



MINISTERUL AGRICULTURII
ȘI INDUSTRIEI ALIMENTARE
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of Republic of Moldova

draft

Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP)

for

**Agriculture, Governance, Growth and
Resilience Investment Project (P170035)**

UCIMPA

Unitatea Consolidată pentru
Implementarea și Monitorizarea
Proiectelor în domeniul Agriculturii

Consolidated Agricultural Projects Management Unit (CAPMU)

Chisinau 2023

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Stakeholder Engagement Plan***Agriculture, Governance, Growth and Resilience Investment Project*****Acronyms and Abbreviations**

AGGRIP	Agriculture Governance, Growth and Resilience Investment Project
AIPA	MAFI's Agency for Interventions and Payments in Agriculture
CAC	Center for Agricultural Consultancy
CAPMU	Consolidated Agricultural Projects' Management Unit
CIS	Centralized Irrigation System
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Frameworks
ESHS	Environmental, Social, Health and Safety
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FSA	Food Safety Agency
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoM	Government of Republic of Moldova
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IWUAs	Irrigation Water Users Associations
IPF	Investment Project Financing
LC	Labor Code of Republic of Moldova
LMPs	Labor Management Procedures
LPAs	Local Public Authorities
MACP	Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project
MAFI	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry
MCA	Moldova Millennium Challenge Account
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SDA	Sustainable Development Account Moldova
SEA	Sexual exploitation and abuse
SEP	Stakeholders Engagement Plan
SH	Sexual harassment
SLI	State Labor Inspectorate
WB	World Bank
WUAs	Water User Associations

I. Introduction

The Government of the Republic of Moldova has initiated discussions with the World Bank (WB) for the launch of Moldova Agriculture Governance, Growth and Resilience Investment Project (AGGRIP/the Project), aimed at supporting inclusive development, market orientation and climate resilience of Moldova's agriculture sector.

The purpose of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is to provide a basis for a constructive relationship between the Government of Republic of Moldova, specifically of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) and other implementation entities, such as the Consolidated Agricultural Projects Management Unit (CAPMU), the Agency for Intervention and Payments for Agriculture (AIPA) and Sustainable Development Account Moldova (SDA) with the affected parties/beneficiaries of the proposed AGGRIP and other parties and stakeholders interested or to be involved the Project implementation. The SEP reviews relevant national law and WB requirements for stakeholder engagement and information disclosure, summarizes the stakeholder engagement that has been undertaken during the preparation and proposes a program of engagement measures to be undertaken during Project implementation. It describes roles, responsibilities, timeframe and budget for implementing this engagement program. The SEP also describes a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) designed to facilitate receipt and response to feedback and concerns associated with the Project. The SEP has been prepared according to the Environmental and Social Standards (specifically - Environmental and Social Standard 10 (ESS10): Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure) of the WB Environmental & Social Framework (ESF) and will cover the whole life of the Project, including preparation and implementation.

1.1. Project Overview

Project Development Objective:

Support inclusive development, market orientation and climate resilience of Moldova's agriculture sector.

Project Components and activities

Table 1: Project components and sub-components

Component 1 – Enhancing Sector Governance and Agriculture Knowledge Management
<i>Sub-component 1.1: Enhancing functionality of the payment agency</i>
In Moldova, public support to farmers is managed by a stand-alone payment agency – the Agency for Payment and Interventions in Agriculture (AIPA) – which was created in 2010. The sub-component will focus on providing financial support for the procurement of a wide range of services and goods, with the objective of enhancing AIPA's prospects for compliance with strict EU fiduciary requirements and an eventual accreditation as a payment agency for pre-accession funding. The project will support solutions to current staffing weaknesses by providing technical assistance on the drafting of necessary legislation and regulations for an institutional reform that would allow for greater financial autonomy and ability to attract and retain qualified staff. The digitalization deep dive at AIPA would commence with a project-supported assessment of business process from a digital optimization perspective, to be followed by the development and implementation of specific e-transformation packages integrated in the broader GoM e-governance agenda. Last but not least, AIPA and its territorial offices will receive support for upgrading technical means necessary to provide an effective working environment, facilitation of digitalization, and transportation means for improved field monitoring.

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Sub-component 1.2: Enhancing food quality and safety systems

This sub-component would build up on past and on-going Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project (MACP) efforts aimed at enhancing human, institutional and technical capacity of the country's food safety management system, as well as ensuring regulatory harmonization with EU requirements. The sub-component would set out to address remaining regulatory and institutional support needs for several essential elements of the on-going dialogue between the Moldova food safety authorities and the EU. This dialogue is particularly salient regarding animal husbandry practices and production of food of animal origin. The EU regulations in these fields demand some of the highest standards in the world and consequently compliance by Moldova to these rigors represents a continuous challenge underlined by a lengthy and complex process with substantial financial efforts.

Sub-component 1.2.1: Regulatory and institutional support

On the institutional side, the project would support activities aimed at strengthening the capacity of MAFI and the Food Safety Agency (FSA) by providing training to staff involved in food safety policy formulation and management activities. A particularly salient area of the FSA competencies relates to inspections, so the project would support the necessary institutional actions towards ISO17020 accreditation. The Project would also provide support for increasing awareness about and technical understanding of the emerging, EU-aligned food safety, animal health and welfare legislation and regulations among private sector entities. The Project would support systemic reviews for specific product lines and elaboration of necessary action plans (including monitoring of residues in milk and meat) for achieving acceptance to the EU markets.

Sub-component 1.2.2: Technical enhancements for food safety management

On the technical side, the project would support investments that are aimed at strengthening the technical functionality of the country's food safety management institutions. The Project would support the institution of state services by providing essential office and connectivity equipment, veterinary kits, and transportation means to operationalize an emerging network. Also, the Project would support the procurement of additionally necessary equipment for expanding the current testing capacity of the Republican Center for Veterinary Medicine and support the accreditation in new methods (determination of groups of substances and active substances). This activity will focus on supporting the finalization of the modules related to the country's phytosanitary registry – probably the most exhaustive and salient registry of data related to agriculture and food industry. In addition, the Project would focus on efforts aimed at verifying and cleaning data in some of the most important data registries hosted and managed by the FSA.

Sub-component 1.3: Enhancing Access to Agricultural Knowledge

Systems for the generation and effective dissemination of essential advice on agricultural productive, processing and marketing aspects are key pre-requisites for increasing the competitiveness of the Moldovan farmers, as well as an essential prerequisite for efficient and timely absorption of public support (and in the future EU pre-accession funds).

Sub-component 1.3.1: Agricultural Knowledge Management

The current department in charge of agriculture knowledge management in MAFI is set to undergo a profound transformation. According to existing plans, it will become a separate autonomous entity – the Center for Agricultural Consultancy (CAC) – tasked with carrying out the leadership and management of agriculture knowledge systematization and dissemination.

The sub-component will focus on providing support for the establishment and operationalization of the CAC by financing necessary technical assistance and equipment. The implementation of the sub-component would build on an initial comprehensive assessment of the existing agricultural knowledge management gaps and establish specific pathways for institutional and technical enhancements.

<p><i>Sub-component 1.3.2: Fostering Excellence in Veterinary Services</i></p>	<p>As a distinct subset of public agricultural knowledge management delivery, the proposed activity would aim to catalyze increased excellence in the formation of veterinarian professionals and delivery of veterinary services.</p> <p>The sub-component would support activities related to the establishment of three centers of veterinary excellence that would serve as outlays for channeling top-tier knowledge and best-practice services to animal farmers, provide an improved didactic and apprenticeship basis for the country's veterinary students, and serve as outlays in continuous education opportunities to practicing veterinarians (including for the cadre of state veterinarians). A reference center of excellence would be established based on the country's only veterinary medicine department in a higher education institution – the Technical University of Moldova. As the centerpiece of the country's veterinary medicine education, the department is best placed (both conceptually and spatially) to host such an entity and create functional mechanisms for delivering on the above-mentioned elements. Two other regional centers of excellence would be established in collaboration with agricultural technical colleges (or if found feasible with local authorities in partnership with private entities) which present a good starting point for developing the functionalities of regional veterinary excellence specialized by predominant type of animal husbandry in the respective regions.</p> <p>The sub-component will provide financing for a range of specialized technical assistance, equipment and consumable for the establishment and operationalization of the veterinary centers. The mix of specialized veterinary medicine equipment will strike a balance between teaching/training needs and service delivery needs. To ensure agility of service delivery the sub-component would fund essential portable equipment and transportation means for each excellence center. The complexity of educational and training activities envisaged in the reference excellence center will require more sophisticated equipment for surgery and basic laboratory analysis. The regional excellence centers will be equipped for more routine types of training and services, relying on the reference center for more complex needs.</p>
<p>Component 2 – Fostering Value Chain Development for Growth</p>	
<p><i>Subcomponent 2.1: Matching Investment Support for Fostering Growth</i></p>	
<p>The activities of the sub-component would focus on enabling dairy and livestock producers to increase productivity, improve adherence to production standards, and enhance market-ready quality. Dairy requires higher degrees of commercialization and industrialization of commercial farms, away from the currently dominating household systems. More specifically, financed activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiatives piloting the establishment of new commercial dairy farms in line with best regional/global practices in herd management, nutrition, climate resilience and green production (a mix of matching grant and hire-purchase or lease-pay arrangement for a portion of the investment). - Initiatives aiming to modernize existing commercially oriented dairy and meat farms. - Initiatives aiming to promote effective up-stream integration of farmers into processor-driven value chains. - Initiatives supporting the emergence and functionality of local cooperation units for joint set up and operation of various productive infrastructure elements – collection, pre-processing, slaughtering, pasture management, and fodder production. - Initiatives supporting alignment to EU market requirements and access thereof for dairy- and meat-based products (including needed certification). <p>The activities of the sub-component would also focus on enabling crop farmers to increase productivity, improve adherence to production standards, and enhance market-ready quantity and quality in the vegetables and niche</p>	

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products space. More specifically, financed activities will include:

- Initiatives aiming to modernize existing commercially oriented operations for value addition.
- Initiatives aiming to promote effective up-stream integration of farmers into processor-driven value chains.
- Initiatives supporting the emergence and functionality of local cooperation units for joint set up and operation of various productive infrastructure elements – collection, storage, pre-processing,
- Initiatives supporting alignment to EU market requirements and access thereof for fresh produce and processed products (including needed certification).

Subcomponent 2.2: Capacity Building and Business Development Support

This sub-component would support technical assistance and capacity building activities for participating livestock and crop farmers in formulating business and marketing plans, setting up and further developing productive partnerships, providing consulting and training on value chain integration, etc. The principal delivery mechanism of assistance to producers will be through local business development agents drawing on local and international expertise. Local business development agents will receive specific coaching related to the requirements of the AGGRI Project, as well as EU pre-accession instruments relevant to the implementation of the project. Costs to farmers related to access to business development services would be covered as eligible expenditures against matching investment grants. The sub-component would also support more generic technical assistance activities aimed at increasing awareness about the proposed project's funding opportunities and the broader EU pre-accession agenda, strengthening the capacity of product/farmer associations to represent the interests of member farmers; play a pro-active role in encouraging technological and climate smart innovation; and support the development of interlinkages between applied research and practicing farmers.

Component 3 – Strengthening Resilience through Irrigation Services

Moldova's agriculture sector is highly vulnerable to climate change risks. Expanding the availability of irrigation services to interested farmers is a growing necessity, not only in water intense cultivation of fruits and vegetables, but more frequently, in the cultivation of field and fodder crops.

In the past decade, Moldova has had a positive dynamic in the establishment of a legal and regulatory framework for the functioning of Water User Associations for Irrigation (WUAIs), with some 35 WUAIs now registered, and 27 having taken in operation and management of irrigation infrastructure assets from the State Water Agency. While some of the assets/systems have benefited from recent rehabilitation (funded by the Moldova Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)), many still remain in disrepair and the WUAIs would benefit from public support for rehabilitation to enable greater up-take, more efficient use of water and electricity, and introduction of more productive and profitable cropping patterns.

Sub-component 3.1: Rehabilitation of Irrigation Infrastructure.

The sub-component would support the rehabilitation of existing primary and secondary irrigation infrastructure for which technical designs and plans currently exist. There are several command areas under large-scale pumped systems, operated and managed by WUAIs, for which feasibility and technical design work has been carried out in the past few years, as part of the mandate of the Sustainable Development Account Moldova (SDA), under its post-MCA assistance phase. These rehabilitation projects would represent large ticket-items that would require significant financing and planning, for which there could be an economic justification for public funding. The participating WUAIs would be expected to contribute to the public investment through matching investment funds and and/or assets.

Sub-component 3.1.1: The Rehabilitation of the "Tudora" CIS

The sub-component would finance the range of necessary activities for the rehabilitation of the "Tudora" CIS and its interconnection with the "Caplani" CIS ¹. The "Tudora" CIS is currently non-functional, while the "Caplani" CIS is partially functional through abstraction of water from the nearby Caplani Lake. The two CISs are based in the Nistru River basin in the southeastern part of the country, which represents one of the four distinct agri-climatic regions of Moldova, characterized by a steady and increasingly frequent deficit of precipitation. The two schemes are currently managed by the "Irig-Com" WUAI, for which the transfer of operation and management of the irrigation infrastructure was completed

¹ Tudora and Caplani are communities in the Stefan Voda district in Southeastern Moldova.

	<p>in March of 2020. The WUA exhibits a lot of dynamism and encompasses members that understand the value of irrigation services and are ready to be meaningful contributors to the rehabilitation works. The WUAI has already initiated the development of technical project documentation for a two-phase approach to the rehabilitation of the systems: (i) the rehabilitation of the “Tudora” CIS collection station, construction of an adduction pipeline, and the rehabilitation of the existing water storage reservoir and (ii) the rehabilitation of the transit pumping station and the construction pipeline to the “Caplani” CIS. The first phase is now nearing completion and is ready for implementation. The sub-component will finance the completion of the technical design of the second phase of the rehabilitation project and capital investments required for the functional rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure in the proposed command area.</p>
<p><i>Sub-component 3.1.2: The Rehabilitation of the “Tetcani” CIS</i></p>	<p>The sub-component would finance the range of necessary actions for updating the feasibility and carry out the technical design for the rehabilitation of the “Tetcani” CIS and its interconnection with the “Corjeuti” CIS². It foresees the rehabilitation of the existing infrastructure of the “Tetcani” CIS, including the rehabilitation of two pumping stations for intaking water from the Prut River. This would eliminate dependence on water abstraction from a reservoir on the Vilia River (a Prut River tributary), a shallow and unreliable source of water for irrigation. These upgrades will also create preconditions for the interconnection of the “Corjeuti” CIS which was not foreseen by the initial feasibility study. The two CISs' rehabilitation will bring into the irrigated circuit about 1,900 hectares of fertile land in which field crops, fruits and vegetables dominate the production landscape. The two schemes are currently managed by the “Irigare-Nord” WUAI, for which the transfer of operation and management of the irrigation infrastructure was completed in March of 2020. The sub-component will finance the necessary feasibility updates and technical design works required for the future rehabilitation of the two CISs.</p>
<p><i>Sub-component 3.1.3: The Rehabilitation of the “Etulia” CIS</i></p>	<p>The sub-component would finance the range of necessary activities for the feasibility and design of the partial rehabilitation of the “Etulia” CIS³. The service area is in the southern-most part of the country, one of the four distinct agri-climatic regions of Moldova, characterized by the hottest and driest climate, and devastating impacts of frequent droughts. The scheme relies on abstracting water from the Cahul Lake (fed by the Danube) and will require the rehabilitation of existing pumping and repumping stations, lining of an existing channel with geomembrane (1.6 kilometers), replacing an existing channel with a pipeline (15.3 kilometers), and the construction of 2 new repumping stations and 2 storage reservoirs. The CIS is operated and managed by the “Altin-Su” WUAI which received a contractual mandate for the management of an irrigated command area of nearly 2,700 hectares in March 2020. At their initiative, the WUAI invested in the preparation of a technical design for the rehabilitation of the CIS. The planned rehabilitation of the CIS will bring into the irrigated circuit approximately 3,500 hectares of fertile land in which field crops and fruit production (the area boasts 1,500 hectares of perennial plantations) dominate the landscape. The sub-component will finance the necessary feasibility work required for the future rehabilitation of two CISs.</p>

² Tetcani and Corjeuti are communities in the Briceni district.

³ Etulia is a community in the Gagauzia Atonomous Territorial Unit and the Cahul district.

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Sub-component 3.2: Strengthening the enabling environment.

The sub-component will provide support for the establishment of a propitious environment for the rehabilitation of targeted CISs; for creating conditions for maximizing up-take of irrigation services by farmers; and for enabling an effective public institutional response. More specifically:

- The sub-component will finance costs associated with contract management, technical supervision, and safeguards associated with the rehabilitation of the CISs.
- The sub-component will focus on expanding participating WUAI institutional development efforts by providing training for transparent and inclusive governance and efficient management, optimizing operation of the irrigation schemes (including at on-farm level), improving up-stream linkages with agro-meteorological services, disseminating knowledge on risk management practices, etc. In addition,
- The sub-component will support on-going GOM efforts to advance institutional and policy reforms in the irrigation services space and strengthen technical capacities in MAFI and the State Water Agency “Apele Moldovei”.

Component 4 – Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC)

This is an unfunded contingency component that can be activated in case of an eligible emergency event. Following such an event, the Government of Republic of Moldova may request the WB to reallocate uncommitted project funds to support an emergency response. Eligible emergency and/or crisis is any natural or man-made event that has caused, or is likely to cause imminently, a major adverse economic and/or social impact to the country. The activities financed by the CERC will be demand- and event-driven and will be detailed in a GOM Action Plan of Activities, which together with an official declaration of a specific emergency by the GOM represent the two obligatory conditions for triggering the component. The definition of an eligible emergency and a positive list of activities will be included in the project’s legal documents, and the mechanics of the decision-making process and implementation of the will be reflected in the CERC Operational Manual, part of the overall POM.

Supply of Essential Inputs.

The CERC component could support initiatives that would ensure supply and distribution of essential inputs for both agricultural production and processing. Moldova is importing all its fuel from regional suppliers and rising prices and uncertainties related to domestic stocks of diesel fuel may persist long enough to significantly affect all field works in 2022 and beyond. While the situation is dynamic and there are significant levels of uncertainty, the component could provide funding for dedicated supply of diesel fuel to farmers. Fertilizer and seed supply chains have also been disrupted by the conflict, as both Ukraine and Belarus are important suppliers. The component could put in place mechanisms for bulk procurement of the most essential fertilizers and seeds, followed by distribution to eligible farmers and subsequent agronomic advisory support.

Compensatory Support to Producers and Processors

Many producers and processors have lost significant market share due to the war in Ukraine, particularly, for exports of food to Belarus and Russia, and other destinations to the East (at least by rail and road transportation). This affects many agricultural producers, particularly growers of apples, plums, and table grapes, as well as producers of meat and canned goods (two of the main non-wine export items to these markets). Should the situation persist, the impacts of these disruptions could lead to stoppage of operations, loss of jobs, loss of capital, bankruptcies, etc. The component could formulate mechanisms for partial compensation of losses to allow these entities to continue operation while they search for alternatives in routing their products and/or identify alternative coping strategies. The component could also put in place mechanisms that either guarantee and/or subsidize credit to farmers and processors to facilitate access to finance and maintain operations.

Component 5 – Project Management

This component will finance costs related to project implementation and coordination across various government

agencies. MAFI will play the leading role in implementing the proposed project, while relying on its departments, sub-divisions, and subordinated agencies to provide technical support for implementation. Of these, the Consolidated Agricultural Projects' Management Unit (CAPMU), directly responsible to MAFI, will carry out a range of fiduciary, coordination and supporting functions to ensure efficient project implementation in relation to the MAFI's obligations on social and environmental safeguards, procurement, financial management and other country-specific requirements such as monitoring and evaluation. MAFI's AIPA would play a key role in the project's set-up for the implementation of the matching investment grant schemes.

The Sustainable Development Account Moldova (SDA) would provide a key technical coordination role in the implementation of Component 3, to ensure swift and efficient implementation of the activities related to irrigation.

1.2. Project Location

Project area covers all territory of Republic of Moldova. The component 1 and 2 will be oriented to the small holder farmers, commercial farmers, agribusinesses, veterinary centers and other institutions whose activity is related to agricultural activities, including horticulture and livestock breeding.

The component 3 will include the following specific investments:

The rehabilitation and expansion of the irrigation infrastructure for three Irrigation Water User Associations (IWUAs) from the districts Ștefan Vodă, Briceni and Cahul and UTA Gagauzia. Specifically this component will include:

- Rehabilitation of Centralized Irrigation System (CIS) "Tudora" and its interconnection with CIS "Caplani" (*the villages Tudor, Caplani and Crocmaz from Ștefan Vodă district*). The current concept of the project foresees the interconnection of 2 existing CIS s (CIS "Tudora" with CIS "Caplani"). As a result of the completion of the Project, the lands in the service area of CIS "Tudora" (currently non-functional) will be put back into the irrigated circuit, as well as the supply of water from the Dniester river to CIS "Caplani" (currently partially functional, the water source being an unreliable one) - Lake Caplani). After the implementation of the Project in its current configuration, approximately 3700 ha of agricultural land will be returned to the irrigated circuit. IWUA "Irig-Com" is founded and operates in the service area, which in March 2020 took over, on a contract basis, the management of nominated irrigation systems. The service area declared as the association statute is 2190 ha. It should be noted that the IWUA "Irig-Com" initiated the process of developing the project documentation, which involves 2 phases, including:
 - ✓ Phase I - the rehabilitation of the CIS "Tudora" infrastructure, including: the collection station, the construction of the adduction pipeline to the storage basin and its rehabilitation;
 - ✓ Phase II - the rehabilitation of the irrigation and transit pumping station within CIS "Tudora", the construction of the water supply pipeline to CIS Caplani.
- Rehabilitation of CIS "Tețcani" and its interconnection with CIS "Corjeuți" (*the villages Tețcani and Corjeuți from Briceni district*). The rehabilitation will include both of the existing infrastructure of CIS "Tetcani" and the rehabilitation of 2 existing pumping stations, for bringing water from the Prut river to CIS "Tetcani", thus avoiding the unreliable source of water supply from the reservoir existing on the river Vilia. Through these investments will be created the necessary preconditions for the interconnection of CIS "Corjeuti" to CIS "Tetcani". After the implementation of the Project in its current configuration, about 1900 ha of agricultural land will be put back into the irrigated circuit. IWUA "Irigare-Nord" was

founded and operates in the service area, which in March 2020 took over, based on the loan agreement, the management of CIS "Tetcani", CIS "Corjeuti" and CIS "Beleavinti". The service area declared as a statute of the association is 879 ha.

- Rehabilitation of CIS "Etulia" (*Etulia commune from Cahul district and UTA Gagauzia*). The current concept of the project provides for the partial rehabilitation of the CIS "Etulia" infrastructure in the outskirts of the towns of Etulia and Alexandru Ioan Cuza. In particular, it is planned to rehabilitate the sorb from the Cahul lake, rehabilitate the existing pumping stations for capture and repumping, cover one channel with a geomembrane (1.6 km) and replace the second one with a pipeline with a length of about 15.3 km. Also, the construction of 2 new repumping stations and 2 storage basins with a total capacity of about 92 thousand m³ is expected. The source of water for the irrigation system is Lake Cahul, which is fed from the Danube River. IWUA "Altin-Su" has an execution project developed at the initiative of the members in 2021, without a feasibility study being developed beforehand. After the implementation of the Project in its current configuration, more than 3500 ha of agricultural land will be put back into the irrigated circuit. IWUA "Altin-Su" is founded and operates in the service area, which in March 2020 took over, on a contract basis, the management of CIS "Etulia". The service area declared as a statute of the association is 2676 ha.

1.3. Anticipated Project Impacts

The anticipated Project's key results are:

- Increase in the access of smallholders to public agricultural support programs and services;
- Increase in volumetric sales of agricultural produce sold by targeted value chain beneficiaries;
- Increase in average productivity of farms accessing irrigated services;
- Increase in beneficiaries adopting improved production technologies aligned to EU SPS requirements on safety, and environmental sustainability.

Although the long-term impacts of the project are likely to be positive, its activities carry several risks that are potentially generated under Component 2 and mainly under Component 3.

Component 1: Institutional strengthening activities under Component 1 will encourage legalization of informal farming and target benefits to youth, women and return migrants. Farmers from culturally or geographically remote communities, or female-led businesses may be less well informed and more reluctant to risk investing during the current emergency and should be provided with adequate information. Negative impacts may be felt if there is mistargeting, lack of transparency, insufficient information and communication with potential beneficiaries.

Component 2: The matching grant activities to be supported under Component 2 include small-to medium-scale civil works will more than likely have a number of predictable and readily mitigated environmental impacts that will most likely be moderate in nature. Due to construction of the new facilities: (a) new or modernized commercial dairy farms and (b) small-scale milk & meat processing facilities - the following risks are expected: site-specific soil and air pollution, acoustic, aesthetics impacts small-scale water pollution from improper handling of waste and machinery, worker health and safety, animal welfare risks, and waste management, both resulted from the civil works as well as the one generated by the workers themselves. The agricultural activities included could lead to following risks: soil erosion, loss of soil productive capacity,

soil compaction, soil pollution, surface, and underground water pollution, health and environmental risks associated with agro-chemicals use, whereas the agro-processing might bring a small contribution to surface water pollution, wastes generation and odor. Project activities under Component 2 consisting of the provision of matching grants for purchase of equipment and for working capital and construction works for small-scale agricultural activities are unlikely to involve significant risk of adverse impacts on workers or communities. Site-specific community health and safety risks may be present depending on the nature of the grant activities such as risk of interaction with nearby communities during transport of equipment and machinery or during localized construction activities. Workforces participating in individual agricultural cooperatives are typically small groups of working age local community members (less than 100 workers including seasonal labor at harvest time). Sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) risks are estimated to be low and have not been reported during similar previous activities, but preventative measures should be put in place prior to the provision of grants, including screening of risks, appropriate codes of conduct and communications measures.

Component 3: During the implementation of the component 3, it is expected that will likely generate adverse civil works site-specific risks similar to those described above. Potential negative risks could be associated with the replacement of the old water irrigation systems and construction of the new necessary infrastructure for interconnection of CISs, including repumping stations and storage reservoirs. Construction/rehabilitation activities may require temporary acquisition of small portions of productive land to replace piping and renovate pumping systems and restrictions on access to associated easements. Considering that the existing CISs and associated lands are owned by state and used through a contract by IWUAs, the rehabilitation works will not require additional land for the rehabilitation of the already existing systems and infrastructure.

Impacts on crop production are minor and able to be minimized and mitigated through local engagement in technical design (to use already existing infrastructure of the CIS that is designed to be placed on the state-owned lands and access roads between the lands) and compensation processes. The participating WUAs would be expected to contribute to the public investment through matching investment funds and and/or assets.

Irrigation rehabilitation works will involve small groups of specialized national contractors establishing camps in local community areas. Gender based-violence, Sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) risks are estimated to be low and have not been reported during similar previous activities, but preventative measures should be put in place, including appropriate codes of conduct and communications measures.

II. Regulation and Requirements

2.1. Legislation in Republic of Moldova

The legal context of AGGRIP, in terms of public consultation and information disclosure, is governed, directly or indirectly, by the following national laws and documents:

- **Republic of Moldova Constitution / 1994** - Republished. Amended and completed in 2016:

Article 32. Freedom of Opinion and Expression

1. Every citizen shall be guaranteed the freedom of thought and opinion, as well as the freedom of expression in public by means of word, image or any other means possible.

2. The freedom of expression may not harm the honor, dignity or the rights of other people to have and express their own opinions or judgments.

Article 34. Right of Access to Information

1. The right of a person to have access to any kind of information of public interest shall not be curtailed.
2. Public authorities, according to their as-signed competence, shall be committed to ensure that citizens are correctly informed.
3. The right of access to information shall not prejudice neither the measures taken to protect the citizens or the national security.
4. The State and private public media shall be bound to provide the correct information of the public opinion.
5. The public media shall not be submitted to censorship.

- **Law no.982 / 2000 on Access to Information**, as amended in 2003-2011-2015-2018

The present law regulates:

- a) the interaction between the providers of information and individuals and/or legal entities during the exercise of their constitutional right to access information.;
- b) the principles, conditions, ways and order of accessing official information held by the providers of the information;
- c) the obligations of information providers to ensure access to official information;
- d) methods of safeguarding the right to information.

- **Law no.86 / 2014 on Environmental Impact Assessment, as amended in 2022**

This Law sets the basis for the functioning of the mechanism of environmental impact assessment of some public and private projects or some projected economic activities with a view of prevention or reduction the negative environmental impact and protection of public health at the initial stages of project performance. EIA shall be performed in accordance with the following principles: (a) preventive actions; (b) reliability and completeness of information c) principle of transparency and accessibility; d) participatory principle; e) precautionary principle; f) polluter - pays principle. Public consultations for the projects which require a full EIA are compulsory at the initial stage of the project before preparing the EIA (at the scoping stage) and at a later stage, when the Statement on EIA is disclosed to the public prior to reviewing the final (updated) documentation by the state environmental authority.

- **Law no.64 / 2010 on Freedom of Expression**, as amended in 2012-2013-2015-2021

This law guarantees right to freedom of expression and regulates the balance between right to freedom of expression and defense of private and family life.

- **Law no.239 / 2008 on Transparency in Decision Making**

The law refers to the transparency of information linked with the decision-making process and to the consultation of stakeholders when drafting decisions. The consultation during the decision-making process aims at collecting, providing and exchanging information. The consultation with and involvement of citizens, civil society, and business environment in certain major issues guarantees a higher value of documents drafted and approved by the authorities and their support at the implementation stage.

According to the present law, Citizens have the right:

- a) to participate, under the conditions of the present law, to any stage of the decision-making process;

- b) to request and obtain information regarding the decision-making process, including receiving the draft decisions accompanied by the related materials, according to the Law on access to information;
- c) to propose to the public authorities the initiation of the elaboration and the adoption of the decisions;
- d) to submit to the public authorities' recommendations regarding the draft decisions under discussion.

According to this law, for the purpose of ensuring transparency in decision-making, the public authorities must go through the following stages:

- a) informing the public that the drafting of the decision has started;
- b) providing the draft decision with accompanying materials to the stakeholders;
- c) consulting the citizens, organizations and other stakeholders;
- d) examining the recommendations of citizens, organizations created pursuant to the law, and other stakeholders when drafting decisions;
- e) informing the public regarding the decisions adopted.

▪ **Administrative Code of Republic of Moldova, no.116/2018**

The administrative code establishes procedure for consideration of petitions of the RM citizens addressed to the relevant authorities/bodies for the purpose of ensuring protection of petitioners' rights and legitimate interests.

In this code the petition is understood as any the statement, claim, suggestion, appeal submitted to competent authorities, including a preliminary application challenging an administrative act or a failure to consider an application within the statutory deadline.

The Petitioner/Applicant who is not satisfied with the answer received on the preliminary application or did not obtain an answer within the statutory deadline has the right to appeal to the competent administrative court.

The Petition is addressed in written or electronic form in the state or other language according to the Law on functioning of languages on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.

The Petition must include: the name and surname of the petitioner; the petitioner's address and the e-mail; the name of the public authority; the subject of the petition and its motivation; the signature of the petitioner or his legal or authorized representative, and in the case of the petition transmitted in electronic form - the electronic signature. The anonymous or submitted petitions without indicating the petitioner's postal or e-mail address are not examined.

▪ **Land Code of the Republic of Moldova of December 25, 1991 No. 828-XII (as amended on 01-07-2022)**

Land Code regulates the land relations for all types of lands (in public or in private property). The article 97 of this Code provides the damages caused by the withdrawal or temporary occupation of the lands, as well as by limiting the rights of the owners or by worsening the quality of the lands as a result of the activity of enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens, must be fully repaired (including the lost advantage) to the owners of the lands who have borne these damage.

▪ **Law no. 171 of 09-07-2010 regarding water user associations for irrigation, modified in 2020.** The law provisions are described in the Annex 1 to this SEP.

2.2. World Bank Environmental and Social Standard on Stakeholder Engagement

The WB's safeguard policies have been replaced in 2018 with the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Within the ESF, ten Environmental and Social Standards set out

responsibilities for Borrowers. The Standards are designed to help Borrowers manage Project risks and impacts, as well as improve environmental and social performance, consistent with good international practice and national and international obligations. For a general overview of the ESF framework and all the standards in several languages, including English, French and Russian, please visit: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework>

The Environmental and Social Standard on **Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure (ESS 10)** defines the requirements for stakeholder engagement and which guide the development of this SEP are the following:

- a) Establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that helps Borrowers identify stakeholders and maintain a constructive relationship with them;
- b) Assess stakeholder interest and support for the Project and enable stakeholders' views to be considered in Project design;
- c) Promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with Project-affected parties throughout the Project life-cycle; and
- d) Ensure that appropriate Project information is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner.

Other standards that are applicable to this project include, but are not limited to:

ESS 1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts sets out the Borrower's responsibilities for assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts associated with each stage of a Project supported by the Bank.

ESS 2 Labor and Working Conditions enhance the development benefits of a Project by treating workers in the Project fairly and providing safe and healthy working conditions.

Some of the objectives of this standard are:

- a) To promote safety and health at work;
- b) To promote the fair treatment, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity of Project workers;
- c) To protect Project workers, including vulnerable workers such as women, persons with disabilities, children (of working age, in accordance with this ESS) and migrant workers, contracted workers, community workers, and primary supply workers, as appropriate;
- d) To prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor;
- e) To support the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining of Project workers in a manner consistent with national law;
- f) To provide Project workers with accessible means to raise workplace concerns.

ESS 4: Community Health and Safety addresses the health, safety, and security risks and impacts on Project-affected communities and to avoid or minimize such risks and impacts, with particular attention to people who, because of their particular circumstances, may be vulnerable.

ESS 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement requires Borrowers to:

- a) Avoid or minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring project design alternatives • Avoid forced eviction;
- b) Mitigate unavoidable adverse impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on land use through timely compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost and assisting displaced persons in their efforts to improve, or at least restore, livelihoods and living standards, in real terms, to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing prior to the beginning of project implementation, whichever is higher;

- c) Improve living conditions of poor or vulnerable persons who are physically displaced, through provision of adequate housing, access to services and facilities, and security of tenure;
- d) Ensure that resettlement activities are planned and implemented with appropriate disclosure of information, meaningful.

III. Purpose and Objectives of the SEP

The effective stakeholder engagement will improve the environmental and social sustainability of the Project, enhance Project acceptance, and significantly contribute to successful Project design and implementation. Stakeholder engagement is an inclusive process conducted throughout the Project life cycle. The SEP will support the development of strong, constructive, and responsive relationships between the Project's implementation entities and Project's beneficiaries in order to ensure the successful management of a Project's environmental and social risks.

The purpose of this SEP is to define a technically and culturally appropriate plan of actions for stakeholder engagement through the public consultation, equal participation and information disclosure throughout the Project cycle. The SEP outlines the ways in which the Project team and implementation entities will communicate with stakeholders and includes a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) through which the people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints/grievances on Project activities.

Based on the aforementioned, the objectives of this SEP are:

Provide guidance for stakeholder engagement such that it meets the WB's ESS 10 of ESF;

- (i) Identify key stakeholders that are benefitted, affected, and/or able to influence the Project and its activities;
- (ii) Identify the most effective methods, timing and structures through which to share Project information, and to ensure regular, accessible, transparent and appropriate consultation;
- (iii) Develop a stakeholder engagement process that provides stakeholders with an opportunity to influence Project implementation;
- (iv) Establish a formal grievance redress/resolution mechanism;
- (v) Define roles, responsibilities and resources for the implementation of the SEP;
- (vi) Define reporting and monitoring measures to ensure the effectiveness of the SEP and its periodical reviews based on findings.

IV. Brief Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities

The stakeholders' engagement process started at the preparation stage of Project in order to identify the potential Project's beneficiaries and implementation partners.

4.1. Key Meetings/Consultations with Stakeholders during Project Preparation

In the course of developing the architecture of the Project, some preliminary stakeholder engagement activities have already been initiated with potential beneficiaries of the Project,

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government agencies and WB. The meetings served to identify and decide the further Project's components and investments, and the role and responsibilities in the Project implementation.

Thus, the specific stakeholder engagement activities carried out during Project preparation include:

- AGGRIP WB's Preparation Missions;
- Sites visits of MAFI and other implementation entities in order to identify the potential Project's beneficiaries.

An overview of consultations/meetings is presented in Table below.

Table 2: Key Meetings/Consultations with Stakeholders during Project Preparation

Engagement methods	Timing	Participants	Areas of discussion
Meetings and site visits	September 20 – October 7, 2022.	WB task team GoM representatives (MAFI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The main objectives of the mission were to: (i) advance the preparation of the AGGRIP's proposed activities and components; (ii) clarify the project's implementation and fiduciary arrangements; and (iii) determine all essential commitments for advancing the preparation and delivery of the project.- The WB's team and MAFI have generally found agreement on the objective, scope, and overall component structure of the proposed project, with some proposed fine-tuning and adjustments to respond to evolving sector needs and development context.- The WB and MAFI have agreed that the latter will establish a working group to serve as a technical coordination body for the preparation of the proposed project. Also, it was agreed Consolidated Agriculture Project Management Unit (CAPMU) will provide support to MAFI in the overall preparation effort, and the Sustainable Development Account (SDA) will provide specific technical support in the preparation of the irrigation and drainage investments.
Field visit	November 12, 2022	MAFI and SDA representatives Representatives of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The farmers opinions and intentions regarding rehabilitation of the existing irrigation systems.

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Engagement methods	Timing	Participants	Areas of discussion
		local public authorities (LPAs) and IWUAs „Irig-Com” and „Agrobalta Talmază”, Ștefan Vodă	
Meeting	November 14, 2022	MAFI and WB	- The stages in the preparation and initiation of the AGGRIP.
Field visit	November 15, 2022	MAFI, SDA and LPAs representatives Representatives of Centralized Irrigation System (CSI) “Tețcani”	- The investment needs in the rehabilitation of the irrigation system.
Meeting	November 17, 2022	MAFI representatives Representatives of IWUA “Alfîn-Su”	- The possibility of investments in rehabilitation of irrigation system, including the construction of reservoirs and repair of the pumping station.
Meetings and field visit	November 28 – December 09, 2022	WB E&S safeguard team CAPMU team SDA representatives IWUAs’ representatives and members	- The several meetings of the WB’s team with the staff of the implementation entities and a site visit to the CISs of Tudora and Caplani (Ștefan Vodă) were carried out to prepare the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) documentation package of the proposed AGGRIP. The package including the SEP, the Labor Management Procedures (LMPs), the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF).

V. Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

The process for stakeholder engagement involves the following steps:

- STEP 1: Stakeholder identification and analysis. To ensure meaningful and effective consultations, an essential element of the stakeholder engagement process is the careful identification of potential stakeholders and examination of their concerns, expectations and preferences. According to ESS10 the Project’s stakeholders are classified into three main groups: affected parties, other parties and vulnerable groups;
- STEP 2: Engagement during project preparation (this will contribute to a stakeholder needs assessment, selection of preferred methods of communication, further project refinement, and development of a project-level GRM);

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- STEP 3: Engagement during project implementation (this includes ongoing monitoring and reporting and the establishment of a feedback-loop whereby the Project is continually adapted based on evolving the stakeholders needs). An overview of the GRM, monitoring & reporting, and information disclosure and consultation plans are detailed later in this SEP.

5.1. Affected Parties

Affected parties: Affected parties are those who are directly influenced (actually or potentially) by the Project and/or have been identified as most susceptible to potential risks and impacts associated with the Project, thus necessitating close engagement. These may include the potential beneficiaries of the Project and other parties who are subject to direct impacts from the Project.

Specifically, the following institutions/organizations and groups fall within this category:

- MAFI and its agricultural departments, including the AIPA;
- Veterinary medicine laboratory and Food Safety Agency;
- MAFI and its departments;
- Moldova Technical University, Republican Veterinary Center, Veterinary Medicine and Agricultural Economics in Bratuseni, and the Agricultural College in Svetlii);
- Commercial dairy farms;
- Localized producer groups of milk and meat;
- Processing companies (milk and meat);
- IWUAs Irig-Com, Irigare-Nord, Altin-Su and their members;
- Community members, including the land owners from the Project area that are not members of the IWUAs, Project workers, small holders, family farms or other types of small farms, female-headed farms and women.

Table 3: Directly or Indirectly Project-Affected Parties and Their Level of Interest and influence

Stakeholder Group/Persons:	Interest in Project or How Potentially Affected by Project:	Interest	Influence
Component 1			
AIPA;	- Beneficiary of activities planned under component 1 (sub-component 1.1.) of the Project (capacity buildings and trainings).	High	Medium
Veterinary medicine laboratory and Food Safety Agency;	- The beneficiary of the Project's subcomponents 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 that is proposed the rehabilitation of the veterinary medicine laboratory and several regional Food Safety Agency offices. The beneficiaries of the capacity buildings activities.	High	Medium
MAFI and its department;	- Beneficiaries of the subcomponent 1.3.1. described in table 1 of this SEP.	High	High
Centers of excellence and professional study institutions in the zootechnical field (Moldova Technical University; Republican Veterinary Center, Veterinary Medicine and Agricultural	- Potentially beneficiaries of the sub-component 1.3.3 that is proposed the creation of three centers of veterinary excellence to access quality animal health services on a regular basis. In addition, the sub-component will support	High	Medium

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Economics in Bratuseni; and the Agricultural College in Svetlîi);	enhancement in the quality of the educational programs at the veterinary educational establishments.		
Component 2			
Commercial dairy farms and localized producer groups of milk and meat;	- Potential beneficiary and partner under the implementation of the subcomponent 2.1.: (i) establishment of new or the modernization of existing commercial dairy farms in line with best regional/global practices in herd management, nutrition, climate resilience and green production; (ii) expanding partnership initiatives for milk collection and storing between dairy farmers and processors (including digital service support for linkages); (iii) supporting the emergence of localized producer groups (cooperatives) for setting up milk & meat processing and fodder production facilities; and (iv) supporting public food safety processes for regularizing and improving milk testing for key pathogens. Financing of the first three activities would occur through the establishment of a matching grant facility, with the possible exploration of associated tools for de-risking of farm investments - insurance and a partial credit guarantee mechanism.	High	High
Processing companies (milk and meat);	- The potentially beneficiaries of the sub-components 2.2. The sub-component would aim to strengthen linkages between processing companies and farmers (whether individuals, groups, or clusters), by providing technical assistance for addressing remaining legal bottlenecks for effective and efficient implementation of contract farming arrangements, as well as applied digital services for strengthening farmer/processor integration.	High	Medium
Component 3 – beneficiaries of the planned investments:			
<p>IWUAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Irig-Com - Rehabilitation of CIS "Tudora" and its interconnection with CIS "Caplani" (Ștefan Vodă district); ➤ Irigare-Nord - Rehabilitation of CIS "Tețcani" and its interconnection with CIS "Corjeuți" (Briceni district); ➤ Altîn-Su - Rehabilitation of CIS "Etulia" (Cahul district 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beneficiaries of the planned investments under component 3 of the Project. - Involved in the operation of the GRM at local level. - Will contribute to the public investment through matching investment funds and and/or assets. - The potential resettlement risks and impacts will be identified and assessed in the RPF that will be part of the ESF package of AGGRIP. The RPF will also clarify resettlement principles, 	High	High

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and UTA Gagauzia).	<p>organizational arrangements, and design criteria to be applied to component 3 of the Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The ESMF will identified all environmental, social, health and safety risks and impacts that will be addressed by site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs). 		
IWUAs' members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The members of IWUAs (the farmers) will be affected by temporary use of the lands during the rehabilitation works and will benefits from compensation for land use and lost crops (if the private land will be used and the crops will be affected). - The IWUAs' members shall contribute with its owner investments in order to independently extend the necessary infrastructure from the main components of the CISs to the area of the lands they own or use. - Noise, dust and temporary access restriction during the small-scale construction/rehabilitation works. 	High	Medium
Eligible WUAs - TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beneficiaries of sub-component 3.2 that provide matching investment financing for on-farm irrigation equipment to eligible WUAs to broaden access to existing large-scale pumped systems. This activity will address the lack of financial capacity of the emerging WUAs to adequately address on-farm irrigation equipment needs (e.g. mobile aspersion irrigation machines with reel and console and a hydraulic turbine) that can satisfy the minimum pumping capacity requirement of existing schemes (particularly those rehabilitated). 	High	Medium
Component 3 – Communities' members:			
Landowners from the Project area that are not members of the IWUAs;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potentially affected by the rehabilitation works near their owned or used agricultural lands. Potentially beneficiaries of compensations if their lands will be affected by the rehabilitation works. - Potentially beneficiaries of the CISs. - Noise, dust and temporary access restriction during the small-scale construction/rehabilitation works. - Perspective to become a member of IWUAs and to connect to CISs. 	Medium	Low

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Project workers ⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Both the international and local contractors can temporarily employ the workers from communities of sub-Projects area or of other localities in order to carry out the Project planned civil works or activities. - Income benefits. - Also, IWUAs, local farmers and LPAs can involve their staff in the project implementation activities (supervision, collaboration with contractors' workers if necessary). - Occupational health and safety risks impacts. - Labor risks, such as informal employment, harmful child labor, non-compliance with legal provisions in the field of work. - Labor Management Procedures under the Project consistent with WB's ESS2 will be developed. LMPs will include clear worker Grievance Mechanisms, including codes of conduct to prevent and manage incidents of SEA/SH. LMPs will include measures to prevent occurrences of harmful child or forced labor and that grievance mechanisms are available for direct and contracted workers. Activities that involve significant risk of child or forced labor will not be financed under the Project. Measures to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on worker health and safety will be included in the LMPs. 	High	Medium
Small holders, family farms or other types of small farms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members of the communities from Project area who want to participate but are less likely to benefit from the Project investments due to incapacity to cover the maintenance fees or inputs to establish and maintain their connections caused by low income, current inflation other increasing costs. - Proper and timely information on investments and financial management of 	High	Low to Medium

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For the purpose of the Project the workers from communities (institutions/enterprises and people from communities of Project area or from the country) can be involved in the implementation of Project activities.
Direct workers: People employed or engaged directly by the Project implementation entities to work specifically in relation to the project;
Contracted workers: People employed or engaged through third parties to perform work related to core functions of the project, regardless of location;

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	IWUAs and of the investment under the Project.		
Female-headed farms and women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potentially beneficiaries of the planned investments under components 2 and 3 of the Project. - Member or not member of IWUAs. - Involvement on the decisions-making process regarding the planned investments, implementation and financial arrangements. - Consultations and proper information on available support provided under the Project. 	High	Low to Medium
Local communities from Project area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential risks and adverse impacts on the population's health and safety associated with planned activities under components 2 and 3. These potential risks and impacts include emissions of dust, noise, odor, and vehicle exhausts; traffic jams and traffic and road safety risks due to increased traffic volume and movements of heavy-duty vehicles. - Community's potential exposure to waste including hazardous waste, may lead to increased risks of health issues, resulting from poor site management, and communicable diseases relating to presence of labor such as the COVID-19 virus - All the risks related to the construction/rehabilitation works will be identified in the ESMF or during the environmental and social screening of the new locations/beneficiaries to be included in the Project. The mitigation measures for all identified risks and potential impacts will be proposed by the ESMPs and the Contractors' ESMP developed (C-ESMP) to be developed prior to start of the construction/rehabilitation works. 	Medium	Low to Medium

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5.2. Other Interested Parties/Persons

Other interested parties are individuals/groups/entities that may not be directly affected by the Project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the Project and/or who could affect the Project and the process of its implementation in some way.

The following table presents the list of other interested parties that have been identified to date. The list may be supplemented with additional organizations as project preparation and implementation evolves:

Table 4: Other Interested Parties and Their Interest/Influence

Authority	Role	Interest	Influence
National			
Project's Technical Working Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A dedicated working group for AGGRIP preparation was created by MAFI's decision no. 195 of November 16, 2022.- The working group includes representatives of MAFI, AIPA, Food Safety Agency, State Chancellery, SDA, CAPMU and MACP coordinator.	High	High
Implementation entities: MAFI, including <ul style="list-style-type: none">- CAPMU;- SDA;- AIPA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- MAFI will play the leading role in implementing the proposed project, while relying on its departments, sub-divisions, and subordinated agencies to provide technical support for implementation.- CAPMU, directly responsible to MAFI, will carry out a range of fiduciary, coordination and supporting functions to ensure efficient project implementation in relation to the MAFI's obligations on social and environmental safeguards, procurement, financial management and other country-specific requirements such as monitoring and evaluation.- The SDA Moldova would provide support in the implementation of Component 3, in order to ensure swift and efficient implementation of the activities related to irrigation.- AIPA would manage the dispensing, monitoring, and implementation supervision of project resources provided as matching grants to eligible beneficiaries. AIPA would apply rigorous review of documentary evidence and monitor the execution of the grants (and ensuing investments) to ensure	High	High

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Authority	Role	Interest	Influence
	<p>efficiency and compliance with agreed procedures, particularly in relation to eligibility of receipt of grants and eligibility of expenditures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The implementation entities will ensure the Project implementation, including monitoring of the implementation of the ESMPs, SEP, LPM, GRM and RPF/Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) if any. 		
Ministry of Finance (the Borrower of the Project)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approval of payments and financing. - Monitoring of management of flow of funds. 	High	High
Education institutions – the Technical University of Moldova and two colleges Veterinary Medicine and Agricultural Economics in Bratuseni; and the Agricultural College in Svetlîi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration with implementation entities during the implementation of the component 1. - Monitoring and involvement in the implementation of the Project activities, including information of direct beneficiaries of the investments and technical assistance activities. 	High	High
National Financial Institutions - TBD ⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involvement in the implementation of the financial mechanism that will include the grants component to be provided to the farmers. - Collaboration with implementation entities and the farmers regarding the provision of the grants. 	High	High
Ministry of Environment/Agency of Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental management, prevention of pollution, issue permits, ESIA, biodiversity. 	Medium	High
Ministry of Environment/ Moldova's Water Agency (the Agency Apele Moldovei)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owner of the CISs, including associated equipment and infrastructure. - The Agency Apele Moldovei provided to IWUAs the CISs for free use (by a rental agreement that does not provide for financial obligations). 	High	High
State Labor Inspectorate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local employment and labor conditions, vulnerable people. 	Medium	Medium
Local level			

⁵ The involvement of the national financial institutions will be determined after the establishment and development of the financial mechanism by the implementation entities.

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Authority	Role	Interest	Influence
LPAs/ Mayor's offices of the villages Tudora, Crocmaz, Caplani, Etulia, Tețcani and Corjeuți. TBD according to the further beneficiaries to be included in the component 1 and 2 of the Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interest to ensure that the project does not generate risks or negative impacts on the environment, community health and safety. - Information of the local community and landowners/members of IWUAs/ formal and informal farmers on the Project's investments and available information on the environmental and social impacts mitigations measures. - Involved in the GRM operation at local level. 	Medium	Medium
Mass Media and Non-Governmental Organizations			
The lists of non-governmental organization (NGOs), including the data on their management and contact data can be accessed on the MAFI's website ⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The NGOs in the agricultural field and mass- media can provide support in the information and communication with the potential beneficiaries to be identified in order to participate in the Project and also can provide support to information on Project's available information, including the ESF documentation. 	Medium	Medium
International			
International Financial Institutions (WB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Donor of the Project. 	High	High
Contractors			
Consultants and Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Consultants and Contractors can be interested in the Project activities and timely and successful implementation if selected. 	High	Medium

5.3. Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Individuals or Groups

Disadvantaged and vulnerable groups are persons who may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by the Project as compared with any other groups due to their vulnerable status, and that may require special engagement efforts to ensure their equal representation in the consultation and decision-making process associated with the Project.

As noted in the section above on affected parties, project communities may include groups that might be vulnerable and who may be affected by impacts to their health and safety because of some specific activities, such as traffic jams or access restriction to some locations caused by the construction/rehabilitations works planned under the Project, etc. As described above, relevant measures will be included in the site-specific ESMPs where necessary and will include management and mitigation measures to secure community health and safety during civil works and operations, as well as monitoring and reporting requirements.

⁶ <https://madrm.gov.md/ro/content/lista-organiza%C8%9Biiilor-neguvernementale-pe-domenii-de-activitate>.

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As is described and provided in the developed LMPs for this Project, the risk of incidence of child and forced labor is not considered significant, however the measures proposed by LMPs will be in place to prevent child or forced labor. That said the Project recognizes that vulnerable people require special consideration, as they might be unable to participate, to the full extent, in the consultation activities, and may also be disproportionately affected by some impacts. The implementation entities will closely monitor the consultation process to ensure access and awareness of the Project benefits and to provide information on environmental and social impact mitigation measures to all affected and interested parties, specifically to IWUAs' members and other affected landowners during the implementation of the component 3 of the Project.

Consequently, during the social screening of the planned investments, the differential impacts on female-headed farms are to be assessed, including the barriers related to social norms and the need for skills such as leadership, management, financial literacy, etc as well as ability to pay relevant fees and contributions in order to participate in project benefits. The other vulnerable groups within the communities affected by the Project will be further confirmed and consulted through dedicated means, as appropriate, upon confirmation of Project locations and beneficiaries.

The table below summarizes the categories of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and their vulnerability, as well as their level of interest and influence of the project.

Table 5: Analysis of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and their level of interest and influence of the Project

Disadvantaged and vulnerable groups	Description of vulnerability / disadvantage	Interest	Influence
Small holders and small farmers	<p>These groups are vulnerable due to the risk of not being able to benefit from the Project's investments caused by the impossibility of obtaining income from its activity and covering the costs necessary to connect to the CISs and to fulfill the financial obligations within the IWUAs as a member of it. Also, these groups can have the lack of the information, the technical and financial capacities to benefits from some governmental, NGOs or IFIs additional support.</p> <p>The vulnerability of these groups can affect the efficient and long term operation of CISs, and respectively to obtain the expected benefits for IWUAs' members.</p> <p>Thus, the vulnerability of these groups can be lowered if the access to the Project's benefits will be facilitated through special measures such as targeted outreach, customized information awareness or special incentives.</p>	High	Low
Female-headed farm households	<p>Formal agricultural work and business ownership tends to be a male dominated activity with women traditionally working in domestic care and informal roles. While there are some female-headed farm households they may be excluded from decision-making and be less likely to afford the fees and capital investments required as a member of the IWUAs to benefit from the irrigation rehabilitation. Besides the financial vulnerability, other vulnerability of this group is related to insufficient or lack of the financial and technical capacity and information.</p>	High	Low

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	Their participation in the development of agricultural and livestock business activities should be promoted through access to information, technical and financial support.		
Workers with disabilities	These categories of workers are vulnerable, and their condition may aggravate if their rights are further infringed.	High	Low
Local unskilled labor unaware of their rights and conditions of employment	These categories have specific needs for information about their rights and conditions of employment according to the legislation of Republic of Moldova. Poor OHS, poor labor inspections have a direct impact on them.	High	Low
IWUAs' members with disabilities affected by resettlement	The vulnerabilities of these groups are caused by the incapacity or the limited possibilities to have access to the information on Project's activities, specifically on resettlement aspects.	High	Low
Communities' members with disabilities affected by resettlement	<p>The lack of information or providing delayed information can affect their rights to receive the compensations in the established terms.</p> <p>Also, the vulnerability of these groups it is emphasized when it is necessary to obtain the necessary documents to fulfill the eligibility conditions or to demonstrate the informal land use for the payment of compensations.</p> <p>After the affected persons by resettlement are identified, continuously and timely process for information provision process shall be maintained.</p> <p>The Project shall identify the possibilities to adapt for the vulnerable groups some regulations and procedures on eligibility for compensation through relevant agreements with involved authorities and institutions.</p> <p>If a Resettlement Action Plan will be developed for Project purpose, this will include the targeted measures to vulnerable groups.</p>	High	Low

VI. Stakeholder Engagement Program

Considering that the COVID-19 impacted and will impact the feasibility of in-person meetings, the Project's engagement program will include various information and communications channels and methods to implement provisions on prevention of spreading the virus in line with World Health Organization guidance and following also Government instructions.

6.1. Planned Stakeholder Engagement Activities

The Stakeholder Engagement Program includes a set of engagement actions, which will be used to consult, provide information and engage interested stakeholders, affected parties and

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vulnerable groups. This SEP covers the proposed engagement activities during the preparation and implementation according to the anticipated needs of stakeholders.

The main engagement tools and methods will be:

- **Public consultation/group meetings (in person or online)** - the disclosure of information should support consultation. Consultation is a two-way process of dialogue between the Project implementation entities and Project stakeholders.

At the stage of SEP preparation, the potential beneficiaries of the activities and investments included in the Component 1 and 2 of the Project are not yet clearly identified. Consequently, the potentially identified beneficiaries will be informed and consulted on the Project's activities and design, including financial management. Once the beneficiaries will be identified, approved and considered eligible for the planned investments, the consultation process will be continued in order to provide information regarding the project to groups of beneficiaries throughout the duration of the Project's implementation (when necessary). The public consultation and group meetings will be also used in the implementation of the component 3 for continuous, proper and timely information and engagement of the IWUAs' members, landowners and community, including the resettlement process and procedures if any. Also, additional consultations will be held at the request of the beneficiaries or when the implementing entities will consider necessary to use this information and feedback tool during the implementation period.

The results of such consultations will be documented and posted on CAPMU's website.

- **Field visits** - to identify the beneficiaries of the Project and to consult the stakeholders and monitor project implementation directly on the site (when will be necessary for regular monitoring of the Project's activities).
- **Workshops (in person or online)** – the workshops can be necessary with the Project's beneficiaries regarding the financial management of the planned activities, including the management of the grants. The workshops also will be used as information tool regarding the establishment and operation of GRM at Project level. The final decision to use this tool will be based on the discussions and consultations results with the Project affected parties and interested parties.
- **Trainings and capacity buildings activities** – these methods and related tools will be used specifically in the context of the planned activities under component 1 of the Project by specialized and selected/contracted consulting companies and trainings institutions.
- **Leaflets/posters and summary information notes** – leaflets and summary information notes to be submitted to the Project's affected and interested parties. The leaflets and summary information notes can be included the information of the specifically aspects of the Project, such as the benefits of proposed investments, GRM and resettlement if any. The information materials can be distributed in the meetings/ public consultations, also can be placed on the information boards at LPAs/Mayor's Offices and IWUAs.
- **Information boards** - establish Information Boards in each Project area. On these boards will be placed the information related to the Project, relevant for every phase of Project implementation.
- **Individual meetings** –individual meetings will be held with the affected parties at their request, also with people from vulnerable groups (if such cases are identified) in order to find and implement solutions to some specific situations or issues.
- **Implementation entities websites and social media channels** – the web sites and social media channels of the implementing entities will be the main information tools during Project implementation. Short descriptions will be developed in an accessible and proper

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language for websites on benefits of planned investments, mitigation measures during the pre-construction and construction phases etc.

- **Letters** – the letters will be an instrument used to facilitate the Project implementation process through good collaboration between the implementing entities and other stakeholders.
- **Reports** – the reports will be used to monitor the Project implementation and to keep informed the main stakeholders of the Project.
- **E-mails** – to facilitate communication between implementing entities.

6.2. Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure

The implementation entities will disclose Project information to allow stakeholders to understand the risks and impacts of the Project, and potential opportunities. Stakeholder engagement depends on timely, accurate, accessible, and comprehensible information. Making available Project-related information as early as possible is important.

Prior to the Project appraisal, the following documents will be prepared and disclosed:

1. Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP);
2. ESMF;
3. LMP;
4. This SEP; and
5. RPF.

The contractor(s)' Environmental and Social Management Plan (C-ESMP) and contractor(s)' Labor Management Procedure (C-LMP) will be disclosed prior commencement of civil works.

Reports and the documents mentioned above will be available to the public for a period of 14 calendar days to provide comments and suggestions.

The current CAPMU website (<http://www.capmu.md>) shall be used to disclose project-related documents, including Project progress reports, reports on SEP and GRM implementation both Romanian and English. The contact details of the E&S team will be provided for feedback provisions or if further questions arise.

The table below provides a preliminary summary of the suggested information to be disclosed based on the Project design and topics that might be of interest to stakeholders.

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Table 6: Information Disclosure Strategy

Project component	List/ Type of information to be disclosed	Methods of disclosure proposed	Timing/Frequency	Target stakeholders	Responsible stakeholders
Project preparation					
All	Proposed Project Design; PAD (check the WB requirements for PAD disclosure)	WB and implementation entities web sites; distribution via email.	Prior to the Project appraisal	All	AGGRIP preparation working group, Implementation entities and WB team
All	Draft ESCP and ESMF documentation that is required for disclosure by the WB, including this SEP and GRM, LPMs and RPF.	Implementation entities websites; distribution via email. Summary description note of the ESMF and RPF to be placed on the information board of the LPAs and in the offices of the IWUAs.	Prior to the Project appraisal	All	AGGRIP preparation working group, Implementation entities and WB team
All	Final ESF documentation, including all comments and suggestions.	Implementation entities websites; distribution via email.	Prior to the Project effectiveness	All	Implementation entities
All	Project operational Manual	Via email.	Prior to the Project effectiveness	Implementation entities	MAFI and CAPMU
All	Regulation and procedures on GRM operation	Via email	Prior to start of the Project implementation	MAFI and SDA, IWUAs and LPAs	CAPMU
Project implementation					

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Project component	List/ Type of information to be disclosed	Methods of disclosure proposed	Timing/Frequency	Target stakeholders	Responsible stakeholders
Component 2	Site-specific ESIA/ESMPs C- ESMP C -LMP	Post on the implementation entities websites. Summary of these documents will be placed on informational boards placed near sub-Project area and at LPAs.	Prior some civil works begins	Beneficiaries of the investments and community member near location of the proposed sub-project area.	CAPMU and Contractors
Component 3	Site-specific ESIA/ESMPs Resettlement Action Plan (if any) C-ESMP C -LMP	Post on the implementation entities websites. Summary of these documents will be placed on informational boards from IWUAs, LPAs and at sub-project area. Implementation entities websites. Email to WB and other interested parties.	Prior some civil works begins	Beneficiaries of the investments and community member near location of the proposed sub-project area	CAPMU/SDA and Contractors
Component 4	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Implementation entities
All	Project's progress reports, including implementation of the safeguards requirements and provisions agreed at the preparation stage.	CAPMU website. Email to WB and interested governmental institutions.	Semiannually	All	CAPMU
All	SEP and GRM implementation reports	CAPMU website	Semiannually	All	CAPMU

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Project component	List/ Type of information to be disclosed	Methods of disclosure proposed	Timing/Frequency	Target stakeholders	Responsible stakeholders
All	Project's Completion Report, including implementation of the safeguard requirements and plans.	CAPMU website Email to WB and interested governmental institutions.	TBD	All	CAPMU

6.3. Timeline for Provision of Comments and Feedback

Implementation entities will provide appropriate background and relevant technical or non-technical information to stakeholders' whose feedback is sought on with sufficient advance notice (5-10 business days) so that the stakeholders have enough time to prepare to provide meaningful feedback. The CAPMU team will gather (written and oral comments), review and summarize them and commit to report back to stakeholders on how those comments were incorporated, and if not, provide the rationale for reasons for why there were not within 10 to 30 working days from the stakeholder engagement event either.

Comments, suggestions and feedback to Project disclosed documents can be provided as follows:

- 1) By Email to the address: office@capmu.md
- 2) By landline correspondence: CAPMU, 50, Capriana st., of. 215, Chisinau, MD-2005
- 3) By telephone: (+373 22) 226994; 221142;

6.4. Future Phases of Project

Information materials will be developed to keep the stakeholders informed on Project activities and its environmental and social performance, including a summary of how and when the results of stakeholder engagement activities and grievance handling are reported back to affected communities and/or broader stakeholders. Information which will be disseminated to stakeholders during Project implementation includes the following:

- Non-technical environmental and social assessment reports;
- Ad hoc reports / newsletters on the implementation entities web sites and social media channels;
- Information on Project implementation and mitigation measures in each phase of Project implementation will be places on the information boards in all affected IWUAs and localities;
- Project's annual reports on SEP implementation process;
- Leaflets/poster and information notes;
- GRM implementation, including resolution for anonymous grievances etc.

Considering all information provided and described in this SEP above, the stakeholder engagement program is proposed for engaging relevant stakeholders throughout the Project cycle.

It is important to keep in mind that the situation is dynamic and that some stakeholders and their interests might change over time.

Thus, to keep the Project stakeholders informed about Project progress and implementation challenges throughout the Project cycle, the proposed stakeholder engagement program below covers all aspects of Project implementation, including compliance with both the national and World Bank environmental and social requirements.

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Table 7: Overview of planned communication and engagement activities of the Project Affected Parties and Vulnerable groups

Project stage	Stakeholder group	Engagement methods	Frequency/location	Topics	Responsible stakeholders
PREPARATION	Component 1				
	Beneficiaries of the activities planned in the sub-components of the component 1 as per table 3 of this SEP. All stakeholders of this group shall be determined and the list from table 3 will be adjusted or completed.	Individual and group meetings Implementation entities websites and social media channels	TBD	Objectives and planned activities under the Project; General planned Project implementation process; GRM.	AGGRIP preparation working group and Implementation entities
	Component 2				
	TBD Beneficiaries of the activities planned in the sub-components of the component 2 as per table 3 of this SEP.	Individual and group meetings Field visits Workshops	TBD	Objectives and planned activities under the Project; General planned Project implementation process, including financial management (the grants and co-financing mechanism) of the proposed investments; Requirements and conditions to benefits from Project's support; GRM.	AGGRIP preparation working group and Implementation entities Workshops on financial management: AIPA Workshops on GRM
	Component 3				
	Identified affected parties as per table 3 of this SEP (including vulnerable groups described in the table 5 of this SEP)	Public consultation/group meetings	TBD	General planned Project implementation process; Environmental and social impacts mitigation measures; Planned engagement activities and	Implementation entities

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Project stage	Stakeholder group	Engagement methods	Frequency/location	Topics	Responsible stakeholders
		Information boards at IWUAs offices and at LPAs Implementation entities websites and social media channels	Permanently	timing/ SEP implementation, including GRM LMPs; RPF and other aspects related to resettlement; Benefits of the Project; Other information as requested.	
IMPLEMENTATION	Component 1				
	Beneficiaries of the activities planned in the component 1	Trainings and capacity buildings activities Individual and group meetings	TBD	As per purpose and objectives of the planned activities under component 1.	Contracted companies and consultants Monitoring: CAPMU
	Component 2				
	TBD The identified beneficiaries of the planned investments in the construction of a new dairy farm or the modernization of existing commercial dairy farms and in supporting the emergence of localized producer groups (cooperatives) for setting up milk & meat processing and fodder production facilities.	Consultation and meetings Information Board in the construction area	Prior to start of the construction works By start of the construction works	The site-specific identified risks and impacts and proposed mitigation measures; C-ESMP, including Health and Safety (HS) risks and their mitigations; C-LMP; GRM. Summary information on the HS risks and the protection measures during the construction works, which have to be respected by all in the site; GRM for affected parties and workers; The planned investments and benefits.	Contractors Monitoring: CAPMU

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Project stage	Stakeholder group	Engagement methods	Frequency/location	Topics	Responsible stakeholders
		Leaflets/posters	To be distributed in the meetings	GRM and main impacts mitigation measures.	Implementation entities
		Individual meetings	If necessary	Overall sub-project implementation, concerns, proposed solutions and others.	
		Letters and emails	If necessary	TBD	
		Implementation entities web sites and social media channels	Continuously	Project progress implementation.	
	Community members from the area of the planned activities	Information board at LPAs and at the construction site	Starting with the construction works	Planned works, their duration and expected benefits; The proposed mitigation measures during the construction works; GRM.	Implementation entities and Contractors
		Individual and group meetings	At request	TBD	Implementation entities LPAs
	Component 3				
	Three IWUAs and their members	Public consultation/group Meetings	At least 2 consultation meetings – prior to rehabilitation works and at the end of the construction works. Additional meetings, if the implementation entities will identify the need for additional meetings.	<i>Prior to construction:</i> General planned Project implementation process, specifically of the component 3; GRM at Project level, including GRM for workers; Resettlement aspects and institutional responsibilities; Environmental and Social impacts mitigation during the construction/rehabilitation works; LMPs, C-LMPs and C-ESMP. <i>At the end of the works:</i> Expectations and achievements;	Implementation entities Contractors IWUAs management

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Project stage	Stakeholder group	Engagement methods	Frequency/location	Topics	Responsible stakeholders
				Resettlement issues if any; Operational regulation and procedure under the national legal frameworks etc.	Implementation entities
		Leaflets/posters and summary information notes	Distribution in group or individual meetings/public consultation; Placing on information boards.	Project benefits; GRM; Resettlement aspects; Environmental and social mitigation measures during the construction works.	
		Individual meetings	If necessary	TBD	
		Workshops	If necessary	GRMs operations and resettlement; Other topics will be determined.	
		Information board	At IWUAs offices and at LPAs	All information related to the implementation of the components 3, including resettlement, GRM, construction works etc.	
		Implementation entities web sites and social media channels	Continuously	Project progress implementation, including component 3.	
	Community members as per table 3 of this SEP	Individual or group meetings	At request or TBD	GRMs under the Project, including GRM for workers; LMPs provisions; SEA/SH Code of Conduct; OHS potential impacts and mitigations measures.	Implementation entities LPAs IWUAs
		Information boards at the LPAs and at the construction sites	Starting with the construction works	Planned works, their duration and expected benefits; The proposed mitigation measures during the construction works; GRM for workers and for Project	Implementation entities and Contractors

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Project stage	Stakeholder group	Engagement methods	Frequency/location	Topics	Responsible stakeholders
				related aspects, including resettlement.	
		Leaflets	During Project implementation.	Project benefits and provided support; GRMs available under the Project; Resettlement aspects: procedures, deadline, eligibility; additional support; Environmental and Social proposed mitigation measures.	Implementation entities
	Component 4				
	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

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Table 8: Overview of planned communication and engagement activities for other interested parties

Stakeholder group	Engagement methods	Frequency/location	Topics		Responsible stakeholders
			Preparation & pre - construction	Implementation	
Implementation entities: MAFI; CAPMU; SDA; AIPA.	Meetings Reports Letters and E-mail	When necessary	Design of stakeholders' engagement process Selection of Consultant and Contractors Project design Set-up GRM Other information	Construction monitorization Implementation of ESMPs, SEP (including GRM), LMPs, resettlement and other safeguards requirements; Other information as requested.	Implementation entities
Other national Authorities	Letters Meetings	Before construction works begins	Information necessary for obtaining approvals, permits and/or for coordination of the documents, according to national laws; Other information as is requested.	TBD	Implementation entities
LPAs. To be determined other LPAs according to the beneficiaries to be included in the Project.	Trainings and workshops	Following effectiveness of the Project	GRM operation. Pre-construction Planning Project design; Presentation of safeguards documents, with emphasis on the role of the LPAs in the implementation of the Project and in particular in the application of the impacts' mitigation measures during the construction / rehabilitation works;	Construction work monitorization; Implementation of ESF, ESMPs, SEP (including GRM), LMPs, RPF and other safeguards requirements; Other information as requested.	Implementation entities
	Meetings	When necessary			
	Public consultations	At least twice a year			
	E-mails and letters	When necessary			
	Implementation entities websites and social media channels	Continuously			

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Stakeholder group	Engagement methods	Frequency/location	Topics		Responsible stakeholders
			Preparation & pre - construction	Implementation	
Education institutions – the Technical University of Moldova and two colleges Veterinary Medicine and Agricultural Economics in Bratuseni; and the Agricultural College in Svetlîi	Meetings E-mails and letters Implementation entities websites and social media channels	Prior and during the implementation of the component 1	Stakeholder engagement process, including GRM operation; Awareness campaign and information distribution related to the Project's investments; The role of the administration of the education institutions, beneficiaries in the stakeholder engagement process and successful Project implementation.	Project related information; SEP, GRM, LMPs and other safeguards implementation; Other information as requested.	Implementation entities
National Financial Institutions - TBD	Trainings and workshops (if needed) Meetings E-mails and letters Implementation entities websites and social media channels	Before the start of the implementation of the components 2 and 3.	World Bank's safeguards requirements for all involved parties in the Project, including the financial institutions to be involved in the financial mechanism of the Project's investments. ESMF, SEP, LMPs and GRM provisions.	Implementation of the safeguards requirements and monitoring. SEP implementation, including GRM. Others TBD.	Implementation entities

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Stakeholder group	Engagement methods	Frequency/location	Topics		Responsible stakeholders
			Preparation & pre - construction	Implementation	
Mass media, NGO	Letters Press-releases Meetings Public consultations Implementation entities websites and social media channels	During all Project implementation	Objective and benefits of the Project; The requirements and conditions to participate from Project planned investments and grants under component 2; Project implementation progress; Invitation to public consultation; Other information if requested.	Start and progress of the construction/rehabilitation works; Information on request.	Implementation entities
Financial institution (WB)	Letters E-mails	When necessary	Bidding Documents; Pre-construction Planning; Safeguards documents development; GRM set-up. Other information.	Construction works monitorization; Implementation of ESF, ESMPs, SEP (including GRM), LMP and resettlement activities; Other information as requested.	Implementation entities
	Meetings	At least twice a year			
	Reports	Semiannually			
Consultants and Contractors	Letters, E-mails, Meetings	When necessary	Procurement process; ESMPs, LPMs, Code of Conduct elaboration and coordination; Development of design; Other information as requested.	Construction works monitorization; Implementation of ESMPs, LMP and GRM; Other information as requested	Implementation entities Monitoring: CAPMU
	Reports	Weekly and monthly			

6.5. Strategy to incorporate the view of vulnerable groups

Based on social screening and assessment to be provided at site level will be identified all persons and institutions/farms affected by Project from vulnerable groups specified in the table 5 of this SEP.

Once the potentially vulnerable affected parties are identified, the implementation entities will ensure that all identified vulnerable groups will benefits and will be participants of all planned information and consultation activities. Additionally, the LPAs and IWUAs will be involved the continuously information and communication process of all Project's affected parties and communities, including the vulnerable groups. The LPAs and IWUAs will place all Project related information at public and visible places and will provide at request all available information. If will be necessary in the specifically cases, the LPAs and IWUAs will request additional data or information to be provided to all affected parties or to a vulnerable group or will request the implementation entities support in the communication with the vulnerable groups.

The table below provides details of the approach to ensure vulnerable groups such as small holders and small farmers, female-headed farm households, workers with disabilities, local unskilled people who are unaware of their rights and conditions of employment, underaged workers and IWUAs' and Communities' members with disabilities affected by resettlement.

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Table 9: Engagement Program of Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable group	Engagement methods	Frequency/location	Topics	Responsible stakeholders
Small holders and small farmers	Group and individual meetings Letters Leaflets Implementation entities websites and social media channels	After identifications and during Project implementation	Project's benefits; Financial management for implementation of the components 2 and 3 of the Project; The estimates of an individual Project for proper and yearly financial planning; Support and benefits under other existing governmental/grants programs if any that can be used in order to sustain the AGGRIP's objectives and to ensure the access to the connection to CISs.	Implementation entities IWUAs LPAs (based on information provided by implementation entities)
Female-headed farm households	Group and individual meetings Letters Leaflets Implementation entities websites and social media channels	After identifications and during Project implementation	Project's benefits; Financial management for implementation of the components 2 and 3 of the Project; The estimates of an individual Project for proper and yearly financial planning; Capacity buildings and training opportunities following the implementation of the component 1; Support and benefits under other existing governmental/grants programs and capacity buildings activities if any that can be used in order to sustain the AGGRIP's objectives and to ensure the access to the connection to CISs.	Implementation entities IWUAs LPAs (based on information provided by implementation entities)

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Vulnerable group	Engagement methods	Frequency/location	Topics	Responsible stakeholders
Workers with disabilities; Local unskilled people who are unaware of their rights and conditions of employment and underaged workers	Meetings Information boards Leaflets Trainings Implementation entities websites and social media channels	After the receipt of C-LMP, Code of Conduct signed by all workers and information on OHS, SEA/ES trainings provided during the Project implementation	Underaged workers (under the age of 18 years old) prohibited from participating in the Project. LMPs provisions; GRM for workers operation; SEA/ES aspects and information on GBV service providers and contact of the Trust Line for Women and Girls 0 8008 8008. On GRM for workers, labor requirements and procedures, SEA/ES and	Implementation entities and Contractors
IWUAs' and Communities' members with disabilities affected by resettlement	Individual and group meetings Letters Leaflets Information Board Implementation entities websites and social media channels	During all Project implementation	Benefits of the Project; Resettlement procedures and timelines; Eligibility for compensations; Additional measures in the resettlement process (if any); GRM for Project affected persons; Project implementation progress.	Implementation entities

VII. Resources and Responsibilities for Implementing Stakeholder Engagement Activities

7.1. Implementation Arrangements

MAFI will play the leading role in implementing the proposed AGGRIP, while relying on its departments, sub-divisions, and subordinated agencies to provide technical support for implementation. Of these, the CAPMU, directly responsible to MAFI, will carry out a range of fiduciary, coordination and supporting functions to ensure efficient project implementation in relation to the MAFI's obligations on social and environmental safeguards, procurement, financial management and other country-specific requirements such as monitoring and evaluation.

MAFI's AIPA would play a key role in the project's set-up for the implementation of the matching investment grant schemes.

The SDA Moldova will provide support in the implementation of Component 3, to ensure swift and efficient implementation of the activities related to the rehabilitation of the CIS.

7.2. Roles and Responsibilities in the SEP implementation

As is mentioned above, the CAMPU will be responsible for all fiduciary aspects of AGGRIP implementation, including compliance with ESF and safeguards requirements of the WB. This SEP implementation will be the responsibility of a CAPMU's team.

CAPMU will use the tools provided in the stakeholders' engagement program above. The roles and responsibilities of SEP implementation team and other stakeholders are summarized in the Table below.

Table 10: Responsibilities of Key Actors/Stakeholders in SEP Implementation

Actor/Stakeholder	Responsibilities
CAPMU's team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Plans, implements and monitors SEP activities;- Leads and coordinates stakeholder engagement activities;- Collects stakeholder feedback through public consultation and group meetings and bilateral meetings;- Coordinates/supervises of contractors on SEP activities;- Monitors and reports on environmental and social performance to the Government institutions and WB;- Supervising compliance of the implementation of the engagement activities with the WB safeguards requirements;- Organization of the planned SEP activities;- Regular communication with mass media and NGOs to reflect the Project's implementation progress;- Development of brochures, leaflets, poster, information board content for IWUAs, LPAs and the construction sites;- Monitors and to measures the Project's indicators related to the implementation of this SEP and GRM as will be provided in the Project's Financial Agreement to be signed;- Maintains the stakeholder engagement register (dates, list of participants, makes a summary of feedback provided and helps draft the summary response on how the stakeholder feedback was

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Actor/Stakeholder	Responsibilities
	incorporated in implementation and if not, provide the rationale).
IWUAs and LPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Inform the community members on Project's planned activities and on the progress during the implementation;- Inform community on environmental and social impacts mitigation measures, including HS and GRM;- Involved in the GRM operation at local level.- Collaborate with CAPMU and other Project's implementation entities in order to ensure successful and timely Project's objectives achievement.
Contractors/sub-contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Inform CAPMU of any issues related to their engagement with stakeholders;- Redirect to the CAPMU the grievances caused by the construction activities;- Prepare, disclose and implement various plans (e.g. C-ESMP, C-LMP, etc.);- Inform the beneficiaries of the investments or local communities of any environmental and HS mitigation and monitoring measures e.g. noise, vibration, dust;- Inform the workers on the available GRM for workers;- Inform local communities on GRM at Project level;- Announce important construction activities (such as restriction of access and available alternatives).
Project Affected Parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Invited to engage and ask questions about the Project at Project meetings and through discussions with the implementation entities;- Lodge their grievances using the GRM;- Help the implementing entities to define the appropriate mitigation measures.

7.3. Tentative Budget Estimates

All costs for stakeholders' engagement activities will be covered by the component 5 - Project Management. In every year will be planned an estimated budget based on previous experience for information materials development (brochures, leaflets, posters, other items), translation and printing, transport and other planned expenses related to the stakeholder engagement activities. The CAPMU will review the SEP and its budget every six month and revise it accordingly to reflect changing circumstances.

Table 11: Estimated budget for stakeholder engagement activities during Project implementation

Activity	Estimated cost/USD
Awareness campaign	100,000
Periodic stakeholder consultations and meetings	10,000
Design of the information materials (brochures, leaflets, posters, other items) and on line dissemination	10,000
Translation and printing	30,000

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Transport and other planned expenses related to the stakeholder engagement activities.	50,000
TOTAL, USD	200,000

VIII. Grievance Redress Mechanism

Addressing grievances raised by individuals/groups/entities affected by WB-funded Projects is an important component of managing Project risks. A GRM can serve as an effective tool for early identification, assessment and resolution of grievances and therefore for strengthening accountability to beneficiaries. The GRM serves as an important feedback mechanism that can improve Project impact and mitigate the risks. The GRM mechanism will be available to Project stakeholders and other affected parties, enabling them to submit questions, comments, suggestions and/or complaints and provide any form of feedback on all Project-funded activities.

8.1. Grievance Redress Mechanism at Project Level

CAPMU will develop and manage a dedicated GRM during AGGRIP's components and activities implementation in accordance with the provisions of the WB's ESS10 and of this SEP. The GRM will address the all Project related grievances, including those received from Project's workers, direct affected parties, indirect affected communities' members and grievances related to the resettlement. During the Project implementation, it will be ensured equal and nondiscriminatory access to the GRM, and special attention will be given to the disadvantaged/vulnerable groups, people who are less informed.

Considering the Project design and the different and specific components, the grievances can be solved using a two-level mechanism: at local and at Project level.

- 1. Local level** will include a dedicated Project group for grievances resolution at local level. The group can be created by LPAs or IWUAs and can include three members: (i) representatives of the LPA/Mayor's office (i.e. the mayor or cadastral engineer); (ii) one IWUA's representative and (iii) one community representative (i.e. local NGOs representatives, teachers, informal leaders, postal workers etc.). For the component 2, the local group can include two LPAs' representatives or two community representatives, as the Mayor's Office decides. The group at the local level will benefit throughout the execution of the construction/rehabilitation works from assistance and informational, methodological and other support from CAPMU, so that any grievances of the affected persons/parties can be resolved amicably in a short period of time.

At local level can be solved the grievances received from the directly affected land owners and community members related to the following aspects, but not limited to:

- lack of information and the occurrence of situations of uncertainty regarding the Project and the planned investments;
- impacts of the construction/rehabilitation work, such as noise, dust, restricted access, water and soil contamination etc.;
- community health and safety;
- unsatisfactory land restoration after the execution of the works;
- resettlement aspects: including unsatisfactory amount of compensation; delay in payment of compensation; affecting a larger area of land than planned or informed at design preparation.

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If the project investments will imply resettlement, this local group will be trained to solve the resettlement related grievances. This group will examine the grievances related to resettlement, will carry out the field visits and will discuss with complainant and other involved parties if necessary. This group will can reply directly to complainant if the corrective measures can be undertaken at the local level or the general procedures/regulations/legal framework regarding the resettlement have been respected and the grievance is unfounded. If the grievance needs the revision of the initial decision on compensation or the grievance cannot be solved at the local level, this grievance will be directed to the second GRM level.

2. **Project level** will include a dedicated Project group for grievances resolution created from the representatives of the Project's implementation entities. The number of members will be determined. This group will examine and solve all Project related grievances, including grievances received from Project's workers (direct and contracted). Some of the possible situations in which grievances can be submitted by the affected parties and will be resolved by this group are: inadequate behavior of the Contractor's employees; management of lands to be provided; review of the compensation amount and others.

These groups are a temporary body, established for the purpose of permanent dialogue with the people who consider themselves affected by the implementation of the Project. The groups will be active from the date of establishment until the end of the activities within the Project. The groups created within the Project for grievance redress do not replace the judicial way of examining disputes. These groups are intended to serve as a forum for amicable consultation of potentially affected persons to avoid litigation. If the affected person is not satisfied with the resolution of his grievance, he can initiate the procedure for examination and resolution of a complaint according to the national legal framework.

The following channels through which Project affected parties and interested parties can make complaints/ suggestions/ grievances regarding Project-funded activities:

- By Email: capmu@capmu.md;
- In writing: 50, Capriana st., of. 215, Chisinau, MD-2005;
- Dedicated phone number: (+373) 68055297;
- Other: verbal grievances addressed locally should be recorded in writing by Mayor's office secretariat.

Grievances may be submitted anonymously. All anonymous grievances and complaints should be addressed and recorded as well as other grievances and complainants. Confidentiality must be ensured in all cases, including the case when the person submitting the appeal choses anonymity.

The project treats sensitive and confidential complaints, including those related to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Harassment (SEA/SH) in line with the WB ESF Good Practice Note on SEA/SH.⁷ For GBV, and particularly for SEA/ SH complaints, there are risks of stigmatization, rejection and reprisals against survivors. The GM will assist GBV survivors by referring them to GBV Services Provider(s) for support immediately after receiving a complaint directly from a survivor.

We use this SEP to provide contacts where to receive support: SEA/SH green-line 0 8008 8008. This is a green-line for women and girls suffering from domestic abuse, victims of trafficking in

⁷ Add where SEA/SH risks are relevant to the project.

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human beings, victims of sexual exploitation. The list of GBV service providers/ NGOs is available www.stopviolenta.md⁸.

The emergency line 112 service also will redirect all calls coming from women-victims of domestic violence to the Trustline for Women and Girls, in the cases when the beneficiary refuses police intervention or is in a state of crisis and requires emotional support and psychological counselling. The redirection will also happen when the beneficiaries will need information about their rights and the services available to them. This is possible since December 2020, when La Strada and 112 emergency service have signed an agreement of collaboration, under which La Strada have inclusively offered training support and capacity building for the 112 operators in the field of domestic and sexual violence.

8.2. Grievance Records and Documentation

Each grievance should be assigned with an individual reference number and appropriately tracked and recorded actions are completed. The all grievances submitted will be registered / entered by CAPMU's social specialist into a unique register/database. The directly received grievances by local group will also be sent to CAPMU's social specialist for registration in the unique register. CAPMU's social specialist will be the grievance focal point of this Project.

A simple database will be developed under the Project to manage and monitor the grievances. The documentation on grievances will include:

- the name and contact details of the complainant;
- the date and nature of the complaint;
- the group charged with addressing the complaint;
- any follow up actions taken;
- the proposed resolution of the complaint; and
- how and when relevant Project decisions were communicated to the complainants.

For the verbal grievances, it will be suggested to the complainant to file a written grievance/complaint or to use the number phone and email address appointed for Project grievances in order to be directed to relevant staff/groups for appropriate grievance resolution.

8.3. Grievance Closure

The timeline for response to a grievance will not exceed 14 working days. The term can be justified extended up to 20 working days (the complainant will be informed about extension).

A grievance will be "closed" when a resolution satisfactory to all parties has been reached. In certain situations, however, it is possible to "close" a grievance even if the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome. This could be the case, for example, if the complainant is unable to substantiate a grievance, or if there is an obvious speculative or fraudulent attempt.

In such situations, the efforts to investigate the complaint and to arrive at a conclusion will be well documented and the complainant will be advised of the situation.

If the complainant is not satisfied by the response or the proposed solution, he/she may appeal to court.

⁸ <https://stopviolenta.md/index.php?do=feedback>

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8.4. Communication on the GRM

The GRM will be presented and explained in the meetings with the affected or potentially affected parties, in the public consultations, in the leaflets, it will be placed on the informational boards/panels and on the implementation entities websites.

Besides, all information on GRM will be provided on request.

The training on Project GRM operation will be conducted for local level groups. The training will approach the subjects on recording, examination, response to the grievances and documentation on the grievances.

8.1. Monitoring and Reporting on GRM implementation

CAPMU's social specialist will monitor the examination, resolution and closure of the received grievances at both levels, updating the grievance database accordingly. The GRM implementation results will be reported by CAPMU to WB semiannually. The summary information on GRM operation will be placed on CAPMU website and submitted to the interested parties at request.

8.2. World Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service

The Project affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the WB's independent Inspection Panel, which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of WB non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the World Bank's attention, and Bank Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS), please visit <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/grievance-redress-service>. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, please visit www.inspectionpanel.org.

IX. Monitoring and Reporting

CAPMU will maintain a database and activity file detailing all public consultation, disclosure information and grievances collected throughout the Project, which will be available for public review on request.

CAPMU will also closely monitor the effective implementation of all safeguards' instruments (SEP, ESMPs and the GRM designed under the Project).

9.1. Progress Reports

CAPMU will prepare and will submit to WB and other interested parties the semiannually Project's progress reports that will include the information on stakeholder engagement activities, which will include:

- Activities conducted;
- Public outreach activities (meetings with stakeholders and newsletters);
- Entries to the grievance register;
- Entries to the commitment and concerns register;
- The number of site visits and their outcome; and
- New stakeholder groups (where relevant).

X. References

The World Bank Environmental and Social Management Framework, the World Bank, 2017

ESS10 Guidance Notes, the World Bank, 2017

The draft Project Information Document, the Word Document, 2022

Good Practice Note Addressing Gender Based Violence in Investment Project Financing involving Major Civil Works, the World Bank, 2018

Legislation of Republic of Moldova on public information, environmental impact assessment, health and safety and petitions

XI. Annexes

Annex 1: The provisions on Irrigation Water User Associations operation

Law no. 171 of 09-07-2010 regarding water user associations for irrigation, modified in 2020:

General provisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The association is a non-commercial organization voluntarily established by individuals and entities that use irrigation in their activity, in the manner provided by this law. • Based on an irrigation system, only one association can be established. • The association is established for the purpose of administration, exploitation and maintenance, in the public interest and in the interest of its members, of the irrigation and/or drainage system that was the basis of its formation.
The main tasks of the Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The administration and operation of the irrigation and/or drainage system within its service area and the distribution of irrigation water to the members of the Association; • maintenance, rehabilitation and improvement of the irrigation and/or drainage system within the service area and the execution of construction and reconstruction works, as necessary; • Extracting water directly from a river or reservoir, in accordance with water legislation, to distribute it within the service area; • Setting limits on water consumption for irrigation and collecting payments for irrigation and/or drainage; • procurement, replacement, operation and maintenance of irrigation and/or drainage equipment; • Training the members of the Association regarding irrigation techniques, aspects of irrigated agriculture, water saving methods and new technologies; • The Association can distribute water for irrigation, within the limits of availability and on a contract basis, to people who own or use irrigable land within the service area and who are not members of the Association.
The principles of the Association's activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-discrimination - it will not admit any kind of discrimination against its members or categories of members, including on the basis of gender, religion or ethnicity; • Transparency and participation - will transparently activate and promote the participation of its members through its management bodies; • Impartiality and equity - will ensure impartiality and equity in the decision-making process, in the allocation and use of resources, including those of water, depending on the needs of its members; • The principle of rational use of resources - will ensure the rational use of resources to prevent water losses, excess irrigation, erosion, salinization, pollution and to protect the environment; • Full cost recovery - it will fix payments and tariffs that will ensure adequate resources to fulfill all financial obligations and will undertake any reasonable effort to ensure the collection of these payments and tariffs.
The management of the Associations:	
The general assembly/meeting;	The general assembly is the supreme governing body of the

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	<p>Association.</p> <p>The exclusive competence of the general assembly includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- defining the main directions of activity of the Association;- modification of the statute;- modification of service area limits;- the election and revocation of the members of the Board of Directors, the censors committee and the dispute settlement committee;- fixing the amount of payments and financial obligations to be paid by members and non-members, including the level of pecuniary sanctions;- approving the annual financial statements, the reports on income and expenses, the balance sheet and the annual report of the Board of Administration;- approval of the annual budget and financial plan, of the operation and maintenance plan of the irrigation system;- approving the sale, purchase, pledge or mortgage of any land or infrastructure object owned by the Association, approving the issuance of bonds or other financial instruments, approving the contracting of loans, credits or other financial commitments by the Association or establishing limits for these, depending on the interests of the Association;- approval of the investment plan of the Association, including investments for the expansion and rehabilitation of the irrigation system;- adopting the organizational chart and internal regulations of the Association;- adopting decisions regarding the reorganization or liquidation of the Association;- solving any other problem for which the statute requires the approval of the general meeting.- The number of participants necessary to consider the general assembly as one that meets the quorum is established by the statute.- The competence of the general meeting is to adopt decisions, assigned by this law or by the Statute of the Association, cannot be delegated to another body of the Association.- The general assembly is convened in ordinary session at least once a year.
Board of administration;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensuring the implementation of the decisions of the general meeting, the budget and the activity plan of the Association;- Monitoring the performance of the Association;- Approving the conclusion of contracts, in accordance with the budget and the activity plan;- Election of the President of the Council from among its members;- Drawing up the agenda of the general assembly and convening it;- Elaboration of the draft budget, the activity plan, the annual report, the internal regulations and other documents to be approved by the general meeting;- Compliance with the procedures in the Association's activity, according to the statutory provisions;- Ensuring compliance with the Association's financial and accounting procedures;- Other powers that can be established by the general assembly or stipulated by the statute or this law.- The board of directors is composed of at least 5 people and at

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	most 11 people, all of whom are members of the Association.
The committee of censors.	The committee of censors supervises the financial and economic activity of the Association. The committee of censors is made up of at least 3 people, elected by the general meeting from among the members of the Association by direct vote, for a term of at most 3 years.
The Dispute Resolution Commission	<p>The association can create dispute resolution commissions, as well as other commissions and bodies considered necessary for its activity.</p> <p>The association can dispose of a dispute settlement committee made up of 5 people, elected by the general assembly for a term of 4 years. The members of the dispute resolution commission elect one of its members as the president of the commission. A member of the Board of Directors cannot be a member of the dispute settlement committee at the same time.</p> <p>The dispute resolution commission deals with disputes related to the use of water and the distribution of water among the members of the Association.</p>
Monitoring and supervision unit	<p>The monitoring and supervision unit is established within the specialized body of the central public administration responsible for problems related to irrigation management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provides consultancy and assistance to associations in legal, accounting and technical issues; - legal and financial supervision of the association; - establishes and maintain the register of IWUAs.
Irrigation infrastructure	<p>The state body that manages the irrigation infrastructure - property of the state, with the consent of the founder and at the written request of the Association, transfers the irrigation system within its service area to the Association.</p> <p>The irrigation system is transferred for use for a determined period and without payment, based on a contract for transfer for free use (commodity) concluded between the state body and the Association.</p>
The association rights in relation to the lands and other privately-owned assets during the construction, rehabilitation, retrofitting, operation and maintenance of the irrigation system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The right of use (usage) over the land for the execution of the necessary construction, rehabilitation or retrofitting of irrigation systems; - The right of use (usage) over the land to ensure the normal functioning of the irrigation systems by carrying out revisions, repairs and other necessary interventions; - The right of servitude of underground or surface passage of the land for the execution of renovation, repair, revision and removal of the consequences of damage to the irrigation system, as well as for access to its location; - The right of access to the land where the irrigation system is located. - The association is obliged to notify in writing the owner or user of the lands or other goods, which may be affected as a result of the works carried out on the irrigation system, except in cases of damage, in which case the owner or user is notified within the term as short as possible. - The association is obliged to exercise in good faith the rights mentioned above and to pay the owner or user of land or other goods the compensation due for the damages caused during the performance of the mentioned works, including in the case of removing the consequences of the damages.

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<p>The sources of income of the Association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Annual membership fees - calculated in correlation with the size of the land owned by the member, proportional to the total surface of the service area and, at the same time, as a share of: the annual maintenance costs of the irrigation system and/or drying and its preparation for the next irrigation and/or drying season, including the costs of cleaning the drying channels; the payments owed by the Association to the persons responsible for operating the irrigation and/or drainage system; the salaries of the employed staff and other fixed costs of the Association; the provisions accumulated for the reserve fund of the Association.;- Payments for water delivery, paid by the members of the Association;- Irrigation payments, paid by non-members;- Payments for drying, paid by members of the Association and non-members;- Payments imposed on members for the use of assets owned by the Association;- Donations and/or grants;- Available subsidies;- Late interest for unpaid debts to the Association;- Interest on financial means deposited by the Association in bank accounts;- The money received from the pecuniary sanctions applied by the Association.
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Annex 2: Disclosure and consultation during the Project and ESF documents preparation

1. Introduction

The stakeholder engagement activities and technical discussions with key stakeholders on the concept and design of the proposed AGGRIP were started from September 2022, through a dialog of World Bank Group and Government of Republic of Moldova, specifically with Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI) and its subordinate institutions involved in previous similar projects and planned to be involved in the new proposed Project.

2. Engagement activities during the Project preparation

To identify the beneficiaries of the proposed AGGRIP and to discuss with interested parties in the implementation of the planned activities, MAFI started an intensive process of discussions with Local Public Authorities/Mayor's offices (LPAs), Irrigation Water Users Associations (IWUAs), farms, educational institutions and other institution from the agricultural sector. The main objective of the field visits, meetings and discussions held was to obtain necessary data and information for proper identification of the priority development and investment needs that could be covered by AGGRIP and respectively to determine and define the components of the future Project to support a general objective of agricultural development as proposed by the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

The summary of the engagement activities carried out during the Project preparation is presented in the table below.

Engagement methods	Timing and location	Participants	Areas of discussion and feedback provided
Project Preparation			
Field visit	November 12, 2022	MAFI and SDA representatives Representatives of the local public authorities (LPAs) and IWUAs „Irig-Com” and „Agrobalta Talmaza”, Ștefan Vodă	- The farmers opinions and intentions regarding rehabilitation of the existing irrigation systems.
Field visit	November 15, 2022	MAFI, SDA and LPAs representatives Representatives of Centralized Irrigation System (CSI) “Tețcani”	- The investment needs in the rehabilitation of the irrigation system.
Meeting	November 17, 2022	MAFI representatives Representatives of IWUA “Altîn-Su”	- The possibility of investments in rehabilitation of irrigation system, including the construction of reservoirs and repair of the pumping station.
Meeting and field visit	November 23, 2022	MAFI and College of Veterinary Medicine and Agrarian Economy from Brătușeni, Edineț district.	- The management of the college stated that it plans to establish a model livestock farm to facilitate the practical hours of the students and the training of qualified specialists; - The investment opportunities of

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Engagement methods	Timing and location	Participants	Areas of discussion and feedback provided
			the institution were evaluated, so that later, through AGGRIP, support would be provided in the college's efforts to improve the study conditions and ensure the continuity of the teaching-learning process.
Meetings and field visit	November 28 – December 09, 2022	WB E&S safeguard team CAPMU team SDA representatives IWUAs' representatives and members	- The several meetings of the WB's team with the staff of the implementation entities and a site visit to the CISs of Tudora and Caplani (Ștefan Vodă) were carried out in order to prepare the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) documentation package of the proposed AGGRIP. The package including the SEP, the Labor Management Procedures (LMPs), the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF).
Meeting	December 23, 2022	MAFI and farms' representatives.	- Identifying sources of financing and attracting investments for the milk production sector, about making direct payments per head of animal and per liter of milk, as well as about market balance, milk production price and consumer price; - MAFI informed on proposed AGGRIP, including the further possibility for farmers to benefit from the project for making investments in infrastructure and technologies, to increase the efficiency, competitiveness and sustainability of production, to improve the level of compliance with production standards and to increase the quality of the final product.
Meetings and field visits	January 02 – 06, 2023	MAFI's and CAPMU's representatives, 10 cattle milk farms.	- The possibility on of the investments under AGGRIP; - The planned activities and benefits; - The financial management for

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Engagement methods	Timing and location	Participants	Areas of discussion and feedback provided
			the implementation of further investments.
Field visits	January 27, 2023	MAFI's and CAPMU's representatives, cattle farm from Puhoi village, Ialoveni district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The investments needs;- The proposed Project and activities.

Photos of the field visits and meetings held during Project preparation

Component 1 November 23, 2022	College of Veterinary Medicine and Agrarian Economy from Brătușeni, Edineț district.
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Component 2

December 23, 2022

Meeting with farmers

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Component 2

November 23,
December 28, 2022,
January 27, 2023

Meetings at cattle farms in Ocnita and Glodeni regions

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Component 2

Field visit to a cattle farm from Puhoi village, Ialoveni district

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January 27, 2023



Component 3

IWUAs: „Irig-Com” and „Agrobalta Talmaza” (Ștefan Vodă district); Centralized Irrigation System (CSI) “Tețcani” (Briceni

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November 12, 15 and
17, 2022

district), “Altın-Su” (Cahul district)





3. Disclosure and consultation of the ESF package

The planned period for disclosure and consultation process of the drafts ESF documents was March 03 – 20, 2023, conditioned by completion of the ESF package and his clearance by WB.

The ESF package was disclosed to all affected and interested parties, considering all planned

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activities under proposed AGGRIP.

In this context, the public consultations were aimed to inform the potential Project beneficiaries and affected parties on the scope and objectives of the Project, on the impact assessment, on proposed mitigation measures and to review the proposed mitigation measures or to complete with new measures if is proposed.

The draft developed ESF documents will be submitted via email to the identified beneficiaries and interested parties of the components 1, 2 and 3 of the Project; uploading of the draft ESF documents on the MAFI, CAPMU, SDA and AIPA websites. The summary information notes on planned activities under component 3 were submitted to IWUAs and LPAs to be placed on the informational board from their offices and public and visible places within locality. The information notes referred to the objectives and benefits of the Project, the conditions of participation in the Project, potential environmental, social impacts and proposed mitigation measures, and about how all interested persons can examine and consult the ESF documentation on the websites of implementation entities and submit their feedback if any.

Considering that in the further Project implementation will be involved several institutions and the intention to involve IWUAs and LPAs in the stakeholder engagement activities and in the GRM operation at local level, a very important aspects in the ESF documents preparation is to receive directly the feedback of IWUAs management or employed staff and of LPAs/Mayor's Offices (under component 3 – 6 Mayor's Offices) on the proposed arrangements.

Thus, the public comments and suggestions on ESF package were collected through various consultation tools, and the public was invited to send their written comments, as following:

1. Feedback questionnaire completed by phone with IWUAs' management, LPAs representatives on proposed draft ESF documentation. The main objective of this survey was that IWUAs and LPAs to provide their feedback and agreement regarding the proposed GRM operation, specifically at local level.
2. Consultation meetings (online) with the affected and interested groups and other stakeholders in order to collect their comments and suggestions of draft ESF documents, including proposed environmental and social impacts mitigations measures, stakeholders' engagement activities, GRM and labor management procedures. The consultation meetings will be held with all affected and interested parties for every component of the Project. The invitation to consultation meetings will be sent to affected parties or potentially affected parties and interested groups, included the beneficiaries and involved institutions in the implementation of the component 1, the identified and visited farms and NGOs to be involved and interested in the implementation of the component 2, and IWUAs and LPAs to be involved and interested in the implementation of the component 3 of the Project. All the institutions to which the invitation to consultation meetings will be sent, will be asked to invite or send the connection link to any persons or groups that may be interested or affected by the Project, including by Mayor's offices to community members or by NGOs to other farms and rural households. During the first consultation meetings on ESF package will be established with the participants the periodicity of public consultations during the implementation of the project, such as for example once or twice per year regarding measures to mitigate impacts, the stakeholder engagement process, GRM and others.

Approximately XXX provided feedback on draft ESF documents, via email or phone.

Main topics discussed and key feedback received from these consultations has been integrated into this public consultation report and key conclusions will be considered on further stakeholder engagement activities and Project implementation. The comments and suggestions

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provided were incorporated in the ESF documents. The final ESF documents were disclosed accordingly.

Table 12: The consultations activities held during ESF documents preparation

Engagement methods	Timing and location	Participants	Areas of discussion and feedback provided
ESF package disclosure and consultation			
Survey via phone	February 20 – March 20, 2023	Mayors of the 6 affected localities under component 3 and IWUAs „Irig-Com”, “Altin-Su” and “Irigare-Nord”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Awareness on the new proposed Project;- Stakeholder engagement activities and GRM operation at local level;
Consultation Meeting (Online)	March 07, 2023	MAFI, AIPA, CAPMU, Food Safety Agency, Republican Center for Veterinary Medicine, Technical University of Moldova, the Veterinary Medicine and Agricultural Economics in Bratuseni; and the Agricultural College in Svetlii;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- AGGRIP objectives and benefits;- ESF documentation: objectives, identified impacts, vulnerable groups, proposed mitigation measures, including SEP, GRM, LPMs and RFP;- Comments and suggestions on ESF documents:
Consultation Meeting (Online)	March 10, 2023	CAPMU, representatives of farms previously visited, NGOs in the agriculture field, AIPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- AGGRIP objectives and benefits;- ESF documentation: objectives, identified impacts, vulnerable groups, proposed mitigation measures, including SEP, GRM, LPMs and RFP;- Comments and suggestions on ESF documents:
Consultation Meetings	March 03-20 2023	Representatives of the Mayor's Offices' from Tudora, Crocmaz, Caplani, Etulia, Tețcani and Corjeuți; Management and members of IWUAs;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- AGGRIP objectives and benefits;- ESF documentation: objectives, identified impacts, vulnerable groups, proposed mitigation measures, including SEP, GRM, LPMs and RFP;- Comments and suggestions on ESF documents:

3.1. Summary of survey results

INTERVIEWING GUIDE FOR THE MANAGEMENT/MEMBERS OF IWUAs AND MAYOR'S OFFICE

Name:

Occupation/function:

Locality:

Contact data:

- 1. Are you aware about the new World Bank financed project - Agriculture, Governance, Growth and Resilience Investment Project that will include the rehabilitation of primary and secondary irrigation schemes?**

YES

NO

- 2. As manager of the IWUAs/mayor, how would you rate, on a scale from 1 to 7, your level of awareness about the proposed investments in the rehabilitation of irrigation system under AGGRIP?**

1 (very poor) – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 7 (very good)

- 3. As manager of the IWUAs/mayor, do you think this program (SEP) provided sufficient opportunity to make your voice heard and provide feedback on Project objectives? Please rate, on a scale from 1 to 7 of the level of opportunity offered to you.**

1 (very poor) – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 7 (very good)

- 4. In your opinion, how many IWUAs' members or other community members would support the planned rehabilitation works?**

- a) Only a minority
- b) About a half
- c) The majority
- d) It is hard to say

- 5. What are the information channels/means you think it could be the most relevant for information and communication about the Project objectives and implementation progress with the IWUAs' members and local community?**

- a) Common meetings;
- b) Leaflets/posters/information notes/announcements;
- c) Placing the relevant information on info board of the Mayor's Office and further construction site.
- d) Another forms

- 6. Do you agree the IWUAs/LPAs (Mayor's Office) to be involved in the examination and resolution at the local level of grievances related to the Project implementation?**

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YES

NO

7. If you have any comments / suggestions / thoughts regarding AGGRIP implementation, including GRM operation, please list them below for due consideration by the Project implementation entities.

3.2. Summary of consultation meetings on ESF package

Table 13: Summary of the Q&A session

Date:		
Name/Organization	Question/Opinion	Answer
		-
		-

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Annex 3: Sample of the Grievance Registration Form

Reference No: _____

Note: you can remain anonymous if you prefer or request not to disclose your identity to the third parties without your consent. In case of anonymous grievances, the decision will be disclosed at the CAPMU website <https://www.capmu.md/>

First name _____

Last name _____

- ☐ I wish to raise my grievance anonymously
- ☐ I request not to disclose my identity without my consent
- ☐ Contact Information

Please mark how you wish to be contacted (telephone, e-mail).

☐ By Telephone: _____

☐ By E-mail _____

☐ I will follow up the resolution at the website as I want to remain anonymous

Preferred Language for communication: ☐ Romanian ☐ Other (indicate)

Description of Incident or Grievance (*What happened? Where did it happen? Who did it happen to? What is the result of the problem? Date of Incident/ Grievance*)

☐ One-time incident/grievance (date _____)

☐ Happened more than once (how many times? _____)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please put this form in the grievance box or submit on the email.....; address:

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Annex 4: Grievance Record Form

GRIEVANCE RECORD FORM <i>Instructions: This form is to be completed by staff receiving the inquiry or grievance and kept in the Project's file. Attach any supporting documentation/letters as relevant.</i>	
Date Grievance Received:	Name of Staff Completing Form:
Grievance Received (check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>): <input type="checkbox"/> IWUA <input type="checkbox"/> LPAs <input type="checkbox"/> ACSA <input type="checkbox"/> CAPMU <input type="checkbox"/> MAFI	
Mode of Filing Inquiry or Grievance (check <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>): <input type="checkbox"/> In person <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail <input type="checkbox"/> Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Website <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Public consultation <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
Name of Person Raising Grievance: <i>(information is optional and always treated as confidential)</i> Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Address or contact information for Person Raising Grievance: <i>(information is optional and confidential)</i>	
Location where grievance/problem occurred [write in]	
Village	Rayon
Brief Description of Grievance or Inquiry: (Provide as much detail and facts as possible)	
Category 1	Social Impacts, including resettlement
Category 2	Environmental Impacts
Category 3	OHS impacts
Category 4	Grievances regarding violations of policies, guidelines and procedures
Category 5	Grievances regarding contract violations
Category 6	Grievances regarding the misuse of funds/lack of transparency, or other financial management concerns
Category 7	Grievances regarding abuse of power/intervention by project or government officials
Category 8	Grievances regarding staff performance
Category 10	Reports of force majeure
Category 11	Grievance about project interventions
Category 12	Other
Who should handle and follow up on the grievance:	
Progress in resolving the grievance (e.g. answered, being resolved, settled):	