



Scaling Financial and Information Services for Smallholder Adaptation

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10954

Countries

Regional (Uganda, Zambia)

Project Name

Scaling Financial and Information Services for Smallholder Adaptation

Agencies

FAO

Date received by PM

1/26/2023

Review completed by PM

3/13/2023

Program Manager

Jason Spensley

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

PIF CEO Endorsement

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10 April 2023:

Cleared

31 March 2023:

Please correct the expected completion date to 05/31/2025 to meet the 24 months duration.

Agency Response Date has been updated.

Project description summary

2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

N/A

Agency Response
Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10 April 2023:

Cleared

21 March 2023:

The letter of co-financing information in the table for The Mediae Company does not have a date. Please request the agency to confirm/include the date for the letter of co-financing support.

Agency Response The Agency confirms that the letter was signed on 23 January 2023. The file's name (reloaded) reports this date.

GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response
Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

13 March 2023:

Cleared

1 February 2023:

-Meta-Information: Please explain the change in the sector ratios from the PIF stage.

Agency Response The primary sector that benefits from the investment is the agriculture sector. However, part of the investment focuses on better use of farmer-generated information for better dissemination of climate and weather information, a 50-50% split is more reflective of the specificities of the project.

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

13 March 2023:

Cleared

1 February 2023:

A) Please elaborate further on data management aspects, including if/how the data will be publicly available and open sources, and will not be used only for business purposes of particular companies.

B) Please elaborate on the benefits of this project involving two countries, including learning aspects among the countries and other.

Agency Response

Two sections were added in the ProDoc to address these comments. Please see the sections on:

- 8. Knowledge management; and
- 10. Benefits.

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

13 March 2023:

Cleared

1 February 2023:

Please provide further detailed information on the set of financial products and ARM tools that will be provided through component 3. What type of financial products and tools will these be? Will this include microloans tailored for climate resilience and adaptation solutions to smallholder farmers? If so, please note the component of focus area 2 on microfinance in the GEF CCA strategy for GEF -8, which lays out approaches for LDCF and SCCF support adaptation impact through inclusive microfinance in GEF-8, including grant based guarantees, technical assistance to microfinance providers to measure and monitor climate impacts, and technical assistance for smallholder framers on commercially viable adaptation solutions.

Who are the private or public financial institutions and/or insurance providers who will offer these product and produce or use these tools, and what is the status of partnerships with them?

Agency Response

In this project we aim to test several ARM tools, including bundling of crop insurance (ACRE Africa) products with access to finance/credits (Financial Access, IFPRI, ECLOF International, AGORA microfinance), certified inputs (to be identified), and advisories (CIAT, Mediae/iShamba). The crop insurance solution involves an enhanced satellite-derived index product to promote uptake of other risk management solutions through agronomic advisories. The proposed distribution channels involve a champion farmer model, where champion farmers mobilize, sign up, train, and sell or distribute insurance to a pre-specified number of farmers. We will look into four different credit products for smallholder farmers, namely uninsured conventional loans, uninsured conventional loans with climate risk, risk contingent credit (RCC), and interlinked credit and insurance products. The RCC combines credit and insurance to support smallholder farmers in accessing affordable credit and managing weather risk. The interlinked credit and insurance product aim to explore the potential benefits of combining index insurance with joint liability agricultural loans. More details about these tools are included in the section: I.7) Innovativeness, sustainability, potential for scaling up and capacity development?.

These services will be provided by the key private sector partners already identified. Their role in the project is described in section I.7 and as well 4) Private sector engagement and Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Matrix documents.

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

The alignment is clear.

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

The contributions are clear.

Agency Response

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

Stakeholders

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

13 March 2023:

Cleared

1 February 2023:

This section is not fully completed. Please do so by ensuring all the elements indicated in this question above are provided within the CER document.

Agency Response See Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Matrix documents.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10 April 2023:

Cleared

21 March 2023:

The project considered the gender dimensions thoroughly. It noted that: "Over the longer term, the expectation is that these three outcomes will lead to the Impact of 200,000 smallholder farmers (of which 60% of are women) across Uganda and Zambia." In the section on Theory of Change it states "the need for a bundle design architecture that incorporates the results of Gender Analysis to ensure that bundles ? reach their target group most effectively. Given this, it is important to address the following (under Project Components):

a. disaggregate I.1.3.b (Market intelligence data on 20,000 farmers ? [must be reflective of the above expectation ? in terms of women beneficiaries)

b. ensure that I.1.1.a Target: Audience of 200,000 viewers? will reach women viewers (by considering the timing of the show; or alternative method to reach women other than TV)

c. on C4, Outputs 04.1, 04.2, 04.3 - ensure that lessons on gender mainstreaming, women?s engagement and participation, gender-responsive practices and approaches are included/embedded in documents and outputs produced.

Agency Response

April 2023

Thank you for suggesting the improvements. The Project Component table has now been updated to incorporate the suggestion. To address the specific concern related to reaching women viewers (I.1.1.a), we now have included radio as an additional medium to reach women farmers more effectively.

March 2023

Please, consider the additional sections and GAP that was developed and added.

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

13 March 2023:

Cleared

1 February 2023:

Further to the questions above, please clarify and outline how any financial institutions will be involved, and explain what this involvement will be.

Agency Response We have elaborated the roles of the private sectors in the section 4.

Private Sector Engagement.

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10 April 2023:

Cleared

21 March 2023:

Please reconsider the project?s KM budget (\$65,000) and ensure that adequate resources are allocated to the project?s proposed KM activities, to ensure covering the costs of proposed knowledge, learning and communications/dissemination related deliverables. If additional budget for KM will be provided as part of other project activities or as part of co-financing (as mentioned in a footnote), this should be indicated in the KM section, in terms of amounts/sources. Also, the agency should revise/complete the project Results Framework table to contain information on key deliverables from project?s Component 4 (LEARN), as this appears to be currently missing.

Agency Response

Thank you for the suggestion. We have now increased the budget allocated to the KM activities to \$141,000. Most of the activities will align with Component 4 (LEARN). The Results Framework table has been updated to include Component 4 details.

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

10 April 2023:

Cleared

21 March 2023:

Two Project Coordinators are being charged across components and PMC. Per Guidelines, the costs associated with the project's execution have to be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to PMC. If not possible, TOR's showing the specific contribution to the components - please provide these TORs or indicated where they are located in the CER or supporting documents because we could not find them.

Agency Response

April 2023

To avoid confusion on roles and responsibilities of these 2 national project staff, their titles have been amended from project coordinators to national technical research associates.

Furthermore, their TORs have been added in Annex N of the ProDoc.

March 2023

The table has been adjusted.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Cleared

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

None provided

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

None provided

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

None provided

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

None provided

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

None provided

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

None provided

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Cleared

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

Cleared

Agency Response

Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

N/A

Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

N/A

Agency Response

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1 February 2023:

N/A

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

13 March 2023:

This project is recommended for CER Approval.

1 February 2023:

Please address the comments provided.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	2/7/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	3/13/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	3/21/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/10/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations