

# Improving Water Availability in The Gambia's Rural and Peri-Urban Communities for Domestic and Agricultural Use

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10199

**Countries**

Gambia

**Project Name**

Improving Water Availability in The Gambia's Rural and Peri-Urban  
Communities for Domestic and Agricultural Use

**Agencies**

AfDB

**Date received by PM**

3/31/2021

**Review completed by PM**

**Program Manager**

Jason Spensley

**Focal Area**

Climate Change

**Project Type**

FSP

**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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Yes

**Agency Response**  
**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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please ensure development and implementation of the strategy to sustainably finance hydro-meteorological monitoring, maintenance of associated infrastructure, and use of hydro-meteorological information in design and budgeting of climate change adaptation actions. Please consider highlighting this as an output of Component 2 or 3, and/or in partnership with other initiatives.

Please expand on and clarify the extent of the project's integrated approach to water management, including ecosystem management, as well as efficiency and reduction of water use.

Noting the reference of output 1.3.3 to "early warning", please clarify if/how the project will strengthen production and use of early warning information for climate resilient water management.

#### Agency Response

Cleared. The aspect of financial sustainability has been introduced under Component 2. Please refer to Part II, chapter *1a. Project Description*, section 3 under *Component 2: Enhanced Institutional Capacity for Adaptation and Hydro-meteorological Monitoring* paragraph.

Cleared. Please refer to Part II, chapter *1a. Project Description*, section *1. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems?*.

Further clarified in paragraph *Climate Change Adaptation measures*, item *a) climate change risk reduction?*. Please refer to Part II, chapter *1a. Project Description*, section 3 under Component 1.

Also, the entire paragraph *Climate Change Adaptation measures* has been enlarged.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

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

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please provide co-financing letters for all sources of co-finance, as required by GEF Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines.

Agency Response **These are now provided.**

**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

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please provide one table that summarises the use of all GEF finance and co-finance for this GEF supported project.

With regards to budget table 15 in Annex I, please clarify if the 2 phases of the "project" being referred to up until 2040 is the GEF project in question, or another broader project.

Agency Response

Part I Table C already summarizes the use of all GEF finance and co-finance for this GEF supported project.

The Project design was envisioned for a long-term perspective, that is why the 2 phase?s design horizon is 2040. However, this LDCF project and related GEF and co-financing amounts have been mobilized for addressing most urgent needs that are enclosed in the mid-term horizon (phase 1) of the project, which is year 2030.

**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

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please upload Annex C "Status of Utilization of PPG" in the documents upload section of the GEF Portal.

Agency Response **This has now been provided.**

## **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  
GEFSEC 8 April 2021:**

Please submit an updated LDCF/SCCF Results document with updated indicator targets, via the documents upload feature in the Roadmap section. In doing so, (i) Significantly increase the impact level of "Core Indicator 2: Hectares of land under climate-resilient management" - as was indicated at the PIF stage; (ii) Provide an impact target for "Core Indicator 3: Total number of policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience"; and (iii) Consider opportunity to increase impact target for "Core Indicator 4: Total number of people trained" and indicate this indicator's gender breakdown.

Please delete reference to impact levels under Trust Fund indicator 11, and only convey CCA indicators in the LDCF/SCCF Indicator Framework document to updated and uploaded.

### **Agency Response**

According to the inputs from the PCU and in line with the Baseline Project, a revised LDCF result framework has been submitted.

- Core Indicator 1: hectares were significantly increased according to field data collected during the baseline survey.
- Core Indicator 3: In line with the Baseline Project, Number of policies, strategies & regulations to be reviewed shall be 3.
- Core Indicator 4: Number of people trained was not increased due to budget implications. The Gender breakdown of the indicator has been estimated.

## **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**

**GEFSEC 8 April 2021:**

Please briefly explain why, through stakeholder consultations and liaison with the PMU, it was decided to not apply handpump systems.

Please briefly indicate what budget was reduced in order to allow for an increase in water supply infrastructure investment due to increasing from 4 to 7 peri-urban communities.

Please clarify budget implications of the created Outputs 1.2.2 and 1.2.4.

With regards to inclusion of Output 1.2.4, please provide further information on the ascertain that "The Gambia the groundwater abstraction rates can easily be sustained in the long term even with a doubling, quadrupling or more in the expansion of the groundwater abstractions. For example, what exactly is meant by "long-term" and "doubling, quadrupling or more" (which one)?; and cite specific sources of information and how this information was produced. What is the nature of environmental risk assessment(s) that have been conducted on increasing groundwater extraction? Does the extent of groundwater vary region within the country? How much of an increase is anticipated in different locations through this project? Please also clarify if the utilization rate referred to of 3.2% is per annum.

As mentioned in question 2 of part 1 above, please ensure design and implementation of a strategy to sustainably finance the maintenance of the climate resilient water supply infrastructure, including as related to outputs 1.2.2 and 1.2.4.. Also with regards to financial sustainability of the water supply schemes and equipment, please clarify if the expectation is that the end users will bear the full cost of maintenance and operations? In doing so, please also clarify if there has been an analysis of the anticipated costs and willingness to pay by different users, particularly considering many of these users will be small holder farmers or families with low and vulnerable income levels. Or are other financing instruments foreseen to cover the cost of management and maintenance?

We note the indication of "Unforeseen circumstances" related to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to "...delaying the implementation of planned projects including this GEF supported initiative." Please also explain how the pandemic has been effecting implementation of the PPG and any aspects in preparing the CEO Endorsement, and how the Agency has been overcoming the challenges.

We note the text explanation of the Theory of Change. Please expand on it as needed based on further stakeholder engagement conducted prior to CEO Endorsement. also include a diagram for the Theory of Change for this project. This is also highlighted in STAP Overall Assessment at PIF stage, and has not been fully addressed in the CEO Endorsement Package.

We note indication on in the subsection titled "Installation or rehabilitation of Peri-urban water supply systems" that "7 peri-urban sites have been identified by the consultant" and "The Consultant proposes the following approach...". Please ensure full design oversight of all activities by the Agency, and clarify this section to articulate the number and location of sites selected and the approach designed by the Agency.

We also note table 3 "Proposed works for mid-term 2030" indicates that "climate measures were assessed and shall be implemented". Please expand on what current and anticipated risks from climate hazards were assessed, and their correlation to the set of adaptation measures listed in points a to f.

### Agency Response

It was based on technical consideration such as aquifer depth, unavailability of spare parts and drudgery on women as well as time spent in drawing water. Justification has been added in Part II.

No budget was reduced. Those 3 new peri-urban will be supplied up to 2030 by large solar systems, as was considered before. Budget implication is only referred to 2040, when they shall be connected to the GBA urban network. Please refer to chapter *1a. Project Description* Section 3, under Component 1.

Please, consider that no new outputs were created. Outputs 1.2.2 and 1.2.4 at PIF stage were canceled at CEO endorsement stage due to considerations described in Part II *?describe any change relevant to PIF stage?*. There are no budget implications, since those two output's budgets are not significant compared to overall investment of the Component 1.

Please see comment just above.

The source of information and related assumptions are enclosed in the *?National Water Resources Assessment And Management Strategy - 2015?*.

The ESMP, including environmental risks assessment, has been enclosed in the CEO document in ANNEX H.

3.2% is referred per annum.

Clarified. Please see comment related to question 2 of Part I and question 1 of Part II above.

Cleared. Please refer to Part II, chapter 1a. Project Description, Section *?1.The global environmental and/or adaptation problems?* under *?Unforeseen Circumstances?* paragraph.

A Theory of Change diagram has been included. Please see Part II, chapter 1.a Project Description, section *?1.The global environmental and/or adaptation problems?* under *?Theory of Change and assumption?* paragraph.

Cleared and expanded. Please see Part II, chapter 1a. Project Description, section 3 under Component 1.

Cleared and expanded. Please see Part II, chapter 1a. Project Description, section 3 under *?Climate Change Adaptation measures?* paragraph.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please expand on how this new project will build on and complement the main baseline project "CSRWASHDEP" and any other relevant projects that serve as baseline. In doing so, please consider if there are other relevant baseline projects to convey, beyond just the AfDB CSRWASHDEP project, for example on ecosystem approaches to water provision and management and/or early warning systems .

#### Agency Response

Further expanded. Please refer to Part II, chapter 1a. Project Description under section *?2. The Baseline scenario?*.

No other relevant Baseline Projects were considered. Other relevant project/initiatives in The Gambia were considered and reported in Part II, section *?6.c Coordination with other relevant project?*

**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



**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please note the comments for question 2 of part 1 above.

Agency Response Please refer to the related comment.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

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

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

No. As commented above in part 1, please include an updated LDCF/SCCF results framework document, with ambition impact levels.

Agency Response An updated LDCF result framework has been submitted. Further inputs and support from the national stakeholders were required and they may be needed.

**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

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Building on comments for question 1 of part 2 above with regards to financing the management of the water provision schemes and infrastructure equipment, have innovative financing approaches been considered, including involving the private sector?

Please elaborate on how this project will enable scale up throughout the country, over time.

As noted by STAP during the PIF stage, this project involves innovation in the sense that it intends to explicit improve the climate resilience of those investments.

**Agency Response** Further explanation has been provided in chapter 1a. Project Description under section 7. *innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up?*, for both innovative financing approaches and scaling up issues.

**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**

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Yes. However, Tables 5-8 in Annex D are not showing in the CEO Endorsement Package. Please upload again and if needed also upload these via the document upload feature in the Portal.

**Agency Response** These have been added to the CEO package and also uploaded separately in document titled "**Annex E\_Project Map and Coordinates\_A**".

**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**

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

We note with appreciation the Stakeholder Engagement Plan included in the CEO Endorsement package. Please also indicate the extent to which different stakeholders were consulted during the PPG stage; as well as any challenges with stakeholder consultations during this stage including due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and how this was addressed.

We also note the comments that stakeholders will be further engaged prior to project implementation. Therefore, upon resubmission of the CEO Endorsement Package, please update on any further consultations held.

Agency Response

The Stakeholders Consultation Table has been added in Annex I.

As concerns challenges due to COVID-19, please refer to *Unforeseen Circumstances?* paragraph under Part II, chapter 1a. Project Description, section *1. the global environmental and/or adaptation problems?*.

**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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please clarify if a gender analysis has been completed. If it has not been completed, please do so.

Agency Response Yes, gender analysis was provided and further clarified in chapter 3. *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment*.

#### **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

**GEFSEC 8 April 2021:**

Further to comments for question 2 of part 1 and question 1 of part 2, please elaboration on

- the sustainable financing strategy for maintenance all infrastructure and related equipment, and the role and activity to ensure private sector engagement in this; and
- role of the private sector actors in paying for activities, particularly associated with outputs 1.2.2-1.2.4, or if local individual community members or association will be expected to bear all the cost, and/or consideration of innovative financing initiatives engaging the private sector in this regard.

#### **Agency Response**

Upon completion of the WASH facilities a contract agreement through the Department of Water resources is facilitated between the communities and the private sector.

In particular, as mentioned in chapter 1.a section 7: The private sector actors that can supply the solar components are also responsible for maintaining the systems for up to five years after installation.

However, there will not be a direct engagement of the private sector. In fact, as reported in Part II, chapter 4. Private Sector Engagement: the private sector will be an indirect beneficiary of the Project. Mostly the private sector will benefit through their involvement in the construction and supply of project goods and services.

As concerns outputs 1.2.2 and 1.2.4, please refer to comment to Part II question 1 above.

#### **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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please include the risk and associated mitigation measure related to the COVID-19 Pandemic. For example, is there a risk that certain project preparation and/or implementation activities will be delayed or unable to be carried out due to COVID related restrictions and safety measures, such as international or domestic travel and in person meetings and stakeholder engagement consultations? If so, how will these risks be mitigated? Related risk considerations related to the Covid 19 pandemic you may wish to consider referring to and dening mitigation strategies for include for example: availability of technical expertise and capacity and changes in timelines; enabling environment; nancing/co-nancing; and future risks of similar crises.

Agency Response Risk and mitigation measure related to COVID-19 pandemic were integrated in table 10 of the CEO document. Please refer to Part II, chapter 5. Risks.  
**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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

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

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

We note design of the KM Framework. Please ensure KM is fully integrated in the ToC.

Agency Response Cleared. KM was fully addressed in the ToC. Please see part II, chapter 1.a Project Description, section ?1, *The global environmental and/or adaptation problems?*, under the *?Theory of Change and assumption?* paragraph.  
**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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please provide the Project Risk Certification as well as the associated ESS risk screening assessment, by attaching both via the documents upload section of the Portal.

Agency Response The ESMP of the Project was integrated in the CEO document in the Annex H. The ESS risk screening assessment has been included in the ESMP.  
**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

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Yes

Agency Response  
**Annexes**

**Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please ensure Annex C on the PPG usage has been uploaded.

Annex D tables 5-8 are not visible in the CEO Endorsement package. Please update and also attach in the documents upload feature of the GEF Portal.

Agency Response The figures of tables 5-8 proved difficult to upload in the portal and have been uploaded as separate document entitled "**Annex E\_Project Map and Coordinates\_A**"  
**Project Results Framework**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please note comments above, particularly with regards to question 2 of part 1 and question 1 of part 2.

**Agency Response** This has been addressed. Please refer to related earlier comment and response above.

**GEF Secretariat comments**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

Please ensure all STAP comments at the PIF stage are fully addressed in the CEO Endorsement package. In responding to the comments above, kindly upload a tracked changes version through the document section of the Portal, so all changes can be noted.

**Agency Response** All STAP comments at the PIF stage have been fully addressed. The highlighted changes version of the document has been provided in Annex D.

**Council comments**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

N/A

**Agency Response**

**STAP comments**

**Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

We note the comments from the Agency Annex B in response to specific STAP comments that "Due to challenges in preparing the project caused by the Covid-19 restrictions on travel in The Gambia some comments have only been partially addressed whilst some are still to be addressed. Also the analysis of data is still on-going and some reporting on the project might change pending the outcome of the detailed analysis and stakeholder reactions to the analysis outcomes." Please ensure all STAP comments are completely addressed in the resubmission of the CEO Endorsement Package.

**Agency Response** All STAP comments at the PIF stage have been fully addressed. The highlighted changes version of the document has been provided in Annex D.



**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC 8April2021:

Please address all comments above and resubmit the CEO Endorsement Package. We note the final date for CEO Endorsement to avoid project cancelation is June 13, 2021.

Agency Response All comments have been addressed as received.

**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

**Status of PPG utilization**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC 8April2020:

Please note comment above to attached Annex on status of PPG utilization.

Agency Response **The PPG utilization table is presented**

**Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

GEFSEC 8April2021:

Please note Tables 5-8 in Annex D are not visible in the CEO Endorsement Package. Please update and if needed also attached via the documents upload feature.

Agency Response The figures of tables 5-8 proved difficult to upload in the portal and have been uploaded as separate document entitled "**Annex E\_Project Map and Coordinates\_A**"

**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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

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  
**GEFSEC 8April2021:**

N/A

Agency Response

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**Review Dates**

**Secretariat Comment at  
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to  
Secretariat  
comments**

<b>First Review</b>	<b>4/8/2021</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations**