

PRESS RELEASE

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MALAWI

ADOLESCENT NUTRITION-SENSITIVE AGRICULTURE PILOT PROJECT (P163923)

Public Disclosure of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Adolescent Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture Pilot Project

1. Introduction and Background

The Government of Malawi (GOM) sees the fight against malnutrition, HIV, and AIDS as priorities for human development. To adequately address health challenges and raise the health status of all Malawians, the Government identified public health, sanitation, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and nutrition as key priority areas, and elevated agriculture and nutrition as key national policy priorities, to reduce poverty and food insecurity. The Adolescent Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture is a pilot project designed to reach a population that is vulnerable, namely female and male youth, defined as of ages 10 – 19, who have not constituted primary beneficiaries in most interventions, and yet remain key towards reversing malnutrition trends in the Ntchisi and Mwanza districts. The Adolescent Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture has adapted Environmental and Social Management Framework of the Agriculture Sector-wide Approach Support Project II under World Bank (to which this pilot project is aligned to). The ESMF is in line with the World Bank safeguards policies. Under this project,

component 2, subcomponent 2.1 which is about implementation of nutrition-sensitive agriculture interventions: This component will strengthen the production capacities of primary beneficiaries for nutritious crops and animal source food. The project will provide inputs to selected female and male adolescent 15-19 years to support livelihoods and improve nutrition through promotion of homestead gardens, small-animal husbandry and other suitable income generating activities. This has triggered two World Bank Safeguards Policies, and these are: Operational Policy 4.01 (Environmental Assessment), and Operational Policy 4:09 (Pest Management). The appraisal under category B of Operational Policy 4:01 (Environmental Assessment) entails that potential environmental and social impacts would have moderate significance in the environs, and there is need of environmental management plans to address the impacts. The main sources of impacts would be the use of pesticides and/or fertilizer, seeds and breeds of livestock under Sub Components 2.1 which would pose some environmental and health risks to both human beings and biodiversity in the environment. All of the

identified negative impacts can be reduced or in some cases avoided, with timely implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the ESMF.

2. Objectives of the ESMF

The objective of this ESMF is to ensure that the Adolescent Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Pilot Project is implemented in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. The ESMF will provide the project implementers with an environmental and social procedures that will enable them to identify, assess and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts of the project components.

3. Brief Description of Project activities

The proposed development objective (PDO) for the project is to increase production and consumption of nutritious foods to livelihoods opportunities among selected female and male youths in targeted project areas in the districts of Mwanza and Ntchisi. The PDO will be achieved through: (i) mobilizing communities to enhance nutrition-sensitive agriculture, life skills, and nutrition of selected female and male adolescents aged 10-19 years through formation of girls only and boys' clubs/groups. Groups of males and female adolescents will be formed and these will be the primary beneficiaries at community level; (ii) strengthening production and consumption of nutritious foods; and (iii) supporting project management, policy advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge dissemination.

4. Identified project impacts

The study identified a number of bio-physical and socio-economic impacts that will be generated by the activities of the project. Below is a summary of negative impacts of the project:

- i) Loss of vegetation
- ii) Increased soil erosion
- iii) Increase in surface runoff and soil erosion.
- iv) Risks of degradation of soil
- v) Increased agro-chemical availability, application/accumulation as more and more inputs are made available to farmers
- vi) Pollution of groundwater and surface water resources
- vii) Pollution from agro- chemicals
- viii) Increase in siltation and deterioration of water quality in streams within the area
- ix) Spread of communicable diseases including HIV and AIDS
- i) Risks of poisoning from agro-chemicals by agro-dealers and farmers
- ii) Threats to human health and the environment

5. Further information

In line with this development, the Farmers Union of Malawi is pleased to disclose the ESMF. This document is available on the following link Farmersunion.mw. For further information please do not hesitate to contact Farmers Union of Malawi:

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