation of the recommendations resulting from this review;
- Submit an assignment report (as per the IFAD standard format of the Procurement Review/Implementation Support Appendix, Annex 1, 3 and 6 of Chapter V of the IFAD Procurement Manual), and any other relevant ancillary documents;
- Carry out any other activity, as required by IFAD.
- Verify that all deliverables (goods/works/services) for ongoing contracts will be completed within the timeframes that are established in the signed contracts and before the Project Completion Date;
- Verify that all outstanding contractual payments can be settled and the corresponding contract files can be closed within the FA/Project Closure Date at the latest;
- Verify that follow-up arrangements by the Borrower/Recipient for guaranteeing smooth and timely delivery of the contractor's/supplier's obligations under the Defects Liability Period for Works and the Warranty period for Goods are in place.
- Assess the utilisation of the salaries and allowances budget line in terms of the recurrent costs (DSAs ) and relevance of the people on field visits and make recommendations.
- Assess whether, in addition to the already identified ineligible expenditures, there have been any additional activities that could be deemed in the same way
- Review/update the Procurement Risk Assessment, using the IFAD Procurement Risk Matrix (Module I of the IFAD Procurement Manual).

#### KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Expected Outputs (please include any travel if applicable):	Required Completion Date:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to relevant sections to the ORMS report and appendices.</li> </ul>	March 2024

#### DOCUMENTATION

14. The *following* documentation will be made available to the mission members for undertaking the assignment:

- Programme Design Report
- Programme Implementation Manual
- ORMS and Aide Memoires
- Financing Agreement
- Letter to the Borrower/Recipient
- 2023/24 AWPB and Procurement Plan
- Annual Outcome survey
- Success Stories
- Updated Progress report
- Feasibility reports
- MPAT, WEAI and Gender and Targeting Strategy
- Project Completion Guidelines

## Mission Programme

### SIRP Mission Programme 11 to 22 March 2024

Date	Activity	Participant, Position & Institution	Time
07/03/2024 Thursday	IFAD team meeting	<b>IFAD Team</b>	0730hrs – 0830hrs
10/03/2024 Sunday	<b>Mission Arrival</b>	<b>IFAD Team</b>	
11/03/2024 Monday	SIRP presentation on project status, last mission recommendations and implementation of AWPB.	<b>PMU at DOI Board room</b>	9000hrs -1030hrs
	Courtesy call	<b>PS MLAFWRD</b>	1100hrs
	SIRP presentation on project status, last mission recommendations and implementation of AWPB.	<b>PMU at DOI Board Room</b>	1200hrs-1700hrs
12 -15 /03/2024 Tuesday -Friday	Field visit and Bilateral meetings/discussions – <b>for Route 1 and Route 2</b> <i>Manicaland</i> <i>Masvingo</i> <i>Matebeleland South</i> <i>Midlands</i>	<b>PCU, MLAFWRD, IFAD, Team</b>	0630hrs – 1700hrs
15-17/03/2024 Saturday	Travel back to Harare		
17/03/2024 Sunday	Individual reading and writing sessions.	<b>IFAD, team</b>	
18/03/2024 Monday	<i>Team meeting on findings</i>	<b>IFAD team</b> <b>Bronte Hotel</b>	1400rs
	Individual writing sessions for AM and ORMS consultations, meetings	<b>IFAD team</b>	0800hrs-1700hrs
19/03/2024 Tuesday	Individual writing sessions, consultations, preparing key mission findings/draft Aide memoire and Supervision Mission Report ORMS.  14:00 – Submission of contributions to Table on Key findings and Agreed Actions  17:00 – Submission of contributions to the Aide Memoire	<b>IFAD team</b>	0800hrs-1700hrs
20/03/2024 Wednesday	09:00-12:00 Pre-Wrap Up with PCU (Table on Key findings and Agreed Actions)	<b>IFAD team, PMU</b>	1400hrs-1700hrs
	18:00 – Lead Consultant to consolidate AM and circulating of draft version for Review with SIRP and GOZ		



21/03/2024 Thursday	14:00 hrs Wrap up meeting.	<b>IFAD Team, PMU and MLAFWRD, MOFIP</b>	1400hrs
22/03/2024 Friday	09:00 - Lead Consultant to Submit Final AM incorporating Wrap Up inputs.  15:00 - Submission of individual writing for the ORMS Supervision Mission Report.  Departure of Mission Team – Afternoon	<b>PS Agriculture Mission Team &amp; SIRP PCU, MLAFWRD</b>	1000hrs 1200hrs
25/03/2024	18:00 - Consolidation and Submission of ORMS Report		

### Proposed IFAD Mission Routes

#### Route 1

Item	Date	Activity	Time	Distance	Comment
Route 1 Infrastructure	12/03/24	Romsley Lot 2	1000	km	Travel from Harare to Romsley then proceed to sleep over in Mutare (Holiday Inn Mutare).
	13/03/24	Musikavanhu Remedial Works	0800	km	Travel from Mutare to Gudo & Rupangwana via Musikavanhu , sleep over in Chiredzi
		Rupangwana Remedial Works	1215		
		Gudo Remedial Works	1430		
	14/03/24	Malikango	0930	km	Travel from Chiredzi to Malikango then proceed to sleep over in Zvishavane
	15/03/24	Chemakudo	0900	km	Travel to Chemakudo from Zvishavane then sleep in Zvishavane
	16/03/24	Rustlers Gorge	1100	km	Travel from Zvishavane to Rustlers Gorge and sleep over in Gwanda
		Mankonkoni	1400		
17/03/24	Gwanda to Harare	1130 - 1300	km	Travel back to Harare via Mbembeswana	
	<b>Total</b>			<b>km</b>	

## Route 2

Item	Date	Activity	Time	Distance	Comment
Route 2 Component II	12/03/24	Cashel Valley Cluster Schemes	1130 – 1500hrs	Km	Travel from Harare to Cashel Valley then proceed to sleep over in Mutare (Holiday Inn Mutare).
	13/03/24	Musikavanhu Extension Block	0900 – 1400hrs	Km	Travel from Mutare to Musikavanhu then proceed to sleep over in Chiredzi
	14/03/24	Banga (pass through to see the latest developments at the National Irrigation Scheme Competition Winner)  Musaverema	0900 – 1000hrs  1200 – 1500hrs	Km	Travel from Chiredzi to Musverema via Banga then proceed to sleep over in Masvingo.
	15/03/24	Mambanjeni	0900 – 1200hrs	km	Travel from Masvingo to Mambanjeni sleep over in Gweru
	Total				

**IFAD SIRP SUPERVISION MISSION MEETINGS**  
**REGISTER OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**MARCH 2024**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Mobile Number</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Francesco Rispoli	IFAD	Country Director		f.risploi@ifad.org
Luigi Raino	IFAD	Programme Officer		l.raino@ifad.org
Victoria Wise	IFAD	Consultant		v.wise@ifad.org
Josephat Kinyele	IFAD	Consultant		j.kinyele@ifad.org
Joylyn Ndoro	IFAD	Consultant	0772296296	joylyndoro@gmail.com
Sami Ouechtati	IFAD	Consultant	00393207E+11	s.ouechtati@ifad.org
James Muturi	IFAD	Consultant		jimmymuturi@gmail.com
Ndawazhile Kaluwa	IFAD	Consultant	0027724188140	nkaluwa@gmail.com
Sibekile Mthethwa	IFAD	Consultant		mikemetwa@live.com
Bezel Chitsungo	MOLAFWRD	Director-Irrigation	0772 498 886	eng.chitsungo@gmail.com
Clemence Taderera Bwenje	MOLAFWRD	Chief Director-Strategic Policy and Business Development	0773629664	ctbwenje@gmail.com
Tinayeshe Mutazu	MOLAFWRD	Chief Director-Irrigation	0712235636	mutazut@gmail.com
Edwin Zimhunga	MOLAFWRD	Chief Director-Agricultural Engineering		edwinzimhunga@gmail.com
Kundai Makuku	MOLAFWRD	Director -Crops		kmakuku@gmail.com
Thabani Siziba	MOLAFWRD	Deputy Director	0715 716 509	TeeMsiziba@gmail.com
Agnes Mugova	MOLAFWRD	Deputy Director		agnesmugova@gmail.com
Herbert Gutu	MOLAFWRD	Deputy Director		herbertgutuhg@gmail.com
Walter Makotore	SIRP	Programme Coordinator	0785577009	waltermakotore7@gmail.com
Nolyn Berejena	SIRP	M and E Specialist	0773 061 775	nolynberejena@yahoo.com
Lovemore Manyere	SIRP	Value Chain Specialist	0773 574 703	lovemoremanyere@gmail.com
Enestia Mudzingiri	SIRP	Social Inclusion Officer	0773 702 959	Enestia.mudzingiri@gmail.com
Shepherd Mataga	SIRP	Project Accountant	0773 590 334	mataga.shepherd@gmail.cowm
Kevin Karumazondo	SIRP	Assistant Accountant	0771 535 052	tinazondo@gmail.com
Victor Ndlovu	SIRP	Procurement Officer	0772 767 772	vicandlovu@gmail.com
Precious Nkomo	SIRP	Knowledge Management Officer	0712 321 719	buegonde2012@gmail.com
Prosper Bright Muvhuringi	SIRP	M and E Assistant	0774 686	pbumvhuringi@gmail.com
Rutendo Chikoshana	DOI	Focal Person-Component 1	0773 250 019	vernatima@gmail.com
Chaonwa Wellington	ARDAS	Focal Person Component 2	0774705446	wchaonwa@gmail.com
Justin Mutiro	SIRP	TA Engineer	00268 76950409	mutirojustint@gmail.com
Creighton Chenzara	Dept of Mechanisation	Engineer	0738459501	chenzaracreyton@gmail.com
Cosmas	Mavhuregudo	Engineer	0774 078 793	mabvuregudocs@gmail.com

## Zimbabwe

---

### **Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme Supervision Report**

### **Appendix 6: Procurement**

Mission Dates: 11/03/2024 to 22/03/2024

Document Date: 02/05/2024

Project No. 2000001233

Report No. 6840-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division  
Programme Management Department



**Annex 6: Procurement Review Working Paper**

**SMALLHOLDER IRRIGATION REVITALIZATION PROGRAMME (SIRP)**

IFAD Grant 2000001640

**ZIMBABWE**

**Supervision Mission**

**11<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024**

**Josephat Kinyele, Procurement Specialist**

## I. Executive Procurement Summary of the main supervision report (Public)

### 1. Desk review of the project's contracts portfolio in the Contract Monitoring Tool before the mission

At the time of the supervision mission, the project did not have an approved procurement plan for 2024, two and half months after the commencement of the financial year and three months before the closing date of the Project. A review of the Contract Monitoring Tool (CMT) revealed that the Project has signed several big tickets contracts since inception. Most of the high value contracts were for infrastructure works for irrigation schemes. It was noted that the implementation of most of the contracts was delayed while some procurement activities in the approved 2023 PP were yet to be initiated.

*Rating: No Rating.*

### 2. SECAP risk management

The SIRP Project was approved in September 2016 and the Financing Agreement between IFAD and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe was signed on 18 November 2016. This was before the IFAD's revised SECAP procedures were introduced in 2021 to be applied to all projects signed and approved after September 2021. The requirement is for projects to screen their activities and interventions or risks for procurement relevance, guided by the nine SECAP standards. This is with particular emphasis on Big-Ticket Contracts where, it should be ensured that preparation of technical specifications, bidder qualification and bidder evaluation criteria are in line with SECAP requirements, and that the same is included in the special conditions to the contract.

The investment for the Project mainly focuses on the rehabilitation of existing under-performing irrigation schemes and involves considerable environmental and social risks (category B project). The Mission noted that the Project has implemented measures and actions aimed at mitigating environmental and social risks especially for works contracts. The Mission observed that the Project has Environmental and Social Management Plans in place for each site. The IC bidding documents for the irrigation schemes required Environmental and Social Management Strategies and Implementation Plans (ES-MSIP) describing in detail the actions, materials, equipment, management processes, codes of conduct for Contractor's personnel, etc. to be implemented by the Contractor, and its subcontractors.

*Rating: No Rating.*

### 3. Procurement Strategy / Procurement Planning Process

By the time of the mission the 2024 PP was not yet approved. All the activities that are ongoing were carried forward from 2023 PP, and this is attributed to the delayed approval of the PP which was granted IFAD NO in October 2023. The 2023 PP is consistent with the IFAD format and the nature and quantity of goods, works and services are aligned to the AWPB. Homogenous and similar activities were aggregated together and the packaging was done in a way that generally facilitates greater price competition. Outstanding procurement of remedial works were identified as part of the project targets and required as they serve project purposes. The estimated Works deliverables are within 3 months and therefore it is expected that the remedial works will be completed in the first week of

June 2024. There are several procurement activities for goods and consultancy services that are at initial stages of the procurement process. With only three months to the closing date of IFAD funding, four procurement activities were yet to be launched. Overall, the procurement plan has not been implemented to a satisfactory level, resulting in a moderately unsatisfactory rating of the planning process.

*Rating: Moderately Unsatisfactory (3).*

#### **4. Processes and Procedures from Prequalification/Shortlisting to receipt of bids/proposals**

The processes and procedures for prequalification and shortlisting through to receiving bids generally adhere to the IFAD template. The bidding procedures applied by the Project exhibit consistency, fairness, value for money, competition, efficiency and are responsive to requests for clarification and complaints. The Mission established that the bidding documents are of good quality and provide sufficient basis for preparation of tender documentation in compliance with the national procurement law and IFAD Procurement Guidelines and Handbook. The Specifications are clear and neutral, and the evaluation methodology is fully disclosed in the bidding documents.

In order to improve bidding procedures, the Procurement Unit should obtain internal approvals of the bidding documents before seeking IFAD No Objection and edit the documents before publishing to avoid errors.

*Rating: Moderately Satisfactory (4).*

#### **5. Processes and Procedures for Evaluation and Contract Award**

There are evaluation reports for all procurements carried out. Bids are evaluated on a common basis following a logical systematic procedure across three steps, preliminary examination, technical evaluation and financial evaluation, consistent with the methods of procurement. The evaluation committees are ad hoc and included at least one technical specialist in the area of the procurement.

All valid bids are evaluated in accordance with the criteria, methods and procedures provided in the bidding document. Bids that do not conform to the specified requirements are rejected as non-responsive and a full justification is provided.

Bidders received notification of the award before signing the contract. A review of contract awards showed that contracts were awarded to the bidder who meets eligibility and qualification requirements and whose bid was determined to be the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bid.

Numerous gaps were observed in the evaluation phase:

- There are no approvals for the composition of ad hoc evaluation committees;
- Evaluators did not sign declaration of impartiality confidentiality prior to undertaking the procurement.
- Some evaluation reports did not bear the signatures of evaluators.
- NOITA was missing in some contract files.
- Vendor's acceptance/acknowledgement was missing for some local purchase orders.
- Lack of supplier/contractor self-certification.
- There are no records of publishing contract award for the reviewed activities.



*Rating: Moderately Unsatisfactory (3).*

### **6. Contract Management and Administration and CMT data accuracy and timeliness**

Contracts are managed by technical departments and the consultant supervising engineers/firms. UNOPS has been engaged by Government to monitor and advise on the progress of works in ten Irrigation schemes and it was providing regular updates to both the project and the implementing agency. The CMT contains contract data updates, although at the time of the mission a few contracts had not been included in the online tool because the system was not functioning properly. However, the problem was fixed before the end of the mission and the CMT was updated.

The mission noted that contract management was generally weak and this resulted in delayed deliverables by suppliers and contractors. There were many cases of protracted delays in advance payments and in payment of contractor’s interim certificates. This impacted negatively on project implementation. Contract provisions are not triggered for non-performing suppliers, contractors and consultants. The mission noted requests for contract amendments outside of contract validity periods. The mission found cases where contracts were not closely supervised or were supervised by inexperienced staff especially for the contracts allocated to the two engineering and supervising firms.

*Rating: Moderately Unsatisfactory (3).*

### **7. Record Retention**

Each procurement activity has its own separate folder and in chronological order. The mission noted significant improvement in record keeping in comparison to what had been reported in the previous mission. Most of the required documents were on file except copies of NOITA and declarations of impartiality and confidentiality forms.

*Rating: Moderately Satisfactory (4).*


## **II. Agreed actions (Public)**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Compliance with regulations and guidelines. Consistently adhere to National Regulations and IFAD Guidelines and procedures regarding appointment of tender evaluation panels, declaration of impartiality and confidentiality, Contractor and Supplier Self-Certification, and in obtaining the contractor/supplier acknowledgement of Local Purchase Orders.	PCU Coordinator; Procurement Officer	immediately	Agreed
Accelerate the conclusion of the key procurement processes and ensure that awards take into consideration the remaining duration.	Procurement Officer	Immediately and continuous	Agreed
Closely monitor and manage the following contracts to ensure timely completion and delivery of goods, works and services June 2024:	PCU Coordinator; Procurement Officer	Immediately and continuous	Agreed

<p>contract for the rehabilitation of Mbembeswana Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS N00018867);</p> <p>ii) contract for the rehabilitation Chemakudo Irrigation Scheme (N00018872),</p> <p>iii) contract for the rehabilitation of Machena Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N000188789);</p> <p>iv) the contract for the rehabilitation of Old Biri Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00013932);</p> <p>v) the contract for the rehabilitation of Rustler’s Gorge Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00019098) and</p> <p>vi) contract for the rehabilitation of Romsley Lot 2 irrigation scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00013930)</p> <p>vii) contract for the rehabilitation of Gudo smallholder irrigation scheme OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233--0031-W-NS;</p> <p>viii) contract for the NORAD endline survey OPEN dossier ZWE-20000001233-0043-CS-LCS.</p>			
<p>Timely payment of contractor’s interim certificates.</p>	<p>PCU Coordinator; Director DOI</p>	<p>continuous</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>For works that may not be feasible to complete prior to the completion date, obtain commitment from Government to cover obligations that may be outstanding beyond the completion date.</p>	<p>PCU Coordinator; Director DOI</p>	<p>15 June 2024</p>	<p>Agreed</p>
<p>Negotiate and seek IFAD approval for new contracts for Mbembeswana and Malikango Irrigation schemes to facilitate the completion of pending works.</p>	<p>PCU Coordinator; Procurement Officer</p>	<p>Immediately</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

### Overall procurement performance rating and justification

The Mission maintained the procurement rating at 3 (moderately unsatisfactory), given the significant delays in the implementation of the procurement plan. Despite being in the last three months of the Project closing date, several activities are at the early stages of the procurement process. Numerous gaps were observed in the bidding, evaluation and contracting phases that may affect the transparency and fairness of the procurement process. There are delays in processing payment of interim certificates and this has affected timely implementation of the sub-projects. Delays in implementation have the attendant effect of subjecting the sub-projects to cost increases due to changes in price of inputs. The project regularly updates data in the Contract Monitoring Tool (CMT) of the IFAD Client Portal. However, there is need to improve the quality of data. The mission noted that information regarding start and end dates for a few contracts was missing in the online tool.



Procurement records are kept orderly in file records and the PMU demonstrated efficiency and transparency in providing all the documentation and information requested.

### III. Procurement Review Working Paper

#### Appendix 6 to the Supervision Mission Report (not public)

##### 1. Introduction and Background

###### ***No Rating.***

1.1. The 7-year Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme (SIRP) was approved by the IFAD Executive Board on 22 September 2016. The Programme was signed and entered into force on 18 November 2016; the first disbursement was on 31 May 2017, and the initial completion date was on 31 December 2023, with the financial closure on 30 June 2024. The implementation of SIRP is jointly undertaken by several agencies and organizations working within their specialized field of competence and mandate. Project coordination is under the responsibility of the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU), under the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water, and Rural Development (MLAFWRD).

1.2. 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. SIRP comprises the following components: (i) Sustainable Smallholder Irrigation Development; (ii) Climate-smart Agriculture and Market Access; and (iii) Programme Coordination.

1.3. The Programme is co-financed by: (i) IFAD through a USD 25.5 million grant (50%) under the Debt Sustainability Framework; (ii) The Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) with USD 7.9 million (15%) mainly in the form of tax exemptions; (iii) Beneficiaries with a contribution equal to USD 3.3 million (6%); (iv) OPEC Fund for International Development (OPEC Fund) with USD 15.0 million (29%) to support irrigation rehabilitation and road improvement. The Loan Agreement between OPEC Fund and the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) was signed on 8 March 2018.

1.4. The SIRP's financing agreement was amended in January 2021 and September 2021 to include additional grant financing from the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility 1 (RPSF1) (USD 699,999) and RPSF2 (USD 854,590) with the objective to improve the resilience in the context of the COVID-19 crisis by ensuring timely access to inputs, information, markets and liquidity. The SIRP financing agreement was also amended in May 2021 to include Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) supplementary grant funds for USD 456,100. The NORAD grant is meant to strengthen the nutrition sensitive interventions in SIRP.

1.5. In 2023, the project underwent a restructuring process, which entailed a six-month extension. The project's completion date was thus extended from December 31, 2023, to June 30, 2024, while the closing date was extended from June 30, 2024, to December 31, 2025.

1.6. 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.

1.7. **Implementation progress.** Although SIRP was signed for an implementation duration of 7 years, the project had a delayed start and by project completion date of 30 June 2024, the effective project implementation duration will be 6 years 1 month. By the time of the mission the project had revitalized schemes covering 4,320 hectares. This represents a physical completion rate of 83% of the programme target (equivalent to 60 percent of the signed contracts). The rest of the schemes are expected to be completed by the project completion date except for some three schemes (Mbembeswana, Chemakudo Machena, Old Biri, Rustler's Gorge and Romsley Lot) whose completion date may go beyond June 2024 due to either delayed payment, inadequate capacity or performance issues.

1.8. **Challenges to be considered which are affecting the good and timely implementation of the procurement activities in general.** The project's AWPB and PP for 2023 were not approved until October 2023 due to inconsistencies in the financial figures presented by the project. This has occasioned a delay in implementation of activities. Five of the approved activities in the 2023 PP were yet to commence at the time of the mission. The PP for 2024 was had not been approved by the time of concluding the mission.

The project procurement offices not conducive for project procurement as it is not in a good state of repair. The space is not adequate and it does not provide a good working environment for staff and for proper document storage.

The rate of project implementation has been affected by other events such as the COVID 19 pandemic, global crisis, lack of adequate procurement capacity, weakness in monitoring and managing contracts and foreign exchange fluctuations leading to over commitment of expenditure.

Delays in land clearing in most of the schemes has slowed down the rate of contract implementation as it prevents some installation works for essential irrigation systems such as the centre pivots. The GoZ should resolve the issue by exploring and implementing workable solutions that will help accelerate such as helping the farmers to enter into joint venture arrangements with private contractors or contracting private operators who have the relevant equipment for land clearing.

## **2. Desk Review of Big-Ticket Contracts and Contract Portfolio: Management Capacity of the PCU**

At the time of the supervision mission, the project did not have an approved procurement plan for 2024, two and half months after the commencement of the financial year and three months before the closing date of the Project. A review of the Contract Monitoring Tool (CMT) revealed that the Project has signed several big tickets contracts since inception. Most of the high value contracts were for infrastructure works for irrigation schemes. It was noted that the implementation of most of the contracts were delayed while some procurement activities in the approved 2023 PP were yet to be initiated.

*Rating: No Rating.*

### **A. Big Ticket Contracts**

At the time of supervision mission, the project neither possessed a Project Procurement Strategy (PPS) nor an IFAD reviewed PP in OPEN - 10 months into the financial year 2023. Desk research on high/substantial risk contracts involved a review of both the IFAD Contract Monitoring Tool (CMT) and Procurement Plan (PP) of 2022. The Mission queried progress of activities that were both critical in

nature and of high value. These included prior review activities for Irrigation Works under *Component One* and Consulting Assignments and Goods. The sampled activities were of varying completion stages. The samples were shared and concurred with the SPO.

## **B. Procurement Unit**

There is a Procurement Unit staffed with a Procurement Officer assisted by a procurement intern. The Procurement Officer was promoted from position of Admin Assistant following suspension of previous office holder in March, 2021. There are gaps in processing procurement activities as evidenced in ineffective procurement planning, breaches in evaluation processes and poor contract administration. Although the experience and capacity of the procurement officer is good, the workload in the Unit is huge and quite demanding. The pressure to process in a hurry on the part of the procurement officer to keep up with the heavy workload may partly contribute to some of the gaps noted in various stages of the procurement process. The mission discussed with the officer possible ways of improving performance of the Unit in the remaining duration of the project as better workload planning and making regular reference and adherence to the provisions of the national regulations and the IFAD guidelines and Procurement Handbook, initiating the pending procurement activities as soon as possible while ensuring that awards take into consideration the remaining duration.

### **3. Review of SECAP risk management**

The SIRP Project was approved in September 2016 and the Financing Agreement between IFAD and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe was signed on 18 November 2016. This was before the IFAD's revised SECAP procedures were introduced in 2021 to be applied to all projects signed and approved after September 2021. The requirement is for projects to screen their activities and interventions or risks for procurement relevance, guided by the nine SECAP standards. This is with particular emphasis on Big-Ticket Contracts where, it should be ensured that preparation of technical specifications, bidder qualification and bidder evaluation criteria are in line with SECAP requirements, and that the same is included in the special conditions to the contract.

The investment for the Project mainly focuses on the rehabilitation of existing under-performing irrigation schemes and involves considerable environmental and social risks (category B project). The Mission noted that the Project has implemented measures and actions aimed at mitigating environmental and social risks especially for works contracts. The Mission observed that the Project has Environmental and Social Management Plans in place for each site. The IC bidding documents for the irrigation schemes required Environmental and Social Management Strategies and Implementation Plans (ES-MSIP) describing in detail the actions, materials, equipment, management processes, codes of conduct for Contractor's personnel, etc. to be implemented by the Contractor, and its subcontractors. However, it is concerning that there has been very little sensitization of the project beneficiaries on the application of the measures contained in the ESMPs and the Grievance Redress Mechanism.

*Rating: No Rating.*

### **4. Review of Procurement Strategy and Procurement Planning Process**

***Moderately Unsatisfactory (3).***

## **Procurement Plan/ Procurement Strategy**

The Mission did not find evidence that market analysis was undertaken to provide inputs to the procurement planning and the PP in particular and the packaging and scheduling of procurement of goods, works and services.

### **PP consistency with the latest approved AWPB**

By the time of the mission the 2024 PP was not yet approved. All the activities that are ongoing were carried forward from 2023 PP, and this is attributed to the delayed approval of the PP which was granted IFAD NO in October 2023. The 2023 PP is consistent with the IFAD format and the nature and quantity of goods, works and services are aligned to the AWPB. Homogenous and similar activities were aggregated together and the packaging was done in a way that generally facilitates greater price competition. Outstanding procurement of remedial works were identified as part of the project targets and required as they serve project purposes. The estimated Works deliverables are within 3 months and therefore it is expected that the remedial works will be completed in the first week of June 2024. There are several procurement activities for goods and consultancy services that are at the initial stages of the procurement process. With only three months to the closing date of IFAD funding, four procurement activities were yet to be launched. Overall, the procurement plan has not been implemented to a satisfactory level, resulting in a moderately unsatisfactory rating of the planning process.

#### **i. Assessment of PP component and relevant activities:**

The PP used the IFAD template and it contains systematic and logical grouping of procurement activities according to the categories of procurement. A review of the PP revealed that there is overall compliance with the AWPB and existing procedures and regulations. All the procurement activities in the AWPB were listed in PP. There are no Grant schemes in the PP.

The selection of the applicable procurement methods and the Selection of IFAD's Prior or Post Review is consistent with provisions of the project PAL. However, the time estimates for completing the reviewed contracts were not met for various reason which included late commencement of activities, delays in providing comments requested by IFAD, system glitches, etc.

The 2023 PP had 37 planned activities and only two activities equivalent to 5% of the total PP activities were completed, while 19 activities (48%) were at an advanced stage of completion. Seven activities were at the early stage of procurement processing while four activities were not yet initiated.

In order to avoid delayed implementation of procurement activities, the timely initiation of the procurement processes is essential for the implementation of the procurement plan. There were four activities in the approved PP whose procurement processes have been canceled.

#### **ii. Analyses on the adequacy of procurement packaging:**

It is advisable to group goods and civil engineering works with a similar destination and divide them into lots in order to increase competition. The procurement activities were generally packaged to encourage competition. Aggregating the contracts into a single package made the works more attractive to bidders and made the procurement more efficient but it some cases resulted in different contractors working on same site and exposes it to complex contract management aspects.

#### **iii. Last Supervision before Project Completion Date:**

There are approved procurement activities in the 2023 PP that are yet to be initiated. These are mainly goods and consultancies which are deemed essential as part of the project targets. Among these

include technical assistance for irrigation policy dialogues; development of positions on seeds and water pricing; technical assistance for the development of archiving system.

There are a few activities at the bidding stage. Among these are the end line survey and external audit. These are essential activities and their procurement should be accelerated to ensure that the procurement process is completed as soon as possible.

**vi. Selected sample of ongoing contracts: 10% of post review activity**

There were a total of thirty-seven procurement activities in the procurement plan. The following four activities were reviewed:

1. *Works for the installation of steel pipe river crossing gate valves repair and canal construction at Gudo Pools Irrigation project (OPEN dossier ZWE-20000001233-0031-W-NS) -Ongoing post review activity. Contract value USD77,268.90.*
2. *Procurement of Equipment and Materials for labour saving technologies (OPEN dossier ZWE-20000001233-0054-G-NS) - Ongoing post review activity. Contract value USD36,013.16*
3. *NORAD end line evaluation (OPEN dossier ZWE-20000001233-0043-CS-LCS)- Ongoing post review activity. Contract value USD24,820.00*
4. *External audit services (OPEN dossier ZWE-20000001233-0056-CS-LCS) – Ongoing post review activity. Contract value USD18,920.00*

**5. Review of Processes and Procedures from Prequalification/Shortlisting to Receipt of Bids/Proposals**

***Moderately Satisfactory (4).***

The processes and procedures for prequalification and shortlisting through to receiving bids generally adhere to the IFAD template. For the reviewed activities it was noted that the bidding procedures applied by the Project exhibit consistency, fairness, value for money, competition, efficiency and are responsive to requests for clarification and complaints. However, two incidences were noted where the deadlines and instructions were not clear. For example, in one case of consultancy for the NORAD grant end line survey, in the instruction to bidders, the description of services was indicated as provision of external audit services. In another activity, the closing date was the same as the bid advertisement date the issue was discussed with the Procurement Officer and the Mission recommended that the documents should be thoroughly checked before publishing to prevent errors that could cause confusion and hinder candidates' rights.

The Mission established that the bidding documents are generally of good quality. They contained the relevant key provisions of the SBDs and provide sufficient basis for preparation of tender documentation in compliance with the national procurement law and IFAD Procurement Guidelines and Handbook. The Specifications are clear and neutral, and the evaluation methodology is fully disclosed in the bidding documents.

**6. Review of Process and Procedures for Bid/Proposal Evaluation and Contract Award**

***Moderately Unsatisfactory (3).***



A review of contract awards showed that contracts were awarded to the bidder who meets eligibility and qualification requirements and whose bid was determined to be the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bid. Evaluations use proper number of evaluation committee members as per IFAD, including at least one member with the technical knowledge and experience related to the type of procurement. Processes and procedures generally comply with National procurement regulations and laws but some gaps and inconsistencies were observed in several contracts:

- There were no approvals for the composition of ad hoc evaluation committees for all reviewed files;
- Declaration of impartiality and confidentiality was missing in all contract files reviewed (Procurement of equipment and materials for labour saving technologies OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233-0054-G-NS; Consultancy for Endline survey OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233-0031-CS-LCS; External Audit Services OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233-0056-CS-LCS; *Works for the installation of steel pipe river crossing gate valves repair and canal construction at Gudo Pools Irrigation project (OPEN dossier ZWE-20000001233-0031-W-NS)*)
- Some evaluation reports did not bear the signatures of evaluators (Contract for labour saving technologies OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233-0054-G-NS; Consultancy for Endline survey OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233-0031-CS-LCS).
- NOITA was missing in some contract files (Procurement of equipment and materials for labour saving technologies OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233-0054-G-NS).
- Vendor's acceptance/acknowledgement was missing for some local purchase orders (Rehabilitation of Gudo smallholder irrigation scheme OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233--0031-W-NS; Procurement of equipment and materials for labour saving technologies OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233-0054-G-NS)
- Lack of supplier/contractor self-certification in all reviewed contracts.
- Evaluation reports miss signatures of some evaluation committee in the pages that carry final recommendation and final scores.
- Committee appointments by the approving authority are not on file for all contracts.
- There are no records of publishing contract award for the reviewed activities. The Mission guided that contract awards should be published in same platform respective invitations were advertised and on the project website.

## **7. Review of Contract Management and Administration and CMT Accuracy and Timeliness**

### ***Moderately Unsatisfactory (3).***

#### **1. Last Supervision before Project Completion Date:**

The mission found that works for the rehabilitation/construction of 5,200 ha have been contracted out, of which 4,320 ha (83%) have already been completed, while works are still on-going for 880 ha (17%). The completed works represent 60% of the signed contracts while the rest of the contracts are at an advanced stage of physical completion. Significant delays in payment of Contractor's interim certificates have negatively impacted project implementation. Other factors that caused the works to slow down include limited capacity of some contractors, and specific challenges related to procurement of equipment, delayed land clearing in some schemes and delayed electrification of some other schemes.

There are six contracts where there is a high risk of non-completion of works by the project completion date. The contract for the rehabilitation of Mbembeswana Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS N00018867), the contract for the rehabilitation Chemakudo Irrigation Scheme (N00018872), the contract for the rehabilitation of Machena Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N000188789), the contract for the rehabilitation of Old Biri Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00013932), the contract for the rehabilitation of Rustler’s Gorge Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00019098) and Romsley Lot 2 the contract for the rehabilitation of irrigation scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00013930) may fail to reach completion by 30 June 2024 as the contractors require the invoices to be settled in United States Dollars. The mission recommends that the Ministry of Finance makes a firm commitment to promptly pay the contractors in US Dollars as per contract. In addition, the mission recommends close monitoring of ongoing contracts to ensure timely completion and delivery of goods, and timely payment of certificates for works and services before the project closing date.

Below is a summary of ongoing Works contracts:

Contract Number	Contract Description	Name of Contractor	Contract Sum USD	Contract End date	% of Fin. Completion	% of Physical Completion
76/SIRP/2022	Rehabilitation of Chemakudo	Modrich Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd	1,088,551.87	31/03/2024	81	95
80/SIRP/2022	Rehabilitation of Bambanani	Forster Irrigation (Pvt) Ltd	702,611.19	27/10/2023	90	100
78/SIRP/2022	Rehabilitation of Mambanjeni	Verslag Engineering (Pvt) Ltd	702,265.19	30/10/2023	90	100
79/SIRP/2022	Rehabilitation of Mushandike Village 16	Modrich Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd	255,610.00	22/10/2023	95	100
93/SIRP/2022	Rehabilitation of Romsley Communal	Comhold Services (Pvt) Ltd	925,849.00	31/03/2024	23	45
97/SIRP/2022	Rehabilitation of Malikango	Modrich Enterprises (Pvt) Ltd	760,830.00	31/03/2024	72	90
91/SIRP/2022	Rehabilitation of Mankonkoni	Finerain Industries (Pvt) Ltd	374,279.77	30/03/2024	61	90
105/SIRP/2022	Guyu Goat Breeding	Trinity Industrial Suppliers (Pvt) Ltd	148,920.05	31/03/2024	60	90
106/SIRP/2022	Rehabilitation of Rustlers Gorge	Maka Farms (Pvt) Ltd	320,161.31	31/03/2024	54	73
107/SIRP/2022	Cashel Valley	China-geo Corporation	3,675,168.66	TBC	95	94
102/SIRP/2022	Exchange Goat Production	Sador Trading	164,621.91	31/03/2024	60	39

117/SIRP/2023	Works for Supply and Installation of PVC Pipes and Related Fittings at Rupangwana Irrigation Project in Chiredzi District of Masvingo Province	Conardic Investments (Pvt) Ltd	64,867.07	30/04/2024	20	60
116/SIRP/2023	Works for the Installation of a Steel Pipe River Crossing, Gate Valves Repair and Canal Construction at Gudo Pools Irrigation Project In Chiredzi District of Masvingo	Conard Investment (Pvt) Ltd	77,268.90	30/04/2024	20	60
115/SIRP/2023	Works for the Musikavanhu Cluster Irrigation Scheme, Water Supply and Energy Connections in Chipinge District of Manicaland Province	Conardic Investments (Pvt) Ltd	65,844.12	30/04/2024	20	65

## 2. Contract administration review.

Contracts are managed by technical departments and the consultant supervising engineers/firms. UNOPS has been engaged by Government to monitor and advise on the progress of works in ten Irrigation schemes and it was providing regular updates to both the project and the implementing agency. The contract for UNOPS was signed in September 2023 and implementation only started in November 2023. Due to the delayed start, it will be important to grant a no-cost extension for the UNOPS advisory services up to 30 June 2024.

The Mission noted that contract management was generally weak and not satisfactory and this resulted in delayed deliverables by suppliers and contractors. There were cases of protracted delays in advance payments and in payment of contractor's interim certificates for the following contracts:

Contract no.	Description	Advance payment	Interim payment certificates
--------------	-------------	-----------------	------------------------------

108/SIRP/2022	Works for the rehabilitation of <b>Mbembeswana</b> Smallholder Irrigation Scheme in Gweru District, Midlands Province	Delayed Advance Payment	Delayed payments
76//SIRP/2022	Works for the rehabilitation of <b>Chemakudo Irrigation Project</b> in Mberengwa District of Midlands Province	Paid on time	Delayed payments
106/SIRP/2022	Works for the rehabilitation of <b>Rustlers Gorge</b> Irrigation Scheme in Gwanda District of Matabeleland South Province	Paid on time	Delayed payments
93/SIRP/2022	Lot 2- The Works for the repair and construction of conveyance canal at <b>Romsley Communal Irrigation Scheme</b> , Makoni District of Manicaland Province	Paid on time	Delayed payments
97/SIRP/2022	Works for the rehabilitation of <b>Malikango Irrigation Project</b> in Chiredzi District of Masvingo Province.	Paid on time	Delayed payments
107/SIRP/2022	Works for the rehabilitation of the <b>Cashel Valley Irrigation Scheme</b> Cluster (Including Mutambara Ca) In Chimanimani District, Manicaland Province	Delayed Advance Payment	Delayed payments

The mission found cases where contracts were not closely supervised or were supervised or where the engineering and supervising firms (ARUPE, SWS) continued to be represented by relatively junior engineers and sometimes trainees who don't generally have adequate experience to supervise and guide contractor's work. As the project moves towards completion date, it is important for the PCU, at this critical stage of the project, to seek more engagement from the supervising firms or to revise the contracts/agreements accordingly.

The mission noted that contract provisions are not triggered for non-performing suppliers, contractors and consultants. The delays in the finalization of some schemes such as Romsley lot 2 and Rustler's Gorge is due to poor performing contractors. There is a need to take swift action against the nonperforming contractors and invoke penalties.

The mission noted requests for contract amendments outside of contract validity periods. Cases in point being contract extension requests for Mbembeswana and Malikango Irrigation schemes.

### 3. Contract Monitoring Tool:

The CMT is regularly updated but the mission observed that a few contracts had not been included in the online tool because the system was not functioning properly. The challenges were resolved during the course of the mission and the procurement officer was able to update the CMT. There is, however, need to improve the quality of data by addressing gaps relating to missing dates for some contracts.

## 8. Review of Record Retention

*Moderately satisfactory (4).*

**The project's record retention:** Each procurement activity has its own separate folder and in chronological order. The mission noted significant improvement in record keeping in comparison to what had been reported in the previous mission. Most of the required documents were on file except copies of NOITA and declarations of impartiality and confidentiality forms.

## 9. Non-Compliance

From the review, there was an instance of significant non-compliance to procurement procedures that warrants investigation.

No	Procurement Activity	PP Activity	Amount (USD)	Review finding
----	----------------------	-------------	--------------	----------------

1	<p><i>External Audit Services (NOTUS dossier N00024955) – ongoing procurement (awaiting contract signing)</i></p> <p>Firm recommended for award: HLB Zimbabwe</p> <p>Amount: USD18, 920.00 (excl. VAT)</p>	0056-CS-LCS	USD18, 920. 00 (excl. VAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The review found 5 firms were selected and invited to bid for the provision of external audit services. The selection was made from a list of obtained from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Zimbabwe.</li> <li>• BDO Zimbabwe Chartered Accountants was disqualified at preliminary evaluation stage.</li> <li>• Full facts were not recorded in BER and thus the reasons for disqualifying the bidder were invalid. BER mentions <i>that “bidder C did not declare eligibility and or debarment. The bidder did not provide a brief background and organization of the firm as required in TECH-2; the bidder did not provide a detailed company profile, full contact details of its head office and branch offices, the area of core competence of the firm and information on the assignments for which it was contracted to carry out consulting services similar to the ones under this assignment for the last 5 years as indicated in TECH-2B”</i>.</li> <li>• At the technical evaluation, three bids were dropped because they did not meet the technical/quality requirements. Only HLZ Zimbabwe was considered for financial evaluation and recommended for award.</li> <li>• Physical verification of the bids shows the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among the firms that proceed to technical evaluation, one firm – Kreston Zimbabwe – did not submit a tax compliance certificate which was a requirement at preliminary evaluation.</li> <li>• BDO provided the information regarding background and company profile, organization, comprehensive list of previous experience and its bid was on a company letterhead with complete address details and declared that it had no criminal convictions, administrative sanctions and or temporary suspensions imposed against it or its personnel.</li> <li>• On further enquiry, the mission was informed Kreston Zimbabwe’s failure to submit the tax compliance certificate was considered a minor omission as this was a historical document which could</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
---	--	-------------	----------------------------	---

				<p>be requested. However, there was neither a record of this explanation in the evaluation report nor was there evidence on file that a follow up was made to obtain the document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On further enquiry on why BDO was disqualified despite the evidence to the contrary being available in its bid, the Procurement Officer could not justify the grounds provided in the report other than explaining that BDO did not provide information regarding its management structure. However, a days later he explained to the mission that BDO had two cases in court and he was able to provide evidence using two articles which he obtained from the internet following the enquiries from the mission.</li> <li>• While the evidence provided may be acceptable, there was no record or mention of the cases in the evaluation report as ground for disqualification. There was also no evidence of conviction as the cases were ongoing and not yet concluded.</li> </ul>
--	--	--	--	--

#### 10. Review of Issues Identified in the Previous Procurement Supervision and Aide-mémoire and of Procurement Related Issues Identified in Project Audit Report(s)

A number of actions were recommended in the mission of October, 2023 Mission. The table below provides an update on each.

Implementation Status of the previous mission recommendations			
Actions	Responsibility	Deadline	Status - March 2024
<p><b>Procurement Plan (PP).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amend and transmit the 2024 PP for IFAD review through OPEN, reflecting revisions to the AWPB during mission. Timeline for new procurement activities to allow delivery within project completion period.</li> </ul>	Procurement Specialist	31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2023	Fully implemented The approved excel sheet PP was transferred to the OPEN System for review and approval.

<p><b>Processing of Procurement Activities.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain internal approvals wherever processing activities, and document procurement decisions appropriately.</li> <li>• Allow for Bank Guarantees in exchange of withheld sums for the Defects Liability Periods beyond project completion. Where necessary, pending Bank Guarantees at project completion to be amended and have DoI as the beneficiary.</li> </ul>	Procurement Specialist	31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2023	Ongoing
<p><b>Contract Management.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review all ongoing Works contracts and accurately determine completion periods as per approved Works programmes, and where necessary process Extension of Time.</li> <li>• Ensure valid performance securities and insurances as per contract.</li> </ul>	Procurement Specialist	31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2023	<p>This is an ongoing process. Requests for extensions of three contracts (Cashel Valley, Mbembeswana and Malikango schemes) awaiting IFAD Approval.</p> <p>Performance securities and insurance validated.</p>
<p><b>Procurement Records.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure complete procurement records to include checklists, all contractual correspondence, certified deliverables, and progress reports.</li> </ul>	Procurement Specialist	31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2023	Implemented.
<p><b>Remedial Works.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considering that project resources have been exhausted, and there is need to attain functionality of Investments through remedial Works, then all pending remedial Works (Old Biri, Rupangwana, Musikavanhu, Chemakudo, Bambanani, and Gudo) to be undertaken only when Government provides written commitment to IFAD to provide funding from Government resources. The procurement of the Works can commence with initial stages, pending Notice of Intention to Award stage, until funds are availed from Government. The commitment from Government to also cover payment for any scope of Work beyond contract completion period. PP</li> </ul>	PCU	31 <sup>st</sup> December, 2023	<p>Ongoing process. A commitment letter has already been submitted to IFAD for the financing of Mbembeswane scheme using Government resources.</p>

and AWPB will be revised to indicate this arrangement.			
--	--	--	--

The following issues were raised in the audit report.

<b>Audit findings – December, 2023</b>			
<b>Finding</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Management response/Action</b>
Poor storage of materials	<p>In Cashel Valley Irrigation Scheme, plastic materials were not stored under sheds to protect them from damage. materials were piling at the station because work was reduced as the contractor's certificates were not honoured and the additional labour had been reduced.</p> <p>Value for money may not be realised as the materials may require early replacement than anticipated because of environmental damage.</p>	There is need for effective engagement with the contractor for construction work to continue uninterrupted	The exposed materials were mainly UV protected hoses and steel materials which are expected to work in the open during their lifetime. The management team will strive to ensure all the materials are properly stored to avoid any damages.
Delayed payment of interim certificates	Certificates raised by contractors were not paid up from January – July 2023.	PCU should ensure that payments are done on time to enable the contractor to meet targets.	The delay in payment was due to late approval of AWPB in 2023. Tracking system for monitoring the flow of certificates was put in place to reduce the time from Resident Engineer to SIRP Finance. Measures have also been put in place to for constant follow up of Withdrawal



			Application processing with Ministry of Finance, IFAD office and OFID office.
--	--	--	---

**11. Assessment of Further Procurement Staff Training Needs.**

There is need for support to management and procurement staff through one-on-one sessions and/or virtual procurement clinics. The areas where additional guidance is required include the evaluation of bidding documents and contract management.

**12. Outcomes/Update of the PRM**

Statutory Instrument 5 "Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets", which came into force on 01 January 2018, is the governing law for procurement in Zimbabwe. In 2020, Statutory Instrument 49 amended Statutory Instrument 5 to include 1- financial thresholds for procurement methods 2- financial threshold for procurement contracts liable to scrutiny and 3- security and fees for challenges to procurement proceedings. Public Procurement Guidelines regulates the operational matters of the Statutory Instrument 5. There were no changes to the legal and regulatory framework since the last supervision mission. Therefore, the prevailing PAL thresholds for procurement methods and prior review shall be maintained since the change in the overall risk rating

**13. Procurement Performance Indicator Rating and Justification**

**A. Performance Indicators**

No.	Performance Indicator	Rating	Justification for Rating
1	<b>Procurement Strategy &amp; Planning Process</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Moderately Unsatisfactory.</b> The 2023 PP is consistent with the IFAD format and the nature and quantity of goods, works and services are aligned to the AWPB. Homogenous and similar activities were aggregated together and the packaging was done in a way that generally facilitates greater price competition. The 2024 PP was not yet cleared in OPEN in spite of the project being due for completion in June 2024. There are several procurement activities for goods and consultancy services that are at the initial stages of the procurement process. With only three months to the closing date of IFAD funding, four procurement activities were yet to be launched.

2	<b>Processes and Procedures from Prequalification to Bidding</b>	4	<p><b>Moderately Satisfactory.</b></p> <p>The processes and procedures for prequalification and shortlisting through to receiving bids generally adhere to the IFAD template. The bidding procedures applied by the Project exhibit consistency, fairness, value for money, competition, efficiency and are responsive to requests for clarification and complaints. The Mission established that the bidding documents are of good quality and provide sufficient basis for preparation of tender documentation in compliance with the national procurement law and IFAD Procurement Guidelines and Handbook. The Specifications are clear and neutral, and the evaluation methodology is fully disclosed in the bidding documents. However, two incidences were noted where the deadlines and instructions were not clear.</p>
3	<b>Process and Procedures for Bid Evaluation and Contract Award</b>	3	<p><b>Moderately Unsatisfactory.</b></p> <p>Processes and procedures are partially consistent/ complying with national procurement regulations and laws. There are evaluation reports for all procurements carried out. Bids are evaluated on a common basis following a logical systematic procedure across three steps, preliminary examination, technical evaluation and financial evaluation, consistent with the methods of procurement. The evaluation committees are ad hoc and included at least one technical specialist in the area of the procurement. Contracts were awarded to the bidder who meets eligibility and qualification requirements and whose bid was determined to be the lowest evaluated substantially responsive bid. There were major identified gaps that include: (1) There are no approvals for the composition of ad hoc evaluation committees; (2) Evaluators did not declare conflict of interest and confidentiality prior to undertaking the procurement; (3) Some evaluation reports did not bear the signatures of evaluators; (4) NOITA was missing in some contract files; (5) Vendor's acceptance/acknowledgement was missing for some local purchase orders; (6) Lack of supplier/contractor self-certification; and (7) There were no records of publishing contract award for the reviewed activities. Implementation support is required.</p>

4	<b>Contract Management and Administration, CMT data accuracy and timeliness</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Moderately Unsatisfactory.</b> Contracts are managed by technical departments and the consultant supervising engineers/firms. UNOPS has been engaged by Government to monitor and advise on the progress of works in ten Irrigation schemes and it was providing regular updates to both the project and the implementing agency. The CMT contains contract data updates but there is need to improve the quality of data. There were many cases of protracted delays in advance payments and in payment of contractor's interim certificates. This impacted negatively on project implementation. Contract provisions are not triggered for non-performing suppliers, contractors and consultants. The mission noted two requests for contract amendments outside of contract validity periods. Contracts were not closely supervised or were supervised by inexperienced staff especially for the contracts allocated to consultant supervising firms. Implementation support is required.
5	<b>Record Retention</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Moderately Satisfactory.</b> Each procurement activity has its own separate folder and in chronological order. The mission noted significant improvement in record keeping in comparison to what had been reported in the previous mission. Most of the required documents were on file except copies of NOITA and declarations of impartiality and confidentiality forms.

### B. Overall Rating and Justification

The Mission maintained the procurement rating at **(3) Moderately Unsatisfactory**, given the significant delays in the implementation of the procurement plan. Despite being in the last three months of the Project closing date, several activities were at the early stages of the procurement process. Numerous gaps were observed in the bidding, evaluation and contracting phases that may affect the transparency and fairness of the procurement process. There are several weaknesses in contract management leading to delayed deliverables by suppliers and contractors. Procurement records are kept orderly in file records and the PMU demonstrated efficiency and transparency in providing all the documentation and information requested.

### 14. Recommendation for Improvement and Agreed Actions with the Borrower/Recipient and or IFAD

Actions	Responsibility	Deadline	Status
Compliance with regulations and guidelines. Consistently adhere to National Regulations and IFAD Guidelines and procedures regarding appointment of tender evaluation panels, declaration of impartiality and confidentiality, Contractor and Supplier Self-Certification, and in	PCU Coordinator; Procurement Officer	immediately	Agreed

obtaining the contractor/supplier acknowledgement of Local Purchase Orders.			
Accelerate the conclusion of the key procurement processes and ensure that awards take into consideration the remaining duration.	Procurement Officer	Immediately and continuous	Agreed
Closely monitor and manage the following contracts to ensure timely completion and delivery of goods, works and services by June 2024: i) contract for the rehabilitation of Mbembeswana Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS N00018867); ii) contract for the rehabilitation Chemakudo Irrigation Scheme (N00018872), iii) contract for the rehabilitation of Machena Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N000188789); iv) the contract for the rehabilitation of Old Biri Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00013932); v) the contract for the rehabilitation of Rustler's Gorge Irrigation Scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00019098) and vi) contract for the rehabilitation of Romsley Lot 2 irrigation scheme (NOTUS Dossier N00013930) vii) contract for the rehabilitation of Gudo smallholder irrigation scheme OPEN Dossier ZWE-20000001233--0031-W-NS; viii) contract for the NORAD endline survey OPEN dossier ZWE-20000001233-0043-CS-LCS.	PCU Coordinator; Procurement Officer	Immediately and continuous	Agreed
Timely payment of contractor's interim certificates.	PCU Coordinator; Director DOI	continuous	Agreed
For works that may not be feasible to complete prior to the completion date, obtain commitment from Government to cover obligations that may be outstanding beyond the completion date.	PCU Coordinator; Director DOI	15 June 2023	Agreed
Negotiate and seek IFAD approval for new contracts for Mbembeswana and Malikango Irrigation schemes to facilitate the completion of pending works.	PCU Coordinator; Procurement Officer	Immediately	Agreed

#### 15. Other recommendations for improvement and mitigating measures to enhance procurement processes

- i) Closely monitor and manage all ongoing contracts to ensure timely completion and delivery of goods, works and services by June 2024. In addition to updating the CMT, the procurement officer should maintain a record of ongoing contracts to closely track implementation in the period leading to project closure.
- ii) Contract amendments must be completed prior to contract expiration.
- iii) Issue NOITA and publish contract awards for all bids to ensure transparency.
- iv) Timely initiate procurement activities according to the timelines in the procurement plan to avoid delays in project implementation.
- v) The final version of the approved bidding documents should be thoroughly checked to ensure that all comments provided by IFAD are incorporated and that the document is error-free.
- vi) Keep accurate records of all procurement documents and correspondence as provided in Module B of the IFAD Procurement Handbook to ensure an audit trail and transparency of the procurement process.

## Annex I: Post Review Checklists

### A. Procurement Planning & Contract Registers: (In reference to the Procurement Manual Chapter 5)

#	Description	Check <sup>1</sup>	Remarks
<b>A</b>	<b>Procurement Planning (for entire PP)</b>		
1.	Is the Plan template consistent with IFAD's?	Y	Reviewed 2023 PP in OPEN
2.	Did IFAD provide its No Objection on the current version of the Plan?	N	2023 approved; 2024 PP approval is awaiting IFAD approval.
3.	Are there planned dates for all procurements?	Y	
4.	Are the planned dates consistent with the procurement processes and methods?	Y	
5.	Are the procurement methods consistent with the estimated budget for each procurement?	Y	
6.	Is the reviewed Procurement Plan an updated one?	Y	
7.	How many <b>updates</b> of the current Procurement Plan were submitted for the year?	1	
8.	How many <b>upgrades</b> of the current Procurement Plan were submitted for the year?	2	
<b>B</b>	<b>Contract Register (for entire Project)</b>		
1.	Is there a contract register?	N/A	Using CMT.

<sup>1</sup> Use Y for Yes, use N for No, and N/A for Not Applicable. All No's should have a remark

2.	Is the register updated?	Y	6 activities had not been registered because the CMT had a problem but this was fixed during the mission and CMT was updated.
----	--------------------------	---	---

**B. Procurement Process: (In reference to the Procurement Manual Chapter 5)**

*Works for the installation of steel pipe river crossing gate valves repair and canal construction at Gudo Pools Irrigation project (OPEN dossier 0031-W-NS)*

#	Description	Check <sup>4</sup>	Remarks
<b>A Bidding Process (for each procurement reviewed)</b>			
1.	Is the item in the Procurement Plan?	Y	0031-W-NS (in 2023PP)
2.	Is there a formal Procurement Requisition that initiates the process?	Y	Req. no. 1028 of 10/11/23
3.	Is the Method proposed in the PP used?	Y	NS
4.	Is enough done to demonstrate that competition was achieved?	Y	
5.	Is there time provided for bidders to request and receive clarifications, before the submission deadline?	N	The RFQ did not provide for requests for clarification.
6.	Is there sufficient time allotted for bidders to prepare quotations, bids and proposals	Y	14 days
7.	Ensure that no late bids were accepted	N/A	
8.	Are the aggregate amounts for use of Direct Contracting for acquisition of Low Value purchases exceeding the prescribed financial threshold?	N/A	
<b>B</b>			
1.	Was Preliminary Examination done?	Y	
2.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Preliminary Examination?	Y	
3.	Was Technical Evaluation done?	Y	

4

4.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Technical Evaluation?	N/A	
5.	For QCBS and QBS was a Technical Evaluation Report submitted to and no-objected to by IFAD before the Financial Proposal(s) was/were opened?	N/A	
6.	Were bidders informed of the (technical) evaluation outcome?	N/A	
7.	Were the bidders given sufficient explanation as to their results at the (technical) evaluation, if one or more requested this information?	N/A	

8.	Were bidders given enough time to submit a challenge/protest?	Y	
9.	For consulting services under QCBS, QBS and LCS, was there a formal opening of financial proposals?	N/A	
10.	Was Financial evaluation done and properly?	Y	
11.	Were corrections to Bidders' financials/prices were done, is there correspondence to show that the bidders were (i) notified and (ii) accepted the correction?	Y	Letter Accepting corrected bid price is on file
12.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Financial Evaluation?	N/A	
13.	For consulting services under QCBS, were bidders provided the results of the combined evaluation and accorded sufficient time to challenge/protest?	N/A	
14.	Were challenges/protests received? Were they handled properly?	N/A	
<b>C</b>			
1.	Was award done after all challenges/protests were received?	N/A	
2.	Ensure that negotiations were not held for Goods and Works	Y	
3.	Ensure that negotiations were held for consulting services?	N/A	
4.	Did the negotiations significantly alter (i) the scope, (ii) the duration and (ii) the prices?	N/A	
<b>D</b>			
<b>Contract, Contract Administration and Management (for Proc resulted in more than one contract then for each contract signed)</b>		<b>each procurement-if procurement</b>	
1.	Information about the Contract  1.1 Contractor \ Supplier \ Consultant Name: 1.2 Original Contract Value: 1.3 Revised Contract Value: 1.4 Date of Contract Signature: 1.5 Original Contract Completion Date: 1.6 Revised Contract Completion Date		1.1 Conardic Investments 1.2 USD77,268.90 (excl. VAT) 1.3 N/A 1.4 24/1/24 1.5 24/5/24 1.6 N/A
2.	Was the Contract signed by both parties? (A copy must be evident in file)	Y	
3.	Was a Performance Security presented in line with the Contract Requirement	Y	

4.	If applicable, Is the advance payment guarantee supported by a bank guarantee?	N/A	
5.	Has the contract the standard commercial and contractual terms required for a proper procurement agreement, as per relevant category and method?	Y	
6.	Is the procurement requirement (terms of reference, description of services, schedule of requirements, technical specifications) expressed in the contract as consistent with the successful bidder's bid, evaluation report and negotiated outcome?	Y	
7.	Was a Contract amendment made to extend time/add funds/add scope?	N	
8.	If the answer to the above is YES, is there an IFAD NoObjection for each amendment that exceeds the contract percentage thresholds (for prior review procurements)?	Y	
9.	Were payments done on time as consistent with contract provisions?	N/A	Payment not due yet.
10.	Value for Payments disbursed up to date	N/A	
11.	Are the payment documents included in the procurement files?	N/A	

<i>Procurement of Equipment and Materials for labour saving technologies</i>			
#	Description	Check <sup>5</sup>	Remarks
<b>A</b>	<b>Bidding Process (for each procurement reviewed)</b>		
1.	Is the item in the Procurement Plan?	Y	0054-G-NS (in 2023)
2.	Is there a formal Procurement Requisition that initiates the process?	Y	
3.	Is the Method proposed in the PP used?	Y	NS
4.	Is enough done to demonstrate that competition was achieved?	Y	
5.	Is there time provided for bidders to request and receive clarifications, before the submission deadline?	N	RFQ not on file
6.	Is there sufficient time allotted for bidders to prepare quotations, bids and proposals	N	14 days
7.	Ensure that no late bids were accepted	N/A	



8.	Are the aggregate amounts for use of Direct Contracting for acquisition of Low Value purchases exceeding the prescribed financial threshold?	N/A	
<b>B</b>			
5.	Was Preliminary Examination done?	Y	
6.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Preliminary Examination?	N/A	
7.	Was Technical Evaluation done?	Y	
8.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Technical Evaluation?	N/A	
5.	For QCBS and QBS was a Technical Evaluation Report submitted to and no-objected to by IFAD before the Financial Proposal(s) was/were opened?	N/A	
6.	Were bidders informed of the (technical) evaluation outcome?	N/A	
7.	Were the bidders given sufficient explanation as to their results at the (technical) evaluation, if one or more requested this information?	N/A	
8.	Were bidders given enough time to submit a challenge/protest?	Y	
9.	For consulting services under QCBS, QBS and LCS, was there a formal opening of financial proposals?	N/A	
10.	Was Financial evaluation done and properly?	Y	
11.	Were corrections to Bidders' financials/prices were done, is there correspondence to show that the bidders were (i) notified and (ii) accepted the correction?	N/A	
12.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Financial Evaluation?	N/A	
13.	For consulting services under QCBS, were bidders provided the results of the combined evaluation and accorded sufficient time to challenge/protest?	N/A	
14.	Were challenges/protests received? Were they handled properly?	N/A	
<b>C</b>			
5.	Was award done after all challenges/protests were received?	N/A	
6.	Ensure that negotiations were not held for Goods and Works	Y	
7.	Ensure that negotiations were held for consulting services?	N/A	
8.	Did the negotiations significantly alter (i) the scope, (ii) the duration and (ii) the prices?	N/A	

<b>D</b>	<b>Contract, Contract Administration and Management Process (for each procurement-if procurement resulted in more than one contract then for each signed contract)</b>		
	Information about the Contract		
12.	1.1 Contractor \ Supplier \ Consultant Name: 1.2 Original Contract Value: 1.3 Revised Contract Value:	1.1 Kurima Farm Machinery 1.2 USD36,013.16 (excl. VAT) 1.3 N/A	
	1.4 Date of Contract Signature: 1.5 Original Contract Completion Date: 1.6 Revised Contract Completion Date	1.4. 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 1.5. 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 1.6 N/A	
13.	Was the Contract signed by both parties? (A copy must be evident in file)	Y	
14.	Was a Performance Security presented in line with the Contract Requirement	Y	
15.	If applicable, Is the advance payment guarantee supported by a bank guarantee?	N/A	
16.	Has the contract the standard commercial and contractual terms required for a proper procurement agreement, as per relevant category and method?	Y	
17.	Is the procurement requirement (terms of reference, description of services, schedule of requirements, technical specifications) expressed in the contract as consistent with the successful bidder's bid, evaluation report and negotiated outcome?	Y	
18.	Was a Contract amendment made to extend time/add funds/add scope?	N	
19.	If the answer to the above is YES, is there an IFAD NoObjection for each amendment that exceeds the contract percentage thresholds (for prior review procurements)?	N	
20.	Were payments done on time as consistent with contract provisions?	N/A	
21.	Value for Payments disbursed up to date		
22.	Are the payment documents included in the procurement files?	N/A	

<i>NORAD end line evaluation</i>			
<b>#</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Check<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>Remarks</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>Bidding Process (for each procurement reviewed)</b>		
1.	Is the item in the Procurement Plan?	Y	0043-CS-LCS (in 2023PP)
2.	Is there a formal Procurement Requisition that initiates the process?	Y	Req. no. 0927 of 24/1/24

3.	Is the Method proposed in the PP used?	Y	LCS
4.	Is enough done to demonstrate that competition was achieved?	Y	
5.	Is there time provided for bidders to request and receive clarifications, before the submission deadline?	Y	
6.	Is there sufficient time allotted for bidders to prepare quotations, bids and proposals	Y	
7.	Ensure that no late bids were accepted	N	
8.	Are the aggregate amounts for use of Direct Contracting for acquisition of Low Value purchases exceeding the prescribed financial threshold?	N/A	
<b>B</b>			
1.	Was Preliminary Examination done?	Y	

6

2.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Preliminary Examination?	Y	
3.	Was Technical Evaluation done?	Y	
4.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Technical Evaluation?	N/A	
5.	For QCBS and QBS was a Technical Evaluation Report submitted to and no-objected to by IFAD before the Financial Proposal(s) was/were opened?	N/A	
6.	Were bidders informed of the (technical) evaluation outcome?	Y	
7.	Were the bidders given sufficient explanation as to their results at the (technical) evaluation, if one or more requested this information?	N/A	No record requesting information.
8.	Were bidders given enough time to submit a challenge/protest?	Y	
9.	For consulting services under QCBS, QBS and LCS, was there a formal opening of financial proposals?	Y	
10.	Was Financial evaluation done and properly?	N	
11.	Were corrections to Bidders' financials/prices were done, is there correspondence to show that the bidders were (i) notified and (ii) accepted the correction?	N	
12.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Financial Evaluation?	N/A	
13.	For consulting services under QCBS, were bidders provided the results of the combined evaluation and accorded sufficient time to challenge/protest?	N/A	

14.	Were challenges/protests received? Were they handled properly?	N/A	
<b>C</b>			
1.	Was award done after all challenges/protests were received?	N/A	No complaints on file.
2.	Ensure that negotiations were not held for Goods and Works	N/A	
3.	Ensure that negotiations were held for consulting services?	N	Not held
4.	Did the negotiations significantly alter (i) the scope, (ii) the duration and (ii) the prices?	N	
<b>D Contract, Contract Administration and Management Proccs (for each procurement-if procurement resulted in more than one contract then for each signed contract)</b>			
1.	Information about the Contract  1.1 Contractor \ Supplier \ Consultant Name: 1.2 Original Contract Value: 1.3 Revised Contract Value: 1.4 Date of Contract Signature: 1.5 Original Contract Completion Date: 1.6 Revised Contract Completion Date		1.1 Perch Inc. Dev. Consultancy 1.2 USD24,820. 00 (excl. VAT) 1.3 N/A 1.4 Pending 1.5 21/6/24 (planned) 1.6 N/A
2.	Was the Contract signed by both parties? (A copy must be evident in file)	Y	
3.	Was a Performance Security presented in line with the Contract Requirement	N/A	
4.	If applicable, Is the advance payment guarantee supported by a bank guarantee?	N/A	
5.	Has the contract the standard commercial and contractual terms required for a proper procurement agreement, as per relevant category and method?	Y	
6.	Is the procurement requirement (terms of reference, description of services, schedule of requirements, technical specifications) expressed in the contract as consistent with the successful bidder's bid, evaluation report and negotiated outcome?	Y	
7.	Was a Contract amendment made to extend time/add funds/add scope?	N	

8.	If the answer to the above is YES, is there an IFAD NoObjection for each amendment that exceeds the contract percentage thresholds (for prior review procurements)?	N/A	
9.	Were payments done on time as consistent with contract provisions?	Y	No record on file.
10.	Value for Payments disbursed up to date		
11.	Are the payment documents included in the procurement files?	N	

<i>External audit services</i>			
#	Description	Check <sup>7</sup>	Remarks
<b>A</b>	<b>Bidding Process (for each procurement reviewed)</b>		
1.	Is the item in the Procurement Plan?	Y	<i>OPEN dossier 0056-CS-LCS</i>
2.	Is there a formal Procurement Requisition that initiates the process?	Y	
3.	Is the Method proposed in the PP used?	Y	LCS
4.	Is enough done to demonstrate that competition was achieved?	Y	Though not advertised, there were 5 responses from invited firms.
5.	Is there time provided for bidders to request and receive clarifications, before the submission deadline?	Y	
6.	Is there sufficient time allotted for bidders to prepare quotations, bids and proposals	Y	
7.	Ensure that no late bids were accepted	Y	There were no late bids according to bid opening record.
8.	Are the aggregate amounts for use of Direct Contracting for acquisition of Low Value purchases exceeding the prescribed financial threshold?	N/A	
<b>B</b>			
1.	Was Preliminary Examination done?	Y	
2.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Preliminary Examination?	N	BDO Zimbabwe Chartered Accountants was invalid. BER mentions <i>that "did not state whether it was under criminal conviction, sanctioned or suspended"</i> . However, evidence to this effect was not on file.
3.	Was Technical Evaluation done?	Y	
4.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Technical Evaluation?	Y	Not meeting minimum score of 70.
5.	For QCBS and QBS was a Technical Evaluation Report submitted to and no-objected to by IFAD before the Financial Proposal(s) was/were opened?	N/A	
6.	Were bidders informed of the (technical) evaluation outcome?	Y	

7.	Were the bidders given sufficient explanation as to their results at the (technical) evaluation, if one or more requested this information?	N/A	No record requesting information.
8.	Were bidders given enough time to submit a challenge/protest?	Y	
9.	For consulting services under QCBS, QBS and LCS, was there a formal opening of financial proposals?	N	No formal opening. Technical and financial evaluation done together.
10.	Was Financial evaluation done and properly?	Y	
11.	Were corrections to Bidders' financials/prices were done, is there correspondence to show that the bidders were (i) notified and (ii) accepted the correction?	N	
12.	Are there objective and justifiable reasons for rejections at Financial Evaluation?	N/A	
13.	For consulting services under QCBS, were bidders provided the results of the combined evaluation and accorded sufficient time to challenge/protest?	N/A	
14.	Were challenges/protests received? Were they handled properly?	N/A	
<b>C</b>			
1.	Was award done after all challenges/protests were received?	N/A	No complaints on file.
2.	Ensure that negotiations were not held for Goods and Works	N/A	
3.	Ensure that negotiations were held for consulting services?	N	Negotiations were not held.
4.	Did the negotiations significantly alter (i) the scope, (ii) the duration and (ii) the prices?	N	
<b>D Contract, Contract Administration and Management Procss (fo r each procurement-if procurement resulted in more than one contract then for each signed contract)</b>			
1.	Information about the Contract  1.1 Contractor \ Supplier \ Consultant Name: 1.2 Original Contract Value: 1.3 Revised Contract Value: 1.4 Date of Contract Signature: 1.5 Original Contract Completion Date: 1.6 Revised Contract Completion Date		1.1 HLB Zimbabwe 1.2 USD18,920 (excl. VAT) 1.3 N/A 1.4 Pending 1.5 N/A 1.6 N/A
2.	Was the Contract signed by both parties? (A copy must be evident in file)	Y	



3.	Was a Performance Security presented in line with the Contract Requirement	N/A	
4.	If applicable, Is the advance payment guarantee supported by a bank guarantee?	N/A	

C. Document Retention Checklist [for all reviewed files](with reference to the checklist below)

		YES /NO	Comments
1	The procurement activity has its own separate file, folder or dossier	Y	
2	Procurement records are kept in chronological order	Y	
3	A copy of the published advertisement or shortlist (if applicable) is on file	Y	
4	A copy of the published pre-qualification and bidding documents and any amendments, extensions or clarifications that were requested and issued are on file	Y	
5	A record of tender opening signed by all present is on file	N	Record not signed by some members.
6	A full copy of each bid received and evaluated, plus clarifications requested and responses received are on file	Y	
7	A copy of the evaluation report is on file	Y	
8	Signed minutes of all meetings relating to the procurement, including pre-bid and negotiation meetings where these were held are on file	N	Negotiation minutes not signed by some members.
9	A contract award notice (NOITA) is on file	N	No consistently issued. Lacking in some files.
10	Any letter of tender acceptance to the supplier, contractor or consultant is on file	Y	No acceptance letters. Use acknowledgement in LoA.
11	The signed contract document and contract acceptance are on file	Y	
12	Any contract amendment is on file including corresponding IFAD's NO	Y	
13	All contractual correspondence between the Procuring Entity and a supplier, contractor or consultant is on file	Y	
14	Post-contract documents relating to the fulfilment of contract obligations, in particular photocopies of bank guarantees or payment guarantees are on file	Y	
15	Signed minutes of any meetings related to contract management, including contract progress or review meetings are on file	N	



16	Signed delivery documents evidencing delivery of supplies or signed completion certificates in relation to a contract for services or works under the contract including any contract delivery records are on file	N	
17	Copies of all invoices for works, services or supplies including work-papers verifying the accuracy of payments claimed and details of the actual payment authorised are on file	Y	
18	Copies of cumulative payment worksheets/records evidencing management of all payments made are on file	Y	
19	Copies of all submissions to and all decisions of the appropriate approval authority related to the procurement including the approval of the bidding documents, approval of the evaluation report(s), contract award, approval of contract documents and contract amendments and any decision to suspend or cancel procurement proceedings are on file	N	No record of internal approvals. No minutes of discussion for scope reduction and the finalized BOQ.
20	Copies of any claims made by the Procuring Entity in respect of any warranty, non-warranty, short supply, damage and other claims upon the Contracted Vendor or upon the Procuring Entity are on file	N/A	
21	In the case of IFAD prior review, all copies of IFAD's 'no objections' are on file	Y	
22	Any other communications relating to the procurement in questions including internal entity correspondence is on file	Y	

IFAD PRM - Part B Project Level

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT'S PROCUREMENT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS.

SIRP, ZIMBABWE

Assessment Area # and # of related criterion of assessment	Description of Assessment Criterion	Findings regarding possible non-compliance with Project Objectives & IFAD PPF	Inherent Risk of non-compliance with Project Objectives & IFAD PPF	Proposed Mitigation measure/s	Net Risk
<b>Overall Assessment of the risk posed by Part B</b>		<p>The IA has notable weaknesses in procurement planning, evaluation, and award processes as well as contract management. There is absence of a procurement strategy to guide procurement planning. The bidding documents are of good quality and provide sufficient basis for preparation of tender documentation in compliance with the national procurement law and IFAD Procurement Guidelines and Handbook. There are numerous gaps in the evaluation phase which may affect contract awards. Terms and conditions of contract are not strictly enforced especially regarding triggering penalties and liquidated damages.</p>	<b>S</b>	<p>The Project should develop a PPS as basis for procurement planning and selection methods for goods and services It should put a contract management system in place. Contractor performance should be closely monitored, and penalties effected for delays and poor performance.</p>	<b>M</b>
<b>1. ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT COMPLEXITY</b>					
1.1.	Project is new of its kind and introduces new procurement methodologies	Project is winding up activities pending completion on 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024. There is risk of delayed implementation of some works contracts beyond the Project completion date.	<b>S</b>	Closely monitor contracts under implementation to ensure they are delivered before the Project completion date.	<b>M</b>
1.2.	Project investment value is high and includes substantial inter-dependent procurement	Majority of the procurement activities for the Project are for works contracts for irrigation schemes /infrastructure	<b>H</b>	Procurement works closely with technical units to ensure technical specifications and	<b>S</b>

	contracts that require advanced sequencing and coordination skills	which are complex and of high value.		scope of works are available on time. There are contract managers consisting of engineers from the Department of Irrigation and the design and supervising consultants.	
1.3.	Project area is geographically spread in different locations	Project area covers 4 provinces and are easily accessible by road.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
1.4.	A	There is only one Implementing Agency that oversees the project.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
1.5.	Project involves community participation in procurement activities which calls for detailed monitoring requirements by IA	Community participation is not applicable.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
1.6.	Project is classified with High or Substantial SECAP risks (including security risks)	The investment involves the rehabilitation of existing under-performing irrigation schemes and involves considerable environmental and social risks (category B project).	<b>M</b>	The Project has Environmental and Social Management Plans in place for each site. ESIA's are carried out for all the infrastructure investments. The IC bidding documents for the irrigation schemes require environmental and social management strategies and Implementation Plans describing in detail the actions, materials, equipment, management processes, codes of conduct for Contractor's personnel, etc. to be implemented by the Contractor, and its sub-contractors.	<b>L</b>
1.7.	Project is in a Fragile State with	N/A	N/A		N/A

	weak governance structures				
<b>1.8. Overall Assessment of the risk posed by Criterion 1.</b>		Project covers a wide catchment area consisting of 4 provinces. There are many complex and high value works contracts that have posed challenges to the PMU especially in contract management and are subject to delayed implementation.	<b>S</b>	Contracts under implementation to be closely monitored to ensure they are delivered before the Project completion date.	<b>M</b>
<b>2. ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTING AGENCY CAPACITY (Process/Procedures, Personnel and Performance/Product - 3Ps)</b>					
<b>2.1.</b>	<b>PROCESS/PROCEDURES</b>				
<b>2.1.1.</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT OF IA's Procurement Legal &amp; Regulatory Frameworks (Procurement Rules, Methods and Processes)</b>				
2.1.1.a.	IA procurement methods for Goods, Works and NCS (non-consulting services) are consistent with IFAD Project Guidelines	<b>N/A</b>			
2.1.1.b.	IA Procurement methods for Consulting Services are consistent with IFAD Guidelines and prioritize Quality.	<b>N/A</b>			
2.1.1.c.	Access to IA bidding opportunities and bidding/procurement documents is unrestricted for foreign firms	<b>N/A</b>			
2.1.1.d.	Bidders, IA procurement staff and the general public have free access to the legal and regulatory framework documents	<b>N/A</b>			
2.1.1.e.	The mandatory Minimum number of received quotations/bids in competitive procurement methods is	<b>N/A</b>			

	consistent with IFAD PPF <sup>2</sup>				
2.1.1.f.	IA's standard Bidding /Procurement Documents and standard contracts (including contractual dispute resolution) are consistent with IFAD standard procurement documents in structure and contents	N/A			
2.1.1.g.	IA's standard Bidding/Procurement Document incorporate IFAD SECAP requirements (to what extent?)	N/A			
2.1.1.h.	IA's standard prequalification documents are consistent with IFAD's and qualification criteria reflect needed past experience, production capacity and financial/cash flow sufficiency	N/A			
2.1.1.i.	Bid evaluation criteria are objective, proportionate and based on VFM considerations in the case of Goods/Works/NCS (lowest evaluated cost, Merit Point, lowest price or life cycle cost) and emphasize Quality in the case of consultancy services consistent with IFAD's PPF.	N/A			
2.1.1.j.	Minimum number of days for advertised procurement under	N/A			

<sup>2</sup> PPF: Project Procurement Framework

	IA's competitive bidding processes is consistent with IFAD PPF				
2.1.1.k.	Bidders' clarification procedure by the IA is consistent with IFAD PPF	N/A			
2.1.1.l.	Bids received by IA prior to the deadline are securely stored and a receipt is given to the bidder	N/A			
2.1.1.m.	Bid securities are securely stored	N/A			
2.1.1.n.	IA's Public bid openings are conducted for advertised procurements immediately after the submission deadline (within an hour of receipt of bids)	N/A			
2.1.1.o.	Minutes of bid opening meetings are recorded and sent to bidders who submitted bids	N/A			
2.1.1.p.	No negotiations at award stage are conducted with the successful bidder that aim at changes in offered bid price or scope unless foreseen in the selected procurement method and stipulated in the bidding documents	N/A			
2.1.1.q.	Under IA procurement rules, bidders have access to a Bidders' Complaint mechanism consistent with IFAD requirements	N/A			
2.1.1.r.	Contract awards are advertised publicly by the IA within	N/A			

	reasonable time of contract signature.				
<b>2.1.1.s. Overall Assessment of the risk posed by Criterion 2.1.1.</b>					
<b>2.1.2.</b>	<b>IA's Procurement Strategy and Procurement Planning Process</b>				
2.1.2.a.	The IA's preparation of its annual procurement plan is preceded by conceptualization of a Procurement Strategy based on market research, previous experience and own capacity assessments	Partially Complies since there has not been a PPS.	M	Project emphasizes needs analysis and carries out limited market research to provide inputs to the procurement planning and the packaging and scheduling of procurement of goods, works and services. The Project also relies on historical data and experience to guide cost estimation.	M
2.1.2.b.	IA's procurement plans are prepared ahead of time and in tandem with request for budget appropriation to MOF (or competent authority in case on autonomous bodies).	IA's procurement plans are prepared ahead of time and in tandem with request for budget appropriation to Ministry of Finance.	L	Project uses the IFAD template for procurement planning and ensures the activities in the PP are linked to the AWPB. The plan should be prepared ahead of time and submitted to IFAD for approval.	L
2.1.2.c.	IA's procurement department staff participate in the annual work planning processes	Procurement staff do not participate in the preparation of the annual work planning process. They are involved downstream after the finalisation of the AWPB only. SI 5-2018 does not require the participation of the procurement staff in the planning process.	H	Project procurement staff participate in annual work plan and budget preparation.	L
2.1.2.d.	The project's Procurement Strategy adequately addresses project complexity, IA's internal capacity and experience as well as market supply capacity	A PPS is not in place. PP prepared to fit into resources allocated to the IA	S	Update the project procurement plan regularly to reflect the operating environment and guide the planning and market approaches.	M

2.1.2.e.	IA's procurement plan for the project is consistent with the project's annual work plan/budget (AWPB)	Complies	L		L
2.1.2.f.	IA's Procurement Plans follow an effective format with planned and actual rows for tracking progress achieved across the 3 different categories of procurement	The IA's procurement plans format does not include planned and actual rows	M	Project to use IFAD PP format and regularly updates the PP.	L
<b>2.1.2.g. Overall Assessment of the risk posed by Criterion 2.1.2.</b>		There are significant weaknesses in procurement planning. Procurement staff do not take part in annual work planning and budgeting process. The IA lacks a Procurement Strategy to address the project complexity, guide the planning and market approaches.	M	The Project market approach should include detailed market scoping to inform selection of procurement methods and ensure optimal packaging and costing.	M
<b>2.1.3.</b>	<b>Procurement Management and Contract Administration systems and internal control /audit procedures</b>				
2.1.3.a.	IA's standard contracts for procurement of Goods, Works, and Services generally consistent with IFAD contracts	Partially complies. The clauses on prohibited practices do not include anti-corruption, SHEA, and money laundering.	M	Project uses IFAD SBD's.	L
2.1.3.b.	IA's standard contracts for procurement of Goods, Works and Services implement IFAD's SECAP requirements	The contracts include some clauses to address social and environmental issues but does not adequately address all the SECAP standards.	M	Project has adopted the standard IFAD templates with SECAP requirements. Project incorporates SECAP procedures in specifications, bidder's qualifications, and contracts clauses.	L
2.1.3.c.	The IA has established internal control systems with Segregation of Authority including effective separation between procurement and	Complies.	L	Project has separate finance and procurement units.	L



	financial management				
2.1.3.d.	The IA has an effective internal audit function in addition to independent and timely external financial audit (having specialized “procurement audit” is a plus)	Complies. There is a department in the Ministry that handles internal audit.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
2.1.3.e.	IA has established contract management procedures and contract management forms for monitoring progress against Time, Cost, Quality and Scope of the signed contracts for Goods, Works and Services.	Partly Complies. The IA has a register of contracts but does not have established contract Management plans and Procedures.	<b>M</b>	Project uses IFAD CMT for recording all contracts.	<b>M</b>
2.1.3.f.	The IA develops a comprehensive Contract Management Plan for major contracts with clear indication of roles and responsibilities	There are no contract management plans.	<b>S</b>	Project monitors the implementation of the procurement plan through regular updates. Project to continue using the CMT for contract monitoring and ensure that it is periodically updated.	<b>M</b>
2.1.3.g.	IA’s procedures for initiation and approval of Contract Variations are established and clear	There are no documented procedures for contract variations.	<b>M</b>	Establish contract procedures with clear thresholds. The PIM to detail threshold for procurement methods and prior review for the Project.	<b>M</b>
2.1.3.h.	Contract Amendments beyond a prescribed threshold (not exceeding 15% of time duration or contract value) require higher level approvals	There are no approval thresholds for contract amendments (review of SI 5-2018 art. 62).	<b>H</b>	Project follows thresholds established in the PAL.	<b>L</b>
2.1.3.i.	IA has established procedures for	Complies.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>

	receipt/acceptance of contract outputs in Goods, Works and Services				
2.1.3.j.	IA has established procedures for receipt/approval of deliverables and approval of payments for Goods, Works and Services	Complies.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
2.1.3.k.	IA's payment procedures lead to timely payments to the contracted parties in line with IFAD standard contracts.	Does not comply. There are significant delays in settlement of advance payment and contractor's interim certificates.	<b>S</b>	Ensure timely release of budget allocations on time to enable the Project to make timely payments to contractors in support of implementation of the Project.	<b>M</b>
2.1.3.l.	IA's Contractual Dispute Settlement procedures always provide for amicable settlement and stipulate arbitration for contracts with foreign contracted parties	Complies.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
2.1.3.m.	The IA has well-developed claim assessment procedures for initiating own claims or for verification of validity and costing of contractual claims filed by the contracted parties	The bid documents and contracts have clauses on liquidated damages and penalties to be instituted in case of a default by either Party. However, a review showed that these are not usually implemented.	<b>M</b>	Project should trigger applicable penalties in case of default by vendors.	<b>M</b>
<b>2.1.3.n. Overall Assessment of the risk posed by Criterion 2.1.3.</b>		There is absence of a contract management system. There are no approval thresholds for contract amendments and information regarding contract awards is limited.	<b>S</b>	Ensure an effective contract administration and management system. Project to maintain an updated record of all contracts in CMT.	<b>M</b>
<b>2.1.4.</b>	<b>RECORD KEEPING</b>				
2.1.4.a.	A serial-numbered procurement file is maintained for each procurement	Each procurement activity is kept in a box file that is serially numbered and labelled.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>

	activity (with records from requisition to acceptance/receipt of goods/works/services)				
2.1.4.b.	Original contracts secured in a fire and theft proof location	Does not Comply. Original Contracts kept together with other documents in the procurement file in the office.	<b>M</b>	Project to identify file proof location for storage of original contracts. Additionally, all contracts to be filed in the cloud.	<b>M</b>
2.1.4.c.	A separate contract file is maintained with a copy of the contract and all subsequent contractual correspondence e.g. contractual notices by supplier, contractor, purchaser or employer; a detailed record of all changes or variation orders issued affecting the scope, quality, timing or price of the contract; records of invoices and payments, progress reports, certificates of inspection, acceptance and completion; records of claim and dispute and their outcomes; etc.)	A separate file is maintained for each contract and contains most of the recommended documents except copies of payment vouchers, internal correspondence and other correspondence such as contract award notices.-	<b>M</b>	Project to ensure that all the recommended documents including correspondence are on file.	<b>M</b>
2.1.4.d.	The IA Procurement & Contract Files are maintained for at least 7 years beyond project closure in a secure place.	Complies.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
2.1.4.e.	The IA maintains an up-to-date Contract Register that records all ongoing contracts (with names, prices and dates) per	Complies.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>

	procurement category for ease of retrieval of contract data				
<b>2.1.4.f. Overall Assessment of the risk posed by Criterion 2.1.4.</b>		A filing system is in place, but some files do not contain all the required documents. There is risk of damage of the documents since they are not protected from the risk of fire.	<b>M</b>	Project to retain all the recommended contractual documents on file and ensure that procurement documentation is stored in a fireproof location.	<b>M</b>
<b>2.2.</b>	<b>IA's PERSONNEL CAPABILITIES: IA's Procurement Personnel Capabilities and Procurement resources (systems and facilities).</b>				
2.2.1.	The IA has a dedicated Procurement Department/Unit with a Director and a team of experienced staff	Complies	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
2.2.2.	The IA's Procurement Unit has previous experience with donor/IFI-funded procurement procedures	Complies	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
2.2.3.	IA's regular annual procurement volume exceeds expected project procurement in value and complexity (i.e. the IA normally conducts more and more complex procurement than what is required as part of the project)	Complies	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
2.2.4.	IA's procurement staff have Job Descriptions that cover all foreseen functions of the intended project procurement	Complies.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
2.2.5.	The number and qualifications of the staff of the IA Procurement Department are sufficient to undertake the additional	Complies.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>

	procurement that will be required under the proposed project				
2.2.6.	The IA Procurement Department has adequate facilities such as PCs, internet connections, photocopy facilities, printers, safes etc. to undertake the foreseen project procurement	Complies. The department has adequate facilities and equipment.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
2.2.7.	The IA's Procurement Department staff are certified practitioners or have attended relevant procurement training programmes	Partly complies. Some of the procurement staff are not certified but they have attended relevant procurement training courses mainly academic and professional course such as the CIPS.	<b>M</b>	The staff should be supported to enroll for the IFAD BUILDPROC course.	<b>M</b>
2.2.8.	The IA's Procurement Department staff can work in one of IFAD's official languages	Complies	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
2.2.9.	The Project Director is issued a Project Charter granting him/her sufficient authority to control and authorize project activities (documented in PIM)	Complies.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
2.2.10.	The IA has access to claim initiation or claim assessment experts either internally or externally especially for large value contracts with foreign vendors.	Complies.	<b>L</b>		<b>L</b>
<b>2.2.11. Overall Assessment of the risk posed by Criterion 2.2.</b>		The IA has the necessary facilities to carry out the expected procurement activities for the Project, but the staff can manage the procurement activities of the Project.	<b>L</b>	The staff should be encouraged to enroll for the IFAD BUILDPROC course. Extra support to be provided especially in orientation of the staff on IFAD	<b>L</b>

				procurement procedures.	
<b>2.3.</b>	<b>IA's PERFORMANCE (PRODUCTS &amp; PAST EXPERIENCE) - guided by quantitative indicators of Pillars II and III of OECD MAPS II (based on performance of the previous year)</b>				
2.3.1.	% of the total annual IA contracts that are awarded in open and restricted bidding	96.8%	L		L
2.3.2.	Percentage and value of IA's annual contracts that are awarded under direct contracting (single source)	3.2%	L	Project to limit use of DC/SSS to situations that can only be justified in line with the provisions of the IFAD Procurement Handbook.	L
2.3.3.	IA's Efficiency in completing the bidding process (open and restricted) for Goods (measured in time from advertisement to contract award and signature)	The IA is moderately efficient in completing the bidding process (open and restricted) for Goods (measured in time from advertisement to contract award and signature.	L		L
2.3.4.	IA's Efficiency in completing the bidding process (open and restricted) for Works (measured in time from advertisement to contract award and signature)	The IA is moderately efficient in completing the bidding process (open and restricted) for Goods (measured in time from advertisement to contract award and signature.	L		L
2.3.5.	IA's Efficiency in completing the competition process for Services (measured in time from advertisement to contract award negotiations and signature)	The IA is moderately Efficient in completing the bidding process (open and restricted) for Goods (measured in time from advertisement to contract award and signature.	L		L
2.3.6.	% of bidding documents for Goods/ Non-Consulting Services and Works in the last one or two years where more than one amendment to the bidding documents was issued	None	L		L

2.3.7.	% of RFPs for consulting services where more than one amendment to the RFP was issued	none	L		L
2.3.8.	% of procurement competitions in Goods /Non-Consulting Services, Works and Consulting Services that failed or were cancelled	1%	L		L
2.3.9.	Average number of responsive bids in Goods/Non-consulting Services, Works and Consulting Services competitions	5 bids	L		L
2.3.10.	% of procurement competitions for Goods/ Non-Consulting Services, Works and Consulting Services conducted electronically	None	L	Project to use IFAD OPEN system	L
2.3.11.	% of contracts awarded to SMEs in the previous year	14%	L		L
2.3.12.	% of procurement competitions and contracts that integrate sustainable procurement considerations (at least 1 social/labour plus 1 environmental criteria)	3%	M	Project to incorporate sustainable criteria in all bidding and contract documents.	M
2.3.13.	Percentage of IA's contracts for Works with cost over-runs above 10% of initial contract price.	None	L		L
2.3.14.	Percentage of IA's contracts for Works with time over-runs above 10% of initial contractual duration	82.3%	H	The project should ensure the payment of contractor's certificates on time as this is the main cause of delays in implementation of the contracts.	M
2.3.15.	Average number of complaints received	None	L		L

	from bidders as to the fairness of bidding documents or contract award				
2.3.16.	% of bidders' appeal decisions that were accepted and enforced (with ruling against the IA)	There were no appeals	L		L
2.3.17.	% of Vendors Invoices paid on time in Goods/Non-Consulting Services, works and Consulting Services contracts.	40%	L		L
2.3.18.	Is the general quality of documents produced by the IA's Procurement Department in line with IFAD's expected quality levels: i. Quality of Bidding Documents for Goods/NCS and Works ii. Quality of RFP for Consulting Services iii. Quality of Bid Evaluation Reports iv. Quality and adequacy of responses to bidders' qualifications	Partly complies. The documents have some deficiencies especially with regard to evaluation process/reports.	M	Project adopted IFAD templates.	L
2.3.19.	Management / Procurement Audit: i. % of IA contracts subjected to specialized procurement audit ii. the IA timely implements recommendations	None	L		L
<b>2.3.20. Overall Assessment of the risk posed by Criterion 2.3.</b>		A high proportion of contracts are procured	L	The Project should incorporate	L



	<p>using open competition which is commendable. Contracts for works integrate sustainable procurement considerations. The IA is moderately efficient in completing the bidding process for all categories of procurement (measured in time from advertisement to contract award and signature).</p>		<p>sustainable criteria in bidding documents and contract documents for all categories of procurement.</p>	
<p><b>2.4. Overall Assessment of the risk posed by Criterion 2.</b></p>	<p>The IA has notable weaknesses in procurement planning, evaluation and award processes as well as contract management. There is absence of a procurement strategy to guide procurement planning. The bidding documents are of good quality and provide sufficient basis for preparation of tender documentation in compliance with the national procurement law and IFAD Procurement Guidelines and Handbook. There are numerous gaps in the evaluation phase which may affect contract awards. Terms and conditions of contract are not strictly enforced especially regarding triggering penalties and liquidated damages.</p>	<p><b>S</b></p>	<p>The Project should develop a PPS as basis for procurement planning and selection methods for goods and services. It should put a contract management system in place. Contractor performance should be closely monitored, and penalties effected for delays and poor performance.</p>	<p><b>M</b></p>

## Zimbabwe

---

### Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme

### Supervision Report

### Appendix 7: Integrated Project Risk Matrix (IPRM)

Mission Dates: 11/03/2024 to 22/03/2024

Document Date: 02/05/2024

Project No. 2000001233

Report No. 6840-ZW

East and Southern Africa Division  
Programme Management Department



## Overall Summary

Risk Category / Subcategory	Inherent risk	Residual risk
<b>Country Context</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Substantial</b>
<i>Fragility and Security</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Substantial</i>
<i>Macroeconomic</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Substantial</i>
<i>Governance</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Substantial</i>
<i>Political Commitment</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
<b>Sector Strategies and Policies</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<i>Policy Development and Implementation</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
<i>Policy alignment</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
<b>Environment and Climate Context</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<i>Project vulnerability to climate change impacts</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
<i>Project vulnerability to environmental conditions</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
<b>Project Scope</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<i>Technical Soundness</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
<i>Project Relevance</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>
<b>Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Substantial</b>
<i>Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
<i>Implementation Arrangements</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Substantial</i>
<b>Project Financial Management</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Substantial</b>
<i>Project External Audit</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Substantial</i>
<i>Project Accounting and Financial Reporting</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Substantial</i>
<i>Project Internal Controls</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Substantial</i>
<i>Project Funds Flow/Disbursement Arrangements</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Substantial</i>
<i>Project Budgeting</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Substantial</i>
<i>Project Organization and Staffing</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Substantial</i>
<b>Project Procurement</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<i>Public Procurement Processes</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Substantial</i>
<i>Capability in Public Procurement</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>
<i>Accountability and Transparency</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
<i>Legal and Regulatory Framework</i>	<i>Substantial</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
<b>Environment, Social and Climate Impact</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<i>Vulnerability of target populations and ecosystems to climate variability and hazards</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Moderate</i>
<i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>
<i>Physical and Economic Resettlement</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Low</i>
<i>Community health, safety and security</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>
<i>Labour and Working Conditions</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>
<i>Indigenous People</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Low</i>
<i>Cultural Heritage</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>
<i>Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>
<i>Biodiversity Conservation</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>

<b>Risk Category / Subcategory</b>	<b>Inherent risk</b>	<b>Residual risk</b>
<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>
<i>Stakeholder Grievances</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>
<i>Stakeholder Engagement/Coordination</i>	<i>Moderate</i>	<i>Low</i>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

<b>Country Context</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Substantial</b>
<b>Fragility and Security</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Substantial</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Higher frequency of natural disasters (droughts and inundations) combined with other political and economic crises in the country such as increased food prices, volatility in agricultural production, persistent inflation, high dependence on low productivity agriculture, slow structural transformation reduced participation of beneficiaries in cost-sharing for investment in irrigation schemes and present a significant threat to the completion, profitability and sustainability/scalability of the irrigation infrastructure and other investment, thus leading to reduced benefits to and impact of the project on smallholders that are currently engaging in irrigation as well as poor and vulnerable smallholders engaged in rain-fed farming in the adjacent rain-fed areas. Zimbabwe is included in the 2024 list of fragile countries with high institutional and social risks by the World Bank.</p>	High	Substantial
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>Investment is made on a cost-sharing basis, with capital expenditure being mainly financed by the programme, while farmers must cover full cost of operation &amp; maintenance of their scheme, including cost of water and depreciation of (movable) equipment. The programme invested in schemes where farmers demonstrated willingness and ability to pay. Water User Organisations (WUO) have been strengthened for management of irrigation schemes. Climate proofing was applied by taking climate-related risks into consideration in planning, designing and constructing irrigation infrastructure. Institutional risks have been addressed through capacity building of institutions, grievance redress mechanism and IFAD SEA and anti-corruption policy.</p>		
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>The unstable political, social, and economic situation of the country seems to be challenging. This could potentially lead to civil unrest, which could make irrigation schemes inaccessible for implementation.</p>	High	Substantial
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>The project will engage local service providers to continue with implementation of project activities with the supervision of district level staff from the implementing agencies.</p>		
<b>Macroeconomic</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Substantial</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>High unsustainability and vulnerability of macroeconomic policies, price and exchange rate instability, high informality, low investment and external shocks (e.g. Ukraine crisis, droughts) will continue to result in high inflation (emergence of parallel market), Multiple exchange rates, low foreign exchange reserves, large fiscal deficits, debt distress, reduced economic growth and ultimately undermining government capacity to mobilize counterpart funding, and significantly impacting market dynamics of value chains, including market prices and profit margins for project target groups.</p>	High	Substantial

<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>The government resumed a structured dialogue platform with creditors and development partners with the aim to agree on a programme of economic, governance and land reform. There is an ongoing dialogue with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, to prioritize investment in commercialization of smallholder agriculture, invest in organizing smallholder farmers in market oriented-entities (Farmer Organisations, cooperatives) and increase their negotiation power. Promote use of win-win partnerships and formal contracts between smallholder farmers and agribusiness companies (off-takers, input suppliers in the value chain) and financial institutions. Project transactions are USD to avoid erosion of purchasing power.</p>		
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>SIRP has a strong component on facilitating market access. However, there is risk of poor response from the private sector to provide markets for selected value chains in the irrigation areas.</p>	Substantial	Moderate
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>SIRP is collaborating with Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA) to link farmers to markets and train marketing committees, farmers and register the schemes under AMA programmes for sustainability. Scheme Business Managers are being deployed whose responsibility is to drive business development. The programme is also engaging private sector companies for contracts, input supply and output arrangements and joined forces with other development organisations to improve business skills and market access programs. Irrigation schemes and farmers groups are being assisted to register as businesses to increase opportunities to get finance and operate as business units.</p>		
<p><b>Governance</b></p>	<b>High</b>	<b>Substantial</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Zimbabwe's lack of governance and policy making stability has been earmarked by key international financiers as one of the causes of poor overall performance in the country in the past 20 years. This has created a weak environment for growth and development in key sectors and reduced the willingness of local and international investors to commit their resources in the country. High corruption rating and overall lack of transparency have significantly increased the country's risks for investments, including investments in agriculture and agro- processing.</p>	High	Substantial
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>As for political risks, SIRP aims to protect itself from the materialization of governance and corruption risks with the systematic development of and adherence to rules and procedures for the project activities. This includes, particularly the development of comprehensive procurement rules and investments in procurement-related staff. The project has a semiautonomous project coordination unit that is tasked with coordination of project implementation. Unfortunately, the project senior procurement specialist was suspended on allegations of fraudulent activities. Similarly, irrigation schemes are being assessed for possible ineligibility due to non-adherence to procurement rules. IFAD has strengthened implementation support in procurement and adopted a thorough scrutiny of procurement processes.</p>		
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>SIRP is co-financed by OPEC Fund. So far, the Government has been keeping up with the payments to OPEC Fund. However, there is risk of the Government would be defaulting with payment of the arrears to OPEC Fund, a situation which could result in the delayed payment of infrastructures works and in the very worst case even in the suspension of the IFAD grant to SIRP. UNOPS is being considered to assist with procurement and contract management. Government is in the process of replacing project leadership and will also conduct a value for money audit.</p>	Substantial	Moderate

<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>Visible project results will stimulate the government to honour its payment to OPEC Fund and close coordination between IFAD and OPEC Fund is already now bringing good results. IFAD is aware of deadlines of the Government of Zimbabwe to the OPEC Fund and includes them to the policy engagement agenda with the Government.</p> <p>Special account advance arrangement with OFID - processed in 2021 and increased the amount in 2022 - functions also as a small buffer in case of delays with disbursements.</p>		
<p><b>Political Commitment</b></p>	<p><b>Substantial</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Due of the protracted economic crisis over the last 20 years and the contested elections in July 2018, as well as the preparation for the upcoming 2023 general elections, there is substantial risk of civil unrest and political instability/uncertainty that could derail the implementation of the project, restrict its supervision, and compromise the achievement of SIRP development objective. The Ukraine crisis has resulted in increased prices for irrigation material, pipes, fertilisers and fuel. This has reduced the investment budget for the project.</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>Project has used implementing partners among private sector entities and NGO with good track record of service delivery to rural communities. National consultants will continue to be relied upon to ensure effective implementation support and supervision. Constant monitoring and implementation support to speed up implementation and successfully reach project completion is necessary.</p>		
<p><b>Sector Strategies and Policies</b></p>	<p><b>Substantial</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>
<p><b>Policy Development and Implementation</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Because of current political instability, frequent civil unrests and reduced fiscal space, there is a risk that country's strategies and policies governing the rural and agricultural sector become unstable, unpredictable, financially, and fiscally unsustainable, leading to a substantially reduced government interest in the project, delaying its implementation and compromising achievement of its objectives.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>The Agricultural Sector Working Group has been leveraged as a platform to engage in policy dialogue with the Sector Ministry in order to advocate for prioritization of climate resilient investment in smallholder agriculture commercialization. The ASWG has been engaging the Sector Ministry and has used the platform to lobby for policies that benefit the smallholder sector for instance the Agricultural and Food Systems Transformation Strategy</p>		
<p><b>Policy alignment</b></p>	<p><b>Substantial</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Because of the unstable and unpredictable political and socioeconomic environment in the country, there is a risk of reverting to old strategies and policies governing the rural and agricultural sector used prior to the adoption of the National Agricultural Policy Framework in 2018, which had been not sufficiently aligned with IFAD priorities (e.g., on land use right, private sector engagement), undermining project implementation and the achievement of project development objectives.</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Moderate</p>

<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>Engage in policy dialogue with the Ministry of Agriculture for better alignment of policy and build the capacity of IFAD's stakeholders for effective participation in policy formulation, implementation, and review. Policy formulation has been fully consultative and project beneficiaries are fully engaged.</p>		
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>There is the risk that the lack of ownership by smallholder farmers could result in unsustainable irrigation schemes continuing to draw on public resources for operation and maintenance.</p>	Substantial	Moderate
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>The Government has adopted the company model for all smallholder irrigation schemes, where every plot holder has shares in the company. The plot holders decide on a common crop to grow based on the market viability and under the block system. This allows for aggregation and economies of scale. SIRP assisted the government to understand the limitations and benefits of the different models leading to the adoption of the company model for irrigation schemes for smallholder farmers.</p>		
<p><b>Environment and Climate Context</b></p>	Substantial	Moderate
<p><b><i>Project vulnerability to climate change impacts</i></b></p>	Substantial	Moderate
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>SIRP beneficiaries are likely to be vulnerable to the effects of climate variability and change, if interventions to enable farmers adapt or mitigate the effects are not made. The main risks include drought, intermittent floods, heat waves, cyclones and rainfall variability. Droughts have occurred in the recent past due to the El-Nino phenomenon leading to crop losses and negatively impacting livelihoods. Water stress also increase as a result of climate change. Some of the SIRP areas have experienced severe floods due to cyclone Idai, leading to destruction of irrigation infrastructure, crop losses, and loss of livelihoods.</p>	Substantial	Moderate
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>Climate change adaptation measures have been promoted through the promotion of climate smart agriculture investments such as drip irrigation, water harvesting, drought tolerant crop varieties, improved crop varieties, promotion of GAPs and nutrition gardens, as well as building the capacities of irrigators. The project also promoted climate resilient and water efficient irrigation technologies and management regimes.</p>		
<p><b><i>Project vulnerability to environmental conditions</i></b></p>	Moderate	Moderate
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>If the project does not address environmental risks, they are likely to be exacerbated. Land degradation is the main risk, which is already negatively impacting agricultural productivity and site-specific soil erosion and loss of vegetation especially in farms and areas surrounding irrigation schemes. Soil erosion causes siltation of water bodies leading to reduced water availability for SIRP activities, which may also result in abstraction of ground water resources for agriculture productivity and domestic use.</p>	Moderate	Moderate



<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>The capacity building targeted at the smallholders included climate smart agriculture techniques that also ensure environmental sustainability such as integrated soil fertility management and diversified cropping systems. The project invested in sustainable land management practices such as building of gabions to control erosion, conservation agriculture, good agricultural practices, jointly with beneficiaries, mapping natural resources and developing plans to better manage them, and building their capacities. Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) were developed to identify environmental and social risks and propose mitigation actions.</p>		
<b>Project Scope</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<b>Technical Soundness</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>While the SIRP project is technically sound, there is the risk that the government does not have the capacity to implement the project within the duration of the project.</p>	Substantial	Moderate
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>SIRP is using Technical Assistance and increasingly on strategic partnerships to ensure that the project beneficiaries are reached, and the project objectives are met. Government has requested for a project extension to finalise the rehabilitation of irrigation schemes with the assistance of UNOPS.</p>		
<b>Project Relevance</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>As the number of development projects in Zimbabwe is limited and the country has competing needs, there is a clear need for projects like SIRP, hence the focus area remains relevant. The project remains well aligned to the Government policies.</p>	Moderate	Low
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>As indicated above and discussed in detail in the PDR, SIRP continues to be fully aligned with Government's key rural development policies. It is also in line with IFAD's COSOP and IFAD's core corporate priorities. Through close and active policy engagement with authorities, IFAD assures that new ideas and priorities are streamlined to SIRP approaches and implementation mechanisms.</p>		
<b>Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Substantial</b>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>In these completion stages, SIRP has delayed in conducting the endline survey. With 3 months left of completion, the ToRs that adhere to IFAD COI guidelines were finalized during the mission. In addition, it was found that the logframe was not thoroughly revised to reflect target changes and results during programme modification.</p> <p>Regarding the M&amp;E Exit and Sustainability, SIRP are yet to firm up plans that will ensure that the MIS is handed over to the Ministry and that the System is also integrated within the other IFAD programmes/projects.</p>	Substantial	Moderate
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>i. Ensure that the endline survey is conducted and adheres to IFAD COI guidelines while involving IFAD peer review and clearance at inception and draft report stages.</p> <p>ii. As agreed, ensure that the MIS is handed over to the Ministry and its data and knowledge are also integrated within the new IFAD-funded programmes/projects in the portfolio.</p>		
<b>Implementation Arrangements</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Substantial</b>

<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Agritex and the Department of Irrigation (DOI) have been affected by brain drain, insufficient budget for staff development, poor mobility, and high farmer to extension worker ratio. There is the risk that project implementation capacity would be weak resulting in non-completion of activities by end of project.</p>	High	Substantial
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>The project provided Technical Assistance, staff training and the provision of vehicles and motorbikes in order to boost the capacity of the implementing departments. In addition, the project also benefited from regular and frequent implementation support missions. Liaison consultant also engaged with Programme frequently. However, implementation has fallen behind hence the need for project extension.</p>		
<p><b>Project Financial Management</b></p>	Substantial	Substantial
<p><b>Project External Audit</b></p>	Substantial	Substantial
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>The most recent audit report was submitted on September 28, 2023 hence a delay of 90 days from the required submission deadline of 30 June 2023 (6 months after the period end 31 December 2022). A request for extension of the submission of deadline had been made too late, on 5 June 2023, which was not accepted by IFAD.</p> <p>There were also quality issues, for instance the Audit report and opinion report indicates it is for IFAD grant number 2000001640 only while it includes schedules for OFID Loan Number 12878P, RPSF grant number 2000003592; NORAD Grant Number 2000003825, and RPSF II Grant no 2000003866. The Financing agreement restated 28 May 2021 details well under section 4, that the project has five (5) components. The audit report schedules allocate expenditures under only three components, with the detailed schedule for statement of operating performance by components for the year ended 31 December 2022 allocating all NORAD and RPSF expenditure to Programme Coordination. These material errors raise doubts on the adequacy of the audit reviews done.</p> <p>While there are two special accounts reconciliation statements included, these are not adequately labelled to specify they relates to which of the five financing under the project i.e IFAD grant number 2000001640, OFID Loan Number 12878P, RPSF grant number 2000003592; NORAD Grant Number 2000003825, and RPSF II Grant no 2000003866).</p>	Substantial	Substantial
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Audited financial statements, together with the related management letter to be submitted to IFAD no later than six months following end of the financial year.</li> <li>• The auditor to ensure financial schedules are prepared comprehensively and accurately.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Project Accounting and Financial Reporting</b></p>	Substantial	Substantial

<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Sage PASTEL has been implemented. However, there are several gaps noted as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-kind contribution from beneficiaries and GoZ is being realised but not quantified and reported.</li> <li>• IMTT Charges. The project was not able to stop deduction of IMTT charges by the bank since the banking system has been set to deduct these automatically. The agreement with the bank is that the reversal is pursued and these have been done immediately once pursued. The recent claim for reversal was for the period March to Dec 2023. These need to be done promptly, at least on a monthly basis after every bank reconciliation.</li> <li>• VAT paid from IFAD. VAT of USD 16,777.15 was paid on an invoice processed in December 2023 to China Geo leading to ineligible expenditure. The refunds for the prior cases noted in the prior mission for USD 4,548.81 are yet to be refunded to the project account.</li> <li>• Errors in IFRs. There are still recurring errors in accuracy of IFRs which has been leading to back and forth before IFRs clearance. At time of mission, the IFR for Dec 2023 was yet to be cleared.</li> <li>• Submission of Audit report for Dec 2023 and the final audit report. At the time of the mission the project was finalising procurement of the External Auditor for the period ended 31 Dec 2023 and the final audit for period from 1 January 2024 to the closeout of the project. The ToR were noted to have an error on audit scope and submission timeline for the final audit which was indicated as being 31 December 2024 and 30 April 2025 respectively which is erroneous. The final audit reporting period should be up to project completion date, in this case 30 June 2024, where unpaid winding up expenditure would be accrued and disclosed, with the submission deadline being latest by the project closeout date.</li> </ul>	Substantial	Substantial
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly quantify and report in-kind contribution.</li> <li>• Ensure the ToRs for the audit is revised to reflect the accurate audit scope for the final audit and submission of the final audit report. It was agreed the project would have the final audit report submitted within four months after completion, ahead of the 6 months submission timelines.</li> <li>• Keenly prepare and review draft IFRs to ensure submission to IFAD do not have errors that have been recurring and leading to back and forth in IFRs clearance process.</li> <li>• Reversal of IMTT charges should be pursued with the bank promptly, at least on a monthly basis after every bank reconciliation review.</li> <li>• Make refunds of ineligible expenditure of USD 4,548.81 related to VAT that were paid from IFAD. For the VAT payments to China Geo, it was noted there are upcoming payment in which deductions will be made to recover the amounts paid out.</li> </ul>		
<b>Project Internal Controls</b>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Substantial</b>

<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>The following were noted: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long outstanding DSA claims. There have been significant delays in submission of DSA claims by officers especially staff from implementing agencies eg DOI. Some claims for activities carried out in April 2023 were noted to be submitted in March 2024 which is almost one year after the activity was done, against the 14 days rule. This exposes the project to ineligible payments. The project also does not maintain a tracking schedule to establish DSA claims yet to be submitted (payables) hence does not accurately know how much is outstanding. There are several cases also where DSA claims are not supported with original copy of travel authorisation. These were indicated to be with administration office supporting fuel issuance or with staff. The procedures on having original travel authorisation kept by finance has not been enforced. The Payment vouchers/claims should always be supported with original documents.</li> <li>• Assets handover plan. This will be re-submitted incorporating feedback provided by IFAD among them consideration to handover various project moveable assets like vehicles to the ongoing projects under IFAD.</li> <li>• Outstanding cash compensation from insurance. The project had opted for cash compensation for one of the vehicles that had been involved in accident. By the time this decision was made, the insurance company is reported to have already bought a compensation vehicle hence this is being sold by car agency to submit the funds to the project. There have been delays in obtaining these funds which has led to reconsideration of pursuing compensation through a new vehicle. These need to be aggressively followed-up to allow smooth closure with no outstanding issues. If a vehicle is provided, it should be included in the handover plan and if cash, these need to be utilised for project activities or refunded to IFAD if unspent.</li> <li>• Fuel management. While fuel coupons register is well maintained, and vehicles movement schedules for each vehicle prepared, the fuel consumptions rate for each vehicle is not computed and analysed and the vehicle movement logbook is not signed for verifications by Fleet/Administration Officer.</li> </ul>	Substantial	Substantial
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and send out a Memo to all implementing agencies and key staff that have been involved in project implementation to requests all staff with outstanding claims to be submitted within 14 days of activities implementation. Any prior DSA claims that would not be processed within the 14 days period would not be eligible for payments. Subsequently, there should be track of a travel authorisation who DSA claims are yet to be made so as have accurate status of payables.</li> <li>• Resubmit an assets handover plan for all SIRP assets to IFAD for review and clearance.</li> <li>• Follow-up on immediate finalization of compensation for the vehicle. If cash compensations is pursued, the funds would further need to be utilized on project activities and if not would be refunded to IFAD.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Project Funds Flow/Disbursement Arrangements</b></p>	Substantial	Substantial
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>There are several activities which are earmarked to be carried out with Government financing due to funding gap. However, the Government financing is disbursed with some delays which can delay implementations of activities. For FY 2024, the planned contribution is USD 3.4 million of which no disbursements had been made as at the time of the mission. There are several activities mapped to be undertaken through financing by Counterpart funds as well as outstanding payments for VAT payments to suppliers/contractors which has not been honoured due to delays in counterpart contributions.</p>	Substantial	Substantial
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>Proactively following up government officials responsible for Counterpart funds release to ensure timely disbursement;</p>		
<p><b>Project Budgeting</b></p>	High	Substantial

<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>The AWPB for the FY 2024 has been approved. As was for the FY 2023, the initial AWPB submitted for 2024 had over-commitment by over USD 1 million due to mis-coordination between technical, procurements and finance teams in planning and analysis of outstanding commitments. The issue has since been resolved. The budgeting also has some weaknesses as FY 2023 had not quantified expected in-kind contribution from Government and substantially under-estimated contribution from beneficiaries.</p>	High	Substantial
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>There should be keen analysis of funding available before any commitments are made. The SDR balances with IFAD are likely to fluctuate hence need to have continued keen monitoring. The gap has been bridged by several factors among them reduction of project scope, Government contributions, analysis for cost saving on some activities and cancellation of slow contracts. Also ensure budgeting incorporates expected in-kind contribution.</p>		
<p><b>Project Organization and Staffing</b></p>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Substantial</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Project finance staffing is complete with Finance Manager and Accounts Assistant in place. The project completion has been extended from 31 December 2023 to 30 June 2024, with a closeout of 31 December 2024.</p> <p>While finance staff are well qualified, there were several gaps noted in finance management performance as detailed below which requires substantial improvements. Both the Finance Manager and Accounts Assistant will be retained till project closure to ensure smooth closure and continued operationalisations of adequate internal checks within the project.</p>	Substantial	Substantial
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the position of Project Coordinator is filled in promptly as it is vey key to smooth Financial Management.</li> <li>• The current finance team who have experience handling the project should be maintained till closure to ensure smooth closure of the project.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Project Procurement</b></p>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<p><b>Public Procurement Processes</b></p>	<b>High</b>	<b>Substantial</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Public Procurement Processes</p> <p>Risk 1: Discouraging suppliers and potential bidders from bidding/ complaints of unsuccessful bidders/ non-compliance with IFAD's requirements. Although SI 5 2018 stipulates that contract awards be advertised; this is not actually followed by the government. None of SIRP contract awards were advertised publicly. PMU communicates the award to the Ministry of Finance whom decides whether or not to publish (justified on the basis of cost implications). Similarly, non-competitive processes are not published publicly.</p> <p>Risk 2: bidding documents are published on national newspapers, the Gazette and internet (where feasible). Tender documents can be purchased from DOI against a nominal fee.</p> <p>Risk 3: For national competitive bidding, bidding documents are advertised for a 20-days bidding period, while for international competitive bidding, bidding documents are advertised for a 40-days period (Art. 19-1).</p> <p>Risk 4: Contract managers are appointed by DOI in writing and sent to PMU. The latter follows up with the management aspects of the contract.</p> <p>Risk 5: There are no approval thresholds for contract amendments.</p> <p>Risk 6: While a contract register is in place and contract managers monitor contract execution and inform PCU of any amendments, the contract monitoring system/framework is not sufficiently structured and requires strengthening.</p> <p>Risk 7: Contracts were not completed on schedule due to delays incurred as a consequence of delays in payment of contractors interim certificates and also due to bad weather conditions during the rainy season.</p>	High	Substantial

<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>Mitigation 1: All competitive biddings must be published; results communicated to bidders and stand still period observed.</p> <p>Mitigation 2: Ensure that ICBs are issued in all the means of communication mentioned in the World Bank regulations, including UNDB Online.</p> <p>Mitigation 3: National competitive bidding processes to be issued for a minimum of 30 days regardless of whether they are national or international.</p> <p>Mitigation 4: Ensure that the contract guidelines are in place to assist the project on contract management matters.</p> <p>Mitigation 5: Ensure timely payment of contractors certificates and address force majeure incidences as per the terms and conditions of contracts.</p>		
<p><b>Capability in Public Procurement</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Inadequate capacity in public procurement of the procurement staff impacts implementation of procurement activities. Procurement in the CPU is handled by only one procurement officer who may be overwhelmed by the heavy workload. There is delays in initiation of activities which negatively impacts on the rate of PP implementation which in turn may slow down the execution speed of the project. There is also low compliance to procurement procedures.</p>	Moderate	Low
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>The DOI should consider seconding an experienced procurement expert to assist the CPU procurement officer in processing of outstanding procurement activities prior to project completion.</p>		
<p><b>Accountability and Transparency</b></p>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Risk 1: High risk of corruption. (Low Country Corruption Perception Index scored 23 points (2022)).</p> <p>Risk 2: The local authority responsible for investigating corruption allegations (ZACC) is not an independent legal entity being under the administration of the Office of the President and Cabinet. This exposes the process to the risk of potential conflict of interest and distorted or biased decisions.</p>	Substantial	Moderate
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>1: All procurement entities, as well as bidders, suppliers, contractors, consultants and service providers, shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts financed under IFAD funded Projects, in accordance with paragraph 84 of the Procurement Guidelines. The Revised IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Activities and Operations shall apply to all projects, vendors and third parties, in addition to the relevant national anti-corruption and fraud laws.</p> <p>2: IFAD can strongly encourage the government through policy dialogue to make ZACC an independent Anti-Corruption agency, and it is recommended that it do so through the COSOP consultations with the government.</p>		
<p><b>Legal and Regulatory Framework</b></p>	<b>Substantial</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Risk 1: Lack of transparency in conducting the procurement processes due to the absence of procurement databases on procurement monitoring and methods used.</p> <p>Risk 2: Only the legal and regulatory framework for procurement is publicly available (<a href="http://www.praz.gov.zw/">http://www.praz.gov.zw/</a>) which contravenes the principle of transparency and equal access to information to potential bidders.</p> <p>Risk 3: PRAZ did not make standard bidding documents for the shopping procurement method available on its website.</p>	Substantial	Moderate

<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>Mitigations1: IFAD can strongly encourage the government through policy dialogue to address these shortcomings, and it is recommended that it do so through the COSOP consultations with the government.</p> <p>Mitigations 2: SIRP's annual procurement plan to be published on PRAZ, MLAFWRD's webpage, the Gazette and newspapers with large audiences. All contract awards to be published publicly (the rate is likely to remain 2 throughout the project lifetime given that the Government does not maintain annual procurement statistics and there are no indications on whether the government will revise its decision in this line. The initial mitigation strategy to reject but could subsequently be reviewed to monitor in the event of changes/ modification of the Government's strategy towards public access to procurement information).</p> <p>Mitigations 3: PRAZ should issue standard bidding documents for shopping and make them available on its website.</p>		
<p><b>Environment, Social and Climate Impact</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>
<p><b>Vulnerability of target populations and ecosystems to climate variability and hazards</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>There is a risk that SIRP investments will not address target populations' exposure to climate variability and hazards or increase cropping intensity and higher yields. Income will not increase, and poverty will persist.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>SIRP has managed to effectively reduce the impacts of climatic shocks and integrate the effects of climate change into the planning and design of irrigation investments. The project implemented several measures that contributed to the reduction of vulnerability of target populations. These include promotion of drought tolerant and improved crop varieties, water harvesting, climate proofing irrigation schemes through water efficient technologies (Changed surface irrigation to piped surface, lining of canals and installation of centre pivots) and management practices, good agricultural practices, conservation agriculture, diversification of cropping systems and income generation, etc.</p>		
<p><b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p><b>Low</b></p>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>The green-house gas emissions from the SIRP activities are minimal. Land clearing could contribute to increased emissions through land use change.</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>Screening of investments will ensure no forests are cleared for agricultural production. SIRP promoted CSA and Sustainable Land and Water Management practices such as soil erosion control, agroforestry, integrated soil fertility management, and conservation agriculture for mitigation benefits and improved soil carbon storage thus lowering GHG emissions. However, GHG emissions were not measured</p>		
<p><b>Physical and Economic Resettlement</b></p>	<p><b>Low</b></p>	<p><b>Low</b></p>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Resettlement is a low risk in the project area because there are no new irrigation schemes being developed and the project will be largely rehabilitating existing schemes. Expansion of a few of the existing schemes was conducted in consultation with traditional leaders and the respective Rural District Councils. Conflict management and transparency in land allocations has been well managed.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Low</p>

<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>The risk of resettlement is low. The project did not encounter any conflicts since expansion was done on communal land with the engagement of traditional leaders. The project screened all schemes for environmental and social risks and developed environmental and social management plans that mitigate conflicts e.g., through the development of grievance redress mechanisms.</p>		
<p><b>Community health, safety and security</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>The potential community health and safety risks are likely to arise from exposure to agro-chemicals, zoonotic diseases, pollution from project interventions and gender-based violence.</p>	Moderate	Low
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>The ESMPs identify risks and mitigatory measures to minimise the risks. SIRP developed road infrastructure for the last mile to improve transport safety for selected schemes. Communities were trained on gender-based violence, reproductive health rights, child feeding and nutrition education in women forum meetings and other BDS and CSA trainings. Labour saving technologies were introduced to improve the health and well-being of women. SIRP also provided potable water for schemes and raised awareness of prevention of malaria. In addition, nutrition interventions enhanced community health and safety.</p>		
<p><b>Labour and Working Conditions</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>The potential risk is that SIRP may cause an increase in exploitative labour practices (e.g., forced or child labour), gender-based violence, discriminatory and unsafe/unhealthy working conditions for people employed to work specifically in relation to the project, including third parties and primary suppliers. The risks have not materialized.</p>	Moderate	Low
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>SIRP has been promoting viable enterprises that generate enough income for decent labour practices. Through GALS, the project raised awareness against child labour, gender-based violence, and unsafe working conditions. Contracts with service providers contain SEA and awareness against child labour. SIRP will also engage targeted households on the benefits of equitable sharing of labour through GALS.</p>		
<p><b>Indigenous People</b></p>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Low</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>The potential risk is that SIRP may cause significant adverse physical, social, or economic impacts on indigenous peoples, is low since SIRP has not encountered IPs.</p>	Low	Low
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>A grievance mechanism and strong feedback mechanisms has been put in place for reporting on targeting. There are no known Indigenous people in SIRP area.</p>		
<p><b>Cultural Heritage</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>



<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>The potential risk is that SIRP may cause significant cultural or physical resource degradation, including threats to or the loss of resources of historical, religious or cultural significance.</p> <p>Secondly there is the risk that women may be prevented from participating due to patriarchal norms and that the men could take over lucrative enterprises from the women beneficiaries.</p>	Moderate	Low
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>SIRP was not implemented in areas of cultural heritage sites. SIRP put in place a grievance redress mechanism and did not encounter indigenous people hence there was no need for FPIC process. GALS methodology was used to empower women and men. Training on GALS increased the visibility of women roles and raised awareness of gender justice for men, women and youth for increased wellbeing. SIRP conducted a WEAI survey at baseline to measure empowerment in terms of income generation and sharing of labour roles, improved knowledge and leadership skills, equitable household decision making and access to productive resources. GALS mentors continue scale up training and monitor the use of assets and benefit sharing.</p>		
<p><b>Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Land and water resources may be polluted as a result of sedimentation or use of agrochemicals, as smallholders invest in improved agricultural productivity and become integrated into value chains.</p>	Moderate	Low
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>The pollution control, safe use, handling and disposal of agrochemical products, was covered during consultations with farmers at the feasibility stage and recommendations were made. Farmer training was done on soil and water conservation, sustainable land and water management interventions to limit sedimentation of water bodies. The business plans for NMRF were screened for environmental criteria to minimize impacts of pollution. The ESMPs also provided mitigation actions and capacity development opportunities for beneficiaries.</p>		
<p><b>Biodiversity Conservation</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>Clearing of land for irrigation expansion may occur in some of the targeted areas of the SIRP. Land clearing has already resulted in loss of habitat and biodiversity. Smallholders may also reduce the diversity of their farms as they become integrated in specific value chains.</p>	Moderate	Low
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>The irrigation feasibility studies were screened for adverse environmental impacts including potential to result in loss of biodiversity. In addition, capacity building for the smallholders included biodiversity conservation. The NORAD financed nutrition grant for SIRP promoted nutrition sensitive value chains and crop diversification as part of the CSA. The project promoted sustainable land and water management interventions such as conservation agriculture, building of gabions to control erosion, promotion of good agricultural practices, jointly with beneficiaries, mapping natural resources and developing plans to better manage them, and building their capacities. Farmers received training on sustainable land management practices and natural resources management. These interventions are expected to have positive impacts on biodiversity conservation. The project developed environmental and social management plans to mitigate biodiversity and other environmental related risks in the specific project sites.</p>		
<p><b>Stakeholders</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>
<p><b>Stakeholder Grievances</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>

<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>The potential risk is that SIRP has ineffective grievance/complaint redress processes (including with respect to allegations of non-compliance with IFAD's ESC standards, fraud, corruption, or SEA), leading to unaddressed stakeholder complaints that may undermine project implementation and the achievement of project development objectives.</p>	Moderate	Low
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>SIRP has put in place a strong and clear stakeholder grievance mechanism. This is backed by the community validation mechanisms at each stage in project implementation. The project has also raised awareness of the anti-corruption policy and established contact telephone numbers for grievances.</p>		
<p><b>Stakeholder Engagement/Coordination</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>
<p><b>Risk:</b></p> <p>There is a potential risk that relevant stakeholders, including women and youth, may not be adequately consulted resulting in them being left behind.</p>	Moderate	Low
<p><b>Mitigations:</b></p> <p>SIRP utilized participatory and consultative engagement with the stakeholders. A Social Inclusion expert ensured the project engaged appropriately with men, women and youth in all project interventions. Measures have been taken to increase youth participation.</p>		