

FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA



MINISTRY OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

**EASTERN AFRICA- REGIONAL DIGITAL INTEGRATION
PROJECT SOP II (P180931)**

Underserved Local Communities Planning Framework (ULCPF)

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ARCCH	Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage
ARRA	Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs
BoWSA	Bureau of Women and Social Affairs
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
C-ESMP	Construction Environmental and Social Management Plan
CAPP	Cluster Area Project Person
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDN	Content Distribution Networks
CEN	Country Engagement Note
CPF	Country Partnership Framework
CERC	Contingent Emergency Response
CGMC	Community Grievance Management Committee
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSA	Central Statistical Agency
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DBE	Development Bank of Ethiopia
DDTP	Directorate for Digital Transformation Program
DEC	Development Enterprise Center
DEDFP	Directorate for Ethiopian Digital Foundation Project
DRS	Developing Regional States
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
EA-RDIP	Eastern Africa Regional Digital Project
ECA	Ethiopia Communication Authority
ETHERNET	Ethiopia Education and Research Network
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIC	Ethiopian Investment Commission
EED	Ethiopia Enterprises Development
E&S	Environmental & Social
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESHS	Environmental Social and Health Safety
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

ESMF	Environmental and social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management system
ESS	Environmental and Social Standards
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FEPA	Federal Environmental Protection Authority
FM	Financial Management
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
FS	Federal Stakeholder
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GO	Governmental Organization
GRC	Grievance Redress Committee
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GRS	Grievance Redress Service
HDI	Human Development Index
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HUC	Historical Underserved Community
Kbit/s	Kilobits per second
KDEAP	Kenya Digital Economy Acceleration Project (P170941)
KGMC	Kebele Grievance Management Committee
KII	Key Informant Interview
Km	Kilometer
IA	Implementation Agency
ICT	Information Communication Technology
ID	Identification
IDA	International Development Association
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IEC	Information Education and Communication
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IP	Indigenous People
IT	Information and Technology
IXP	Internet Exchange Point
LMP	Labor Management Procedure
LRP	Livelihood Restoration Plan
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDA	Ministries Departments and Agencies
MoE	Ministry of Education

MoH	Ministry of Heal
MInT	Ministry of Innovation and Technology
MIS	Management Information System
MoLS	Ministry of Labor and Skill
MoTRI	Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration
MoWSA	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPSC	National Project Steering Committee
NRENs	National Research and Education Networks
NTC	National Technical Committee
NYP	National Youth Policy
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHS	Occupational and Health Safety
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PAFP	Project Area Focal Person
PAP	Project Affected People
PDO	Project Development Objective
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PLC	Private Limited Company
PLWDs	People Living with Disabilities
POA	Project Operation Area
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PSGMC	Project Site Grievance Management Committee
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
REC	Regional Economic Community
RGMC	Regional Grievance Management Committee
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
RPTC	Regional Project Technical Committee
RS	Regional Stakeholder
SA	Social Assessment
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SH	Sexual Harassment
SITC	Science, Information and Technology Commission
SMS	Short Message service
SNNPR	Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Region
SOP	Series of Project
SOPs	Standard Operation Procedures

SRA & MP	Security Risk Assessment and Management Plan
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TA	Technical Assistance
TC	Technical Committeee
TMG	Telecommunications Management Group Inc.
ToR	Terms of Reference
TRND	Trade Relations and Negotiation Directorate
TVETs	Technical Vocational and Education Trainings
ULC	Underserved Local Community
US	United States
ULCP	Underserved Local Community Plan
ULCPF	Underserved Local Community Planning Framework
UN	United Nations
UNCIEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees
UN-Women	United Nations-Women
USF	Universal Support Fund
VDGs	Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups
WB	World Bank
WEDP	Women Entrepreneurship Development Project
WGMC	Woreda Grievance Management Committee
WPTF	Woreda Project Technical Force

O. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction: Ethiopia is the second most populous country in the African continent and has a land area of 1,104,300 square kilometres. Within this vast country’s population of over 115 million people there are communities who may be considered as Historically Underserved Communities (HUCs) under the WB’s Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), particularly ESS7. In the context of Ethiopia these populations are largely pastoralists, with a few descendants of hunter-gatherers and groups who now focus on agriculture.

Project Description: The WB-supported project: “Eastern Africa- Regional Digital Integration Project SOP II (P180931)” will promote regional market integration to expand access to broadband connectivity and strengthen digital service delivery in Ethiopia. This will be achieved through four main project components: Component 1: connectivity market development and integration; Component 2: data market development and integration; Component 3: online market development and integration, and Component 4: project management and implementation support. A fifth component is reserved as the Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC). The existing PIU under the MInT will serve as the main implementing agency. Similar approaches will be followed across region, zone and woreda/district level coordination units.

Objectives of ULCPF: WB ESS7 requires that, in cases where Historically Underserved Communities (HUCs¹) are found within project sites, an Underserved Local Community Planning Framework (ULCPF) must be developed, with the purpose of promoting participation of those groups in the project, mitigating risks from the project, and ensuring equal and relevant benefits from the project alongside other participants. This Underserved Local Community Planning Framework (ULCPF) is a precursor to the , Underserved Local Community Plan (ULCP) and sets out the frameworks, issues and requirements for Underserved communities Plan development, which will take place before any activities that include HUCs commence, and within 6 months of Eastern Africa – Regional Digital Integration Project SOP II (EA-RDIP SOP II) site identification.

The ULCPF has been prepared by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT). This ULCPF directly applies to Component 1 (1.1. and 1.2) and subcomponent 3.1 if supported cross border and backbone connectivity and last mile connectivity sites include areas with HUCs, and Component 4,

¹ In the Ethiopian context, Afar, Ethiopian Somali, Benishangul-Gumuz Gambella as well as pastoralists and semi-pastoralist in parts of Oromiya and former SNNPR Regional States are categorized as Historically Underserved Communities (HUCs), that meet the criteria set out under ESS7.

where data collection and monitoring will include HUCs if they are affected by the project. Since the actual severity and nature of risks and impacts will be identified on the different project sites, as per the requirements stated in the ESS7, ULCP will be developed. More specifically, a ULCP is conducted when specific groups or historically ULC, as well as the land and natural resources they depend on, are identified in the project area(s). This assessment provides detailed baseline data on the demographic, social, cultural, and political characteristics of the affected ULC. It also outlines a culturally appropriate process for involving and consulting with the ULC throughout the EARDIP SOP II's preparation and implementation stages. The assessment aims to understand the vulnerabilities of the affected ULC and how the project may impact them. Qualified specialists and meaningful consultations with the targeted ULC are crucial in informing and supporting the assessment, often resulting in an ULCP.

Methodology: During the preparation of the framework, primary data was collected in the field using qualitative approaches while secondary data was gathered through document review. This helped the team to explore and produce cultural descriptions, uncovering multiple realities and complexities of livelihood activities in the EA-RDIP SOP II covered regions of Ethiopia. The secondary data review covered, among others, the social baseline of the project; review of relevant policy, institutional & regulatory frameworks; E & S risks and impacts and mitigation measures related to HUCs.

Review of National Policies and Legal Frameworks: relevant national policies, strategies, legislations, institutional issues, international conventions as well as the WB's Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) applicable to EARDIP SOP II were reviewed. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) has formulated several development policies, strategies, proclamations, programs and projects to improve the livelihood and to promote sustainable development of the Ethiopian people in general and the pastoral, agro-pastoral and the farming communities in particular. Applicable policies for example are the Constitution of the FDRE, which was issued in August 1995 with several provisions in articles 25, 29, 35, 36, 37, 41, 42, 43, 44, 90 and 92 that presented the concept of sustainable development focusing on economic, social, cultural, labor, development, and environmental rights. Some of the following national policies and strategies, such as agricultural and rural development policies and strategies, health policy, national cultural policy of Ethiopia, national policy of Ethiopian women, national policy of Ethiopian youth; legal framework such as expropriation of landholding (proclamation No. 1161/2019), refugee proclamation No.

1110/2019, labor proclamation No. 1156/2019; Ethiopian relevant laws and regulations were reviewed.

Implementation arrangement: MInT will take the lead role in the process. The Ministry, as the key implementer, has established a coordination unit that includes environmental and social staff to address Environmental and Social issues in the project activities. The Directorate for Digital Transformation Program (DDTP) at different levels will take a lead role in the process and has also established Coordination Units that include environmental and social staff to address Environmental and Social issues in its activities. The woreda project task force will take the lead role in the process and has established Coordination Units that include environmental and social focal persons to address environmental and social issues in the project activities.

Summary of community consultation: The summary of community consultation is summarized below:

- The project will help the youth gain better access and participation in the Digital Integration Enhancing teaching learning process
- The youth can use the internet for research, studies, communication, and entertainment including sports.
- The project is good and unlikely to negatively affect the HUCs, except for fences, kiosks other temporary business structures along the roads where fiber optic cables will be laid, but this they acknowledged will be temporary and rare.
- At community level there is need for community centers with internet connections. It was argued that the best way to reach them with project information was through their clan leaders and local administrators.
- Improved access to learning and teaching materials for HUCs learners
- Access to weather information for better farming
- Increased online business leading better returns and value for money
- The cost of accessing internet in the homes be reduced to improve usage,
- Reduce carbon emissions because with stable and affordable internet connections fewer people will travel for meetings or classes away from home or even to visit cyber cafes in towns.
- Access to online jobs will reduce unemployment and poverty in the HUCs territories.
- Contributing to solve social inequality related problems by integrating and including vulnerable groups

- the gadgets such as tablets, smartphones and computers that were necessary in accessing the digital services were too expensive for them. Also, the mobile internet service was weak, intermittent, and the services too expensive

Adverse effects of EARDIP SOP II: This ULCPF highlights risks that are of particular relevance to HUCs. It also makes recommendations for further assessments and management measures; for free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) consultation procedures; monitoring; and options for grievance redress for HUCs found on project sites. The summary of risks and potential mitigation measures is indicated below:

- Lack of capacity of HUCs- work on the capacity building efforts that focus on HUCs contexts and level of exposure to digital technologies, practice HUCs based application and combining unique needs of the HUCs and their knowledge base
- Exclusion of affected stakeholders (Historically underserved communities, refugees, IDPs and others) - Enhance outreach and awareness raising to ensure clarity on the project by all key stakeholders as well as identify their needs and concerns. Multiple means of communication (cultural and language appropriate) should be used to ensure that all members are reached including the HUCs and other Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.
- Project activities not being safeguards responsive- Assign Environmental and Social Risk Safeguards focal person at woreda level and provide capacity development training on this framework and requirements among others.
- Women and girls exclusion- give them opportunities to access top digital learning environments and engage with digital technology, developing digital skills programs toward employability, providing digital skills training for out-of-school girls, creating safe spaces that inspire participation and inclusion in digital education for girls and boys, and encouraging female role models in the digital and tech sectors
- Affordability of services by HUC- Introducing voucher or waiver/cost sharing mechanism to enhance the affordability capacity of HUCs
- Lack of employment opportunities for HUCs- maximize local employment.
- Disproportionate impact on HUCs- Increasing local skills and capacities in impacts screening, assessment and monitoring.

Grievance Redress Mechanism:The EARDIP SOP II will establish a Grievance Redress Mechanism to allow affected ULCs/HUCs and other related stakeholders to appeal decisions, practices, and activities that may arise during preparation and implementation of the EARDIP SOP II. The ULCs will be made fully aware of their rights and the procedures for filing the complaints and grievances verbally and in writing during the planning, designing and implementation of ULCP. To ensure a functioning GRM, the project has envisaged a two-tier project Grievance Redress Mechanism/GRM system, one at the project level, and one at the Central PIU level. The project level GRC will record all the grievances at site office, will analyze and resolve the grievances. Any unresolved grievances at local level will then be submitted to the central level Grievance Resolution Committee/GRC for further action with its recommendation. The central level GRC will take the decision on the grievance and send the decision to the project level GRC for disclosure to the complainant . The GRM will be functional throughout the project cycle.

Local measures will be put into place to receive complaints:

- a hotline will be created for stakeholders to use for questions, recommendations and grievances with signage displaying the number at project sites
- Suggestion/GRM boxes will be installed at the pilot project sites to receive complaints
- the phone numbers for the Project Manager and Monitoring and Evaluation/M&E Officers will be displayed at several sites around the digital center locations. These measures have been discussed and supported by ULCs and other stakeholders participated during the consultation sessions held for ULCPF preparation. Further consultation will also be made with the HUC as part of the ULCP.

Underserved Local Communities Plan: The Underserved Local Communities Plan (ULCP) will be site specific with historically underserved traditional local communities. The plan will include elements such as screening, social assessment, awareness creation, measures to ensure benefits to the historically underserved communities, measures to avoid impacts on them, and culturally appropriate consultations and grievance procedures.

Disclosure and Dissemination Strategy: The draft and final version of the ULCPF will be disclosed to the stakeholders, including the affected UL communities through appropriate channel, and consulted with them to get their comments, concerns, and feedback on the draft ULCPF. The ULCPF will be finalized incorporating the relevant suggestions and feedback received from the

representatives of UL communities and stakeholders. The final ULCPF will be disclosed once approved by concerned PIUs and World Bank. As a way forward it is recommended that :

- I. The ULCPF be accepted and applied to address and mitigate the project risks on Historically Underserved Communities (HUC).
- II. The project impacts and implementation of mitigation measures, be monitored regularly
- III. Outreach and awareness raising is enhanced to ensure clarity on the project by all key stakeholders. Multiple means of communication (cultural and language appropriate) should be used to ensure that all members are reached including the HUCs and Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups/VDGs.
- IV. Work with local/village elders and religious leaders and other respected community leaders in project planning, implementation, and M&E. The emphasis should be placed on working with people and groups trusted by the communities.
- V. For the implementation and monitoring of underserved communities plan, collaborate with trusted local organizations, Civil Society Organizations/CSOs, Non-Governmental Organizations/NGOs, and other relevant institutions that have a history and good working relationships with the HUCs and have relevant experience in the implementation of such plans.

Monitoring and Evaluation: The ULCPF implementation should be monitored and supervised to assess/track whether the objective of the impact mitigation goal is achieved and whether the project-affected persons have had their social development status maintained to levels prior to project or improved. This ULCPF also has a provision in doing so and is supplemented by a Underserved Local Community Plan (ULCP), the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and the SEA/SH Action Plan.

1.0. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background Underserved Local Community Planning Framework

This Underserved Local Community Planning Framework (ULCPF) provides policy, strategy, process and procedures to understand and mitigate the project impacts on HUCs under the Eastern Africa Regional Digital Integration Project SOP II (EARDIP SOP II). The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) has requested the World Bank (WB) to support the preparation and implementation of the EARDIP SOP II with the project development objective to promote the expansion of an integrated digital market across Eastern Africa by increasing cross-border broadband connectivity, data flows and digital trade in the region. The ULCPF will be applicable to the cross-border and national backbone network connectivity (subcomponent 1.1.), last mile connectivity, including in borderland areas (subcomponent 1.2) and digital enablers for cross-border trade and service delivery (subcomponent 3.1) subcomponents. Since, the project screening or feasibility study is not completed, during project implementation, Underserved Local Community Plan (ULCP) will be prepared according to this ULCF.

The focus of the ULCPF is on Impacts on the Underserved Local; Communities/ULCs due to the implementation of the EARDIP SOP II project in relation to subcomponents 1.1, 1.2, and 3.1. Adhering to this framework each sub project should develop Underserved Local Community Plan (ULCP). This will be conducted during the project detailed design and Underserved Local Community Plan/ULCP stage of backbone network connectivity, last mile connectivity and cross-border trade and service delivery infrastructure works.

1.2. Background and Context of the Ethiopian Digital Transformation Status

The objective of conducting the Underserved Local Community Planning Framework is to assess the potential impact of the proposed interventions of EA-RDIP SOP II on the underserved and most vulnerable populations with the view to ensure the project design reflects the needs of all beneficiaries in the most appropriate manner. As per the Project Appraisal Document/PAD, 5 priority fiber optic link points/Woredas (Adwa, Bameza, Halli, Gode and Dolo Odo) are identified under cross-border backbone network connectivity linked to sub-component 1.1., Cross-border and backbone network connectivity. Under sub-component 1.2., Last mile connectivity, including in borderland areas, refugees/IDP and host communities are proposed to be covered. Two regional states, four

Woredas and one town are identified as IP Microwave points. These link or connection points are Gambela (Dima Woreda), Somali (Aw-Bare Woreda, Kebribeya town, Dolo Odo and Bokolmayo Woredas). In general, under the EARDIP SOP II for Ethiopia, a total number of five regional states, eight Woredas and one town are identified as link points.

1.3. Project Beneficiaries

The project, among others, will benefit citizens including historically underserved communities, refugees, Internally Displaced Persons/IDPs, public and private institutions in Regions of Ethiopia through improved access to connectivity, an environment enabling digital services and provision of digital skills.

a) **Citizens:** Broadband network coverage (of the population²) is expected to increase from 85 to 98 percent in Ethiopia and 90 to 100 percent in Djibouti, and approximately 8,000 students, of whom at least 30 percent are women, including persons with disabilities, will also benefit directly from digital skills trainings (conducted using accessible techniques and tools).

b) **Refugees and IDPs:** Approximately 23 refugee camps, IDPs, and people in host communities on the borders of Ethiopia with Somalia, South Sudan, and Kenya will directly benefit from enhanced network coverage and new access to mobile and emergency response Information and Communication Technologies/ICT infrastructure.

1.4. Objectives of the Underserved Local Community Planning Framework

The overall objective of the underserved local community planning framework is to identify potential social impacts and concerns on underserved communities and the mitigation procedures to be followed.

The specific objectives of the underserved local community planning framework are to:

a. Ensure that historically underserved communities participate in and benefit from any activities in the Project;

² Note that population coverage is generally much higher than the actual number of subscribers but lower than the territory covered.

- b. Avoid or minimize potentially adverse effects on underserved communities, and if it is unavoidable, develop and implement mitigation measures based on Free, Prior, and Informed Consultation (FPIC) resulting in broad supports from the impacted IPs/ULCs;
- c. Maximize the potential positive effects of the project on the historically underserved communities, based on FPIC with them ensuring that the design and implementation of the activity incorporate aspirations and needs of the Historically Underserved Communities.

1.5. Methodology

Study design and methodology: Both secondary and primary sources data were collected during the preparation of the framework for EA-RDIP SOP II project. This helped the team to explore and produce cultural descriptions, uncovering multiple realities and complexities of livelihood activities of the EA-RDIP SOP II covered regions of Ethiopia. The assignment also has involved the assessment of any policy/legal conditions that may have changed and institutional changes that may have occurred and need further consideration.

Approach: the ULCPF is prepared in a way that maintains the balance of social safeguards standardization and empowering the PAPs in the process until they receive the required attention starting from project design, implementation and, monitoring and evaluation. The output of the consultation is establishing a framework for the development of the ULCPF and subsequent plan. The consultant has used a participatory bottom-up approach that considers the active participation of federal, regional and woreda level officials, sector representatives and experts on one hand and elderly, religious leaders and community or clan leaders on the other hand. The stakeholder consultation was conducted at regional level (Afar, Somali and Gambella regional states) and at Woreda level at Elidar woreda and the community consultation at Halli-Lofefe connectivity route in Afar region. Finally, the methodology has a tool to capture mitigation mechanisms on the identified potential risks and impacts which are derived from the views of the sector and bureau representatives and community members at large.

Key Informant Interview: Key informant interview (KII) has been conducted with relevant stakeholders from federal to woreda level. Table 1 presents the summary of the participant organizations and people. The purpose of the KII with stakeholders is twofold. First, as part of an on-going project information disclosure, provide project information to allow stakeholders understand: (i) the purpose, nature, and scale of the project; (ii) the duration of proposed project activities; (iii)

potential benefits, risks and adverse impacts of the project; (iv) the proposed stakeholder engagement process highlighting the ways in which stakeholders can participate in designing, implementing and monitoring ULCPF; and (v) the process and means by which grievances can be raised and will be addressed. Accordingly, the key informant interview with relevant federal level stakeholders has been conducted from October 10 to November 4, 2022; stakeholders in Afar region from November 09-13, 2022; and stakeholders in Elidar woreda in Halli-Lofefele connectivity route in Afar region from November 18-21, 2022. Annex 10 gives detail contract address of the participant organizations and key informant interview.

Video conference and virtual consultation: Unlike for Afar region, the MInT security clearance was not obtained for the face-to-face interview with the stakeholders in Somali and Gambella regions. The security risks in Somali region are posed due to the recent war with the Al-Shebab terrorist group and the current political instability in the region. The source of security risks in Gambella region is associated with the recurring attacks from the Murule armed clan from South Sudan. To mitigate these security risks, consultation with stakeholders in Somali and Gambella regions³ have been conducted through video conference and virtual consultation. The consultation with stakeholders in Somali region was conducted through video conference on October 28, 2022, whereas consultation with stakeholders from Gambella region was done on November 16, 2022 through virtual consultation using Microsoft Teams. Both the video conference and virtual consultations were facilitated by the MInT team. The summary of the participant organizations and people in video conference and virtual consultation is given in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Participant Organizations and Individuals in Key Informant Interview, Video Conference and Virtual Consultation.

<i>Name of organization</i>	<i>Number of KII</i>	<i>Level of Stakeholder Group</i>
Ministry of Innovation and Technology	3	Federal
Ethiopian Communication Agency	1	
Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration	1	
National Research and Education Networks	1	
Development Bank of Ethiopia	4	
Ethiopian Investment Commission	1	
Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority	2	
Ministry of Women and Social Affairs	1	
National ID Program Office	2	

³ In Somali 10 participants have involved in video conference based stakeholder consultation (Innovation and Technology Bureau-5, Women and Children Affairs Bureau 2 and Environmental Protection Authority 3) and in the case of Gambella region 4 stakeholders were involved in virtual consultation (Innovation and Technology Commission-2, Women and Children Affairs Bureau and Peace and security 1 each).

Afar Region Trade and Industry Bureau	2	Regional
Afar Region Science, Innovation and Technology Commission	5	
Afar Region Women and Children Affairs Bureau	1	
Afar Region Peace and Security Bureau	1	
Afar Region Rural Land Use and Administration Bureau	1	
Afar Region Environmental Protection Bureau	1	
Somali Region Innovation and Technology Bureau*	5	
Somali Region Women and Children Affairs Bureau*	2	
Somali Region Environmental Protection Bureau*	3	
Gambella Region Innovation and Technology Commission**	2	
Gambella Region Peace and Security Bureau**	1	
Gambella Region Women and Children Affairs Bureau**	1	
Elidar Woreda Trade Office***	1	Woreda
Elidar Woreda Rural Land Use and Administration Office***	1	
Elidar Woreda Environmental Protection Office***	1	
Elidar Woreda Women and Children Affairs Office***	1	
Elidar Woreda Peace and Security Office***	1	

Consultation conducted by Afar Regional State Science, Innovation and Technology

Commission: Due to the security protocol, the ULCPF consultants didn't go to Elidar Woreda located in Afar regional state. As a result, together with MInT with Digital Transformation Program Office and MInT-Directorate to Councils and Regions Coordination; the consultant provided orientation on Woreda level stakeholder and community consultation to experts working in Afar regional state's Science, Innovation and Technology Commission. Apparently, the experts have conducted the Woreda level stakeholder consultation starting from November 15, up to November 23, 2022. The summary of the stakeholder consultation participants is also included on table 1, below.

Consultation with HUCs: The community consultation in Haweli Kebele along the Halli-Ellidar-Lofefelo connectivity route in Afar region has been conducted during the preparation of the framework. It was held at the Galafi village from November 18-21, 2022 in which 17(11 male and 6 female) participants took part with the aim to capture the views and concerns of all segments in the local community including disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, the participants were composed of clan leader, religious leaders, community representative, women, youth, person with disability and refugee.

The minutes, sample photos and attendance sheet of this community consultation are annexed herewith (see Annex 1). The community consultation in the Bameza-Abugedaf and Dollo-Oddo connectivity routes are recommended for special consideration in the next phase of stakeholder consultation in the project .

Table 2: Summary of community Condsultation Participants at hawli Kebele, Elidar Woreda-Afar Region.

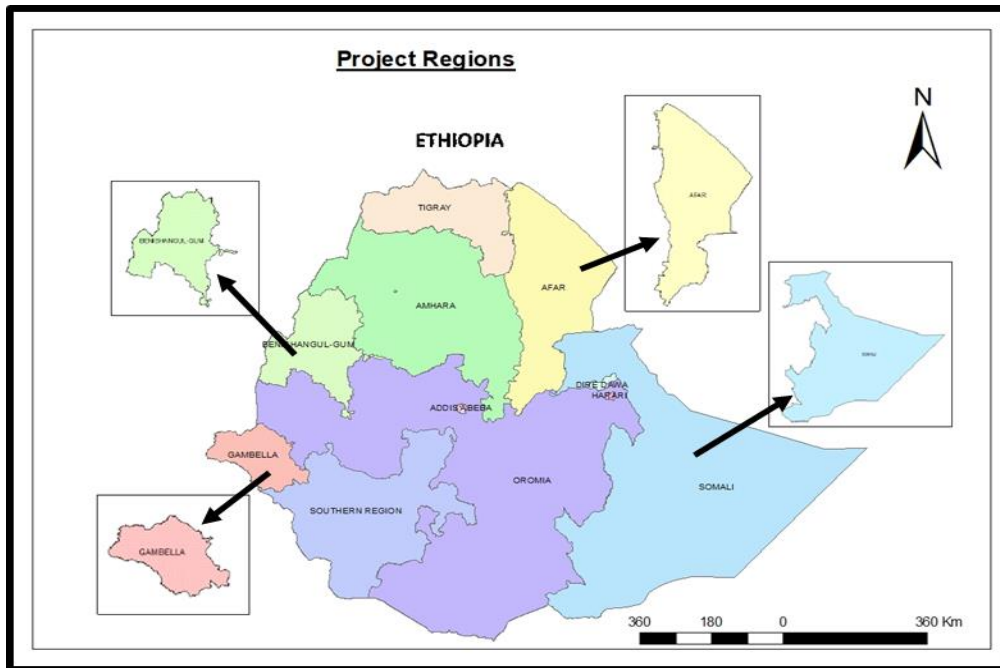
Category of Participants	Gender		Total number of Participants	Location	Date
	Male	Female			
Community/clan leaders	2		2	Hawli Kebele-Elidar Woreda	November 21, 2022
Religious leaders	2		2		
Elderly	2		2		
Women	-	2	2		
Extremely poor pastoralist individuals	2	1	3		
Person with disabilities	1	1	2		
Uneducated or unemployed youths	1	1	2		
Refugees or internally displaced persons	1	1	2		
Total	11	6	17		

2.0. BASELINE INFORMATION OF THE EA-RDIP SOP II TARGET AREAS

2.1. Overview of Bio-Physical Baseline

Ethiopia is a large land-locked country occupying an area of over 1.1 million square km². It is located between 3° and 15°N latitude and 33° and 48 ° E longitudes. Ethiopia is bounded by Sudan on the west, Eritrea and Djibouti on the northeast, Somalia on the east and southeast, and Kenya on the south. The country is constituted of ten regional states and two city administrations. It is a country of great geographical and climatic diversity, which has given rise to many and varied ecological systems. The biophysical conditions of the regions where the project target implementation regions or the infrastructure developments will take place are situated in Afar, Benishangul Gumuz, Somali, and Gambella regions. Figure showing the EARDIP SOP II is depicted below (see on figure 1).

Figure 1: Map of Ethiopia showing EARDIP SOP II Project Target Regions



2.2. Socio-Economic Information of the EA-RDIP SOP II Target Areas

The project targeted regions (Afar, Somali, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella and Tigray) where the subproject 1,1 and 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, are planned to be implemented are categorized in Bereha Eco-climatic zones, where have low soil quality, high erosion potential and vulnerability to pastoral livelihood and

where lots of Internally Displaced People and Refugees hosted. In all cases the host community is also underserved and unserved borderland community from the connectivity point of view. These regions are very important environmentally and socially as most of the country's protected areas, wildlife reserves and migratory wildlife are situated and the river basins are also passing or originated in these regions. Furthermore, these areas are known for their rich minerals and oil (Gold, natural gas etc) and the people who reside in these regions also are indigenous for the country and with lots of cultural and historical heritages furthermore these regions are known for their water resources and almost all the river basins are either sourced from or passing through these regions.

2.2.1. Afar Regional State

Afar regional state in Ethiopia is homeland of Afar people, and it is the region where lowest point of the country is located. The sensitive natural ecosystem, historical and heritage sites situated in this region are Awash National Park, Yangudi Rassa National Park, Afar Depression, Ert Ale Active Volcano, Hadar and Aramis areas which are which are historical and designated as tourist attraction points. Afar is a home to peculiar wildlife, which include African wild ass, Grevy's Zebra, Wild Fox, Wild cat, Cheetah, and Ostrich. Based on the projection made in 2017 by CSA the Afar regional state population was 1,812,002 comprised of 991,000 men and 821,000 women; urban inhabitants' number 346,000 of the population, the remaining 1,446,000 are pastoralists which is around 80% of the total population. This region has an estimated density of 14.38 people per square kilometer and the average household are counted 5.6 persons. It is the region where Awash River end up into interconnected lakes.

Afar regional state is in the north-eastern part of Ethiopia with an area of about 150,000km² that stretches in the lowlands covering the Awash valley and the Dankil depression. Geographically, it is located between 39°34' and 42°28' East Longitude and 8°04' and 14°30' North Latitude. The region is bordered with Tigray region to the northwest, Amhara region to the southwest, Oromia region to the south, and Ethiopian Somali region to the southeast. It is also bordered with Djibouti to the east and Eritrea to the northeast. Administratively, the region is divided into 5 zones, 32 *Woredas* and 401 *Kebeles*. Afar people belong to the Cushitic-speaking language groups in Ethiopia and the society is structured into clans and sub-clans.

The projects will capitalize on existing customary information sharing system i.e Dagu in disseminating and sharing knowledge and best practice among communities. Dagu functions within a defined set of regulations and expectations, though the rules are not necessarily transcribed. The

law of Dagu means that whenever a person meets someone on the road who has travelled some distance, for example, from a nearby village, he is required to pause and engage in a news exchange session. The two persons will usually sit down immediately and ask each other ‘Iytii mahatobie?’ and ‘Intii maha tubilie?’ (‘What have your ears heard?’; ‘What have your eyes witnessed?’). The Dagu can involve any item of public relevance, such as weddings, funerals, battles, new alliances, missing cattle, the conditions of the trail ahead, or the weather. Failure to pass on relevant information is not only an offence to the conversation partner, but considered harmful to the community. To this end, misuse of Dagu is subject to punishment within customary law (Mada’a). Anyone who passes on unchecked information can be punished according to the Mada’a. Disseminating false or fabricated information is considered “unforgivable”. Moreover, the projects, through capacity building interventions, enhance the participation of customary institution and will not adversely impact socio-political culture of these underserved communities.

Afar regional state is characterized by an arid and semi-arid climate with low and erratic rainfall that has frequently been affected by drought. The north-eastern part of the region is chronically water insecure due to a lack of perennial rivers, leaving the people of Afar largely dependent on ponds and traditional wells for their water supply. One of the Woreda (Elidear) was sampled for this study.

I. Elidaar Woreda

Elidaar Woreda has a total population of 52,888 constituting of 29,029 (55%) males and 23,837 (45%) females with a total of 5,647 households. Out of which a total population of 15,060 constituting of 8,184 males and 6,876 females and a total of 2,229 households (Female = 672) are found in EA-RDIP SOP II intervention kebeles namely Haweli or Galafi, Elidaar, Bure, Gewha, Manda, and Suela. Among the Kebeles Bure is the most populated and Suela is the least populated Kebele.

II. Profile of Underserved Communities in Afar Regional State

A. Argoba ethnic group

The Argoba ethnic group lives in Argoba Special Woreda, which are their ancestral territories. They make their living from the land, the main natural resource inherited from their forefathers. Recognizing the special characteristics, and their long historical vulnerability, the Argoba People have been underserved for generations since the mid-1600s. In 1995, the government of Ethiopia

materialized the rights of the people through its constitution and the Argoba were given their own special woreda in 1997. The values, culture and norms governing social, political and economic institutions in Argoba originate from Islamic thoughts and principles. The second differentiating factor is the Argoba commonly migrates in many parts of the country. Thus, the people have a unique culture practicing mixed agriculture with a special attachment to trade. The Argoba women are commonly involved in spinning cotton so that men can weave and sell it to generate income. In order to draw the best benefits from their main economic engagement, agriculture, they have a long history of terracing to rehabilitate the natural environment, decrease soil erosion, eventually improve fertility and ultimately increase production.

The Argoba ethnic group is a minority in Afar region and vulnerable to livelihood shocks during early or late rains, draught, and outbreak of pest which ultimately affect their overall productivity. The Argoba people have various forms of social affiliations, resources and networks. They have various arrangements as an informal social protection mechanism, such as livestock transfer mechanisms with neighboring people, resource pooling within their vicinity, sharing information, discussing peace and security and so on. Besides, the Argoba have a unique social institution called Liela, that is open for all in terms of membership. It is a social network used to discuss various issues covering production, market, health of people and livestock, food shortages, social services, grain stocks, death of livestock, restocking, funeral, wedding, agricultural inputs, peace and security. The village residents meet every Friday under a tree commonly called Helewa; the discussion is usually context specific, providing a coping strategy for various shocks, trends and seasonality. The meeting under the Helewa enables them to share available resources within the village and design strategies to cope with the stemming challenges. If a member of the community has lost or will lose his/her livestock due to disease or other natural disaster, the community will discuss the issue and decide to pool resources to restock the loss. The reciprocity and mutual support applies across agenda items of everyday meeting discussions at Liela. Marriage, divorce and inheritance are determined by religion rites, and women do not have equal rights over resources. The project will use the platform of the Liela as part of various participatory approaches to discuss and decide on project issues. The projects can use this social networking to mobilize community efforts for the implementation of development interventions. As the findings of the community consultation indicated, the communities fully accepted the projects implementation approach and expressed complementarities to informal social institution and community culture.

B. Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees

Two refugee camps in Afar Regional State were visited in August 2019: Barahle (since 2007) and Aysaita (since 2007). These camps house mainly ethnic Afar Eritrean refugees totalling some 27,000 persons. Overall, about 60 per cent of refugees are under 18 years of age; approximately 51 per cent are women⁴. On the other hand, in Afar Region, food assistance remains overall inadequate. More than 100,400 people (21 per cent of target) have received assistance under Round 5 relief food distribution. Multi-purpose cash support schemes are being explored to ensure food security amongst vulnerable households and increase reach. Similarly, shelter support for IDPs is on-going but still inadequate due to limited funding, lack of local shelter materials and other operational challenges. In a slow yet steady progress, more than 79,000 households have received shelter assistance to date, while shelter rehabilitation is on-going for an additional 1,994 households. Overall, more than 137,000 people in return areas are yet to receive shelter assistance. Some areas in Berhale, Dalol and Kunneba woredas (Zone 2) remained inaccessible as of 4 January owing to insecurity and lack of roads. Meanwhile, the return of IDPs living with host communities in and around Semera to Zones 2 and 4 continues. On 4 January, the second batch of returnees, 534 IDPs in total, was supported to return to their areas of origin, leaving 4,414 IDPs remaining to return by end January⁵.

2.2.2. Gambella Regional State

Gambella Regional State has a total land area of 29,782.82 km², with a total population of 396,000 (207,000 males and 189,000 female) according to the CSA, 2013 national population projection data for 2014-2017. Of these, 68.7% inhabit in rural areas while 31.3% live in urban areas. This region has an estimated density of 10 people per square kilometer and in average 4.6 persons to household. The region is in the south-western part of Ethiopia, bordering with Oromia Regional State in the north and east, SNNPR in the south and east, and Benishangul-Gumuz in the north. The Region also borders the Republic of South Sudan in the south and Sudan in the west. The altitude of Gambella region ranges between 300 and 2,500 m.a.s.l. Agro-ecologically, the region is predominantly lowland (kola), with a few midlands (Woina Dega).

⁴ International Labor Organization (2020). Assessment of employmentintensive investment strategies in refugee-hosting communities in Ethiopia

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/ethiopia-situation-report-18-jan-2023>

The average annual rainfall of the region varies according to the different altitudes. While areas with 400 - 500 m.a.s.l of the western part receive 900 mm - 1500 mm/annum, areas over 2,000 m.a.s.l (eastern part) receive average rainfall ranging from 1,900 to 2,100 mm/annum. Accordingly, the average temperature is 17.50C – 27.50C and the mean annual rainfall is 900-2200mm. Most of the population of the region lives in rural areas where their livelihood is based on sedentary agriculture (crop based, livestock based and agro-forestry based) in which the region's economy is predominantly dependent. The region is endowed with abundant natural resources of expansive land and water which are the main source of livelihoods of the people. Gambela Region is endowed with vast natural resources.

Gambella People's National Regional State is endowed with large volume of ground and surface water sources including rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds and huge floodplain areas. The region has four main rivers: Baro, Gillo, Alwero and Akobo. These main rivers have originated from the highlands of Oromia and Southern Ethiopia Peoples' Regional State and have tremendous tributaries originated from the region and outside the region and generally these rivers flow from east to west direction. In addition, the region has two main lakes; namely: Lake Tatta in Gog Woreda and Lake BishanWaqa in Godere Woreda, and numerous ponds. The main habitats of Gambella Region are forests, woodlands, swamps and rivers. Out of the total area 25% of the land is covered with forest. The region is very rich in water sources especially availability of five major rivers, namely, Baro, Akobo, Itang, Gillo and Alwero Rivers that are also trans-boundary makes the region a water tower. The region is a home of five indigenous ethnic groups/ULCs.

The major ethnic groups are the Nuer (46%), Agnuwa (21%), Majenger (7%), Komo (3%), and Opo (3%). Gambella is also a host region for people who migrated there at different times, locally called highlanders, accounting for 20% of the population. The dominant faiths in the region are Protestant, Orthodox Christian, traditional belief, Islam, Catholic, and others.

I. Dima Woreda

The topography of the area is differentiated by rugged terrains of Gura Ferda in the north, Shoa Gimira in the East, Maji in the south and flat morphology in the west of South Sudan border. The altitude of the Dima District ranges from 412 meter to 2063 meter above sea level. Akobo River runs from east to west and forming dendritic drainage patterns whereby it's joining tributaries draining from north to south and from south to north.

II. Profile of Underserved Communities in Gambella Regional State

A. The Majang

The Majang inhabit in the thickly forested area of the south-western edge of the Ethiopian plateau. It is bordered on the west by Anywa on the south and east by the Southern Nations Nationalities and People's region and on north by Oromia Region. They belong to the Nilo-Saharan linguistic group. The Majang have a population of 12280 (6036 male and 6244 female) in Gambella Region. They reside mainly in the Majang Zone, in Mengshi and Godare woredas. Leading a non-sedentary way of life, the livelihood of the Majang is mainly based on beekeeping, especially wild bee. Other livelihood activities include hunting, gathering and shifting cultivation, with lifestyle highly attached to the forest and forest products. Currently the Majang people are practicing maize and sorghum cultivation including fruit, coffee, spices and vegetables. Domestic groups tend to farm plots adjacent to those of friends or kin, but the settlements remain small and constantly changing in composition (as well as in location). In resource management and land use, the Majang have indigenous institution called Jung. They have an indigenous forestlandrelated dispute settlement mechanism, called Guten and comprises elders and religious leaders playing important role in this regard.

B. The Opou

The Opou people are one of the five ethnic groups living in Gambella Regional State. They live in Itang special woreda (at Wnke and Mera kebeles). The total population of Opou ethnic group is 1161 (CSA, 2013). The Opou are mainly crop dependent people (Maize, Millets and Sorghum) with hunting and gathering as their supplementary income sources. They also practice beekeeping.

C. The Komo

Living in Anyuaa zone, Komo ethnic group are minority in number than the rest of ethnic groups, they are agrarian and fishermen. In the reality the business sector of the regional economy mostly controlled by the highlanders, the "indigenous" greatly dependent on government jobs⁶. The Komo people counts with population of only 224 (0.07 %)⁷.

D. Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees

Most of these recent ethnic clashes are centred on access to land resources and power. Since the re-eruption of conflicts in South Sudan in 2013, the number of new refugee arrivals in Gambella has once again increased. By the end of 2017, the host population was estimated at 307,097, while the

⁶ Endalkachew Girma, 2016, Assessing the Impact of South Sudanese Refugees on the Host Communities of Itang Woreda : A Case Study of Tierkidi Refugee Camp in Gambella Regional State

⁷ CSA, 2007.

refugee population stood at 399,174, representing 57 per cent of the total population in the Gambella Region. Despite the large numbers of refugees and the instability in the region, the Ethiopian government has continuously maintained its open door policy toward refugees⁸. Since the new arrivals in 2013, existing camps have been filled to capacity and the Ethiopian Government has opened up new refugee camps. By now, more than 320,000 South Sudanese refugees are sheltered in 7 camps in the Gambella Regional State. This includes the Nguenyiel camp (83,988), the Tierkidi camp (65,260), the Jewi camp (59,220), the Kule camp (45,815), the Pugnido camp 1 (43,719), the Pugnido 2 (9,424), and the Okugo camp (11,858) while 1,730 refugees are accommodated in Akula⁹. Importantly, five of the refugee camps in Gambella constitute the largest refugee camps in Ethiopia and a large majority of these refugees live in situations of protracted displacements¹⁰.

2.2.3. Ethiopian Somali Regional State

Ethiopian Somali Regional State is the second largest region in Ethiopia next to Oromia regional State that covers 350,000km², which is located in south-eastern part of the country. It is situated between 4° and 11' N latitude and 40 ° and 48' E longitude. The region is arid and mostly hot (18-45°C), mostly plain with an altitude 400-1600 meters above sea levels. The average annual rainfall ranges from 150mm-650mm and has bimodal rainfall. The region is endowed with perennial rivers: Wabi Shebelle, Genale, Dawa and Weyib and seasonal rivers: Erer, Daketa and Fafen. Thus, the region has irrigated and localized rain fed farm potentials. However, low rainfall, high temperature, lack of infrastructure is the major constraints. The development of irrigated agriculture in fertile areas of the above rivers basins and the exploitation of perennial springs, seasonal floods and rain water harvesting elsewhere in the region for irrigated crop and pasture production can be taken into consideration. In the rain fed areas, the use of drought resistant crop varieties together with soil and water conservation techniques can improve farm production.

According to CSA (2013) projection, Somali region has a population of 5.3 million with average household size of 6.6. The region consists of 11 zonal administration, 93 districts, 6 city

⁸ Atrafi, H. (2017). Working towards inclusion – Refugees within the national systems of Ethiopia. *New Issues in Refugee Research, Research Paper 284*. Geneva: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR: The UN Refugee Agency). Retrieved from <https://www.unhcr.org/5a74815f7.pdf>

⁹ All camps were established in the Anywaa zone except the reception centres. A reception centre is a location with facilities for receiving and attending to the immediate needs of refugees or asylum-seekers as they arrive at Ethiopian borders. After going through the first level registration, the asylum-seekers are transported to refugee camps. The processes of transporting refugees to refugee camps can take from a week to a couple of weeks depending on the number of asylum-seekers and the logistic capacities of the UN agencies, the Authority of Refugees and Returnees' Affairs in Ethiopia (ARRA), and other NGOs working on refugee protection.

¹⁰ Vemuru, V., Sarkar, A., & Fitri Woodhouse, A. (2020). Impact of refugees on hosting communities in Ethiopia: A social analysis. Washington, DC: The World Bank.

administrations and 1,224 *Kebeles*. People are primarily dependent on pastoralism. Livestock in the region is both considered as social prestige and means of wealth accumulations. Thus, the region has livestock population of 30,536,000 million heads, encompassing (24%) of cattle, (36.5%) of sheep, (32.2%) of goat, (7.2%) of camel and (1%) of equines (CSA, 2014). The region has 17 rural livelihood zones, generally classified as pastoral, agro-pastoral, riverine sedentary farming and etc. Livestock are the main pillar of livelihoods in Somali region supporting about 86% of the people. It supplies milk and meat for home consumption, and live animals for sale.

I. Dolo Ado Woreda

Dolo Ado Woreda (also referred to as “Dolo Addo” or “Dollo Ado”) is a woreda in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia and part of the Liben Zone. Towns in Dolo Ado Woreda include Dolo Ado town and Softu. Dolo Ado town is located at the confluence of the Ganale and Dawa River, and bordered to the northwest by Filtu Woreda, on the northeast by Afder Zone, on the southeast by Somalia, and on the south by Kenya¹¹.

The total population of Dolo Ado Woreda was 150,100 in 2011 of which 37,000 living in Dolo Ado town (Woreda census data, 2011). This population census does not include the Refugee Settlements mostly situated along the Genale river: Bur-Amino, Bokolmayo, Melkadida, Kobe, and Hilaweyn. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Operational portal, there are currently 157,000 refugees living in the refugee settlements in Dolo Ado Woreda. The arrivals mostly originating from the Bay, Gedo, Middle Juba and Bakool regions since 2009 and fled to the refugee settlements from conflicts, exacerbated by the droughts in Somalia (Betts et al., 2019). Most refugees remain poor and dependent upon food aid. Only 21% of refugees have an income-generating activity, compared with 29% of the host community. The largest source of employment for both communities is with humanitarian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations.

II. Profile of Underserved Communities in Somali Regional State

A. Competition between Gerri and Jarso

¹¹ European Commission (EC-DEVCO) 2020. Regional Baseline of Dolo Ado Woreda, Somali Region, Ethiopia. Gouda, The Netherlands, March 2020.

Conflicts between the Gerri (sometimes also spelled Girhi) and Jarso illustrate the complexities of Somali-Oromo relations under ethnic federalism. Straddling the border between eastern Hararghe in Oromiya and Fafen zone in SRS close to the regional capital Jigjiga, the Gerri-Jarso are agro-pastoralists who mix ‘Oromo farming techniques’ with ‘Somali social institutions’. The Gerri and Jarso are closely intermarried. The numerically stronger Jarso have for long been subordinated to the Gerri. The later consider themselves more ‘noble’ as they trace their genealogy to the Darood clan family. Perceptions about the Gerri-Jarso’s collective identity are contested by both insiders and outsiders and by Oromo and Somalis alike. For a long time, Somalis viewed both as Somali, considering conflicts between the Gerri and Jarso as an intra-Somali affair. But in the eyes of members of the Absame lineages (who are part of the Darood clan family), these same conflicts were part of an inter-ethnic confrontation between Somali (Gerri) and Oromo (Jarso). Given this complex mixture of intermarriage and hierarchy, competition over land and political dominance has been part of the centuries old Gerri-Jarso compact. These struggles intensified whenever one group attempted to use changing political conditions to challenge or reassert its counterpart.

B. Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees

Hosting communities face pre-existing and precarious socio-economic situations plagued by food insecurity, limited access to basic social services and economic infrastructure, poor livelihood opportunities, shifting land ownership and access patterns, and a diminishing natural resource base¹². Climate change, conflict and securitization of borders across the region are an increasing threat to regional stability. Low rainfall, high temperature and insufficient infrastructures pose major constraints to the region’s populations and expose them to recurring shocks. As of January 2022, during the Round 28 Displacement Tracking Matrix/DTM site assessments 157,227 households comprising 932,568 IDPs were identified in 457 sites in Somali region¹³. Conflict was the main reason for displacement and displaced an estimated 517,750 IDPs climate displaced 414,818 from drought, seasonal floods flash floods and landslides. Conflict-induced IDPs are clustered mostly along the frontier areas of Somali – Oromia border. They are mainly hosted in Fafan, Dawa, Liban and Afdar zones, which border Oromia. Populations displaced by drought are primarily in the interior zones of Dawa, Korahey, Shabelle, and Doollo, as well as Siti and Jarar zones.

¹² Somali Region Durable Solutions Strategy 2017-2020

¹³ IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix. Site Assessment. Round 28. Dec 2021-Jan 2022.

Drought has resulted in the displacement of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in Erer, Nogob, Shabelle, Korahe, Dollo, Afder, Liban, and Dawa. More than 3.5 million people affected in Somali region¹⁴. 2.2 million people in Somali region are in need of water assistance in 78 woredas. More than 67 percent of the 1.46 million livestock deaths resulting from the drought affecting the Ethiopian lowlands are seen in Somali¹⁵. Surviving animals have significantly deteriorated body conditions which has decreased their market value. At least 183,000 people have migrated in search of water, pasture, or assistance¹⁶.

Following the Federal Government of Ethiopia's (GOE) endorsement of the Internally Displaced Persons Recovery Plan in April 2019, the Somali Regional Government returned and relocated conflict affected IDPs that had sought refuge within the Somali region and along the border areas between the Somali and Oromia regions. 64,719 households comprising of 388,353 returning IDPs have been identified in 97 villages according to the DTM National Displacement Report¹⁷. To date 2,121 households have been relocated by the regional govt. to areas in Shinele, Erer, Mieso, Raso, Marsin, Warder, Goljano, Awbare, El Ogaden, Birgod woredas and the government has announced intentions to facilitate the relocation of 17,000 households¹⁸.

¹⁴ OCHA. Drought Update Report. No.3. April 2022

¹⁵ OCHA. Drought Update Report. No.3. April 2022

¹⁶ OCHA. Drought Update Report. No.3. April 2022

¹⁷ DTM National Displacement Report 11. DEC 2021

¹⁸ Durable Solutions Workng Group Meeting. Somali Region. May 2021.

3.0. LEGAL, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

3.1. Administrative Framework

Ethiopia is a Federal Democratic Republic. The 1995 constitution of Ethiopia establishes nine States that are demarcated based on settlement patterns, language identity and under consensus of the people in the respective areas. The constitution therefore establishes the Federal government and the State Authority, both of which have legislative, executive and judicial powers (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The constitution also gives citizens the right to fully partake in local and national development; as such, the lowest units of local government are empowered to allow citizens make direct contribution in the administration of grass root level units. For instance, Article 89, Section 6 of the Ethiopian Constitution (1995) stipulates that “Government shall at all times promote the participation of the People in the formulation of national development policies and programs; it shall also have the duty to support the initiatives of the People in their development endeavors”.

At the urban level, there exist city administrations whilst the rural areas are under the jurisdiction of districts known as “woredas”. Both the city and the district administrations are mandated by state constitutions to plan and execute socio- economic programs and projects for the benefit of residents within their respective geographic areas. These local authorities largely depend on grants from regional states for the implementation of developmental activities. At the lowest level of governance structure in Ethiopia are village level authorities called “Kebeles” which oversee development in village communities. The Kebeles are expected to collect income taxes from agricultural land, organize communal labor to support the execution of developmental activities and assist in the resolution of conflicts. The approval of development plans prepared by the woredas is also the responsibility of Kebeles. A major challenge faced by local authority (Woreda, city and Kebele) administrations in the discharge of socio-economic services, is the inadequate funding for the provision of infrastructure and social services. This situation is explained by the fact that revenue generated by local authorities in Ethiopia constitutes only 19% of total national revenue; whilst the federal government accounts for the greater portion of revenue collected as mandated by the

Constitution.¹⁹ As such, national grants and transfers to local authorities remain the major source of revenue for local development.

3.2. The Constitution of Ethiopia

The Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) is the highest policy and legal document that presents the basis for all laws and policies in the country. The Ethiopian Constitution recognizes the presence of different socio-cultural groups, including historically disadvantaged and underserved communities, pastoralists, and minorities, as well as their rights to socio-economic equity and justice. The Constitution of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) provides a number of basic and comprehensive principles that consider social protection and management in the country including the sustainable development. It also recognizes the existence of diverse socio-cultural groups, including historically disadvantaged and underserved communities, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and minorities as well as their rights to socioeconomic equity and justice. The relevant articles with social and environmental provisions among others are pinpointed below:

Table 3: Relevant articles associated with social and environmental provision extracted from FDRE's Constitution

S. no	Relevant Articles	Description
1	Article 25-Rights to Equality	-All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection without discrimination on grounds of race, nation, nationality, or other social origin, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, property, birth or other status.
2	Article 35-Rights to Women	-The historical legacy of inequality and discrimination suffered by women in Ethiopia taken into account, women, in order to remedy this legacy, are entitled to affirmative measures. The purpose of such measures shall be to provide special attention to women so as to enable them to compete and participate on the basis of equality with men in political, social and economic life as well as in public and private institutions. - Women shall; in the enjoyment of rights and protections provided for by the Ethiopian Constitution, have equal right with men. - Women have equal rights with men in marriage as prescribed by this Constitution. - Women have the right to full consultation in the formulation of national development policies, the designing and execution of

¹⁹ The World Bank, 2018c: Urban Institutional and Infrastructure Development Program. Available at: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/402291521252069584/pdf/UIIDPPAD-P163452-22Feb2018-clean-02232018.pdf> [Accessed 19-07-2020].

		<p>projects, and particularly in the case of projects affecting the interests of women.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women have the right to acquire, administer, control, use and transfer property. In particular, they have equal rights with men with respect to use, transfer, administration and control of land. They shall also enjoy equal treatment in the inheritance of property. - Women shall have a right to equality in employment, promotion, pay, and the transfer of pension entitlements. - The State shall enforce the right of women to eliminate the influences of harmful customs. Laws, customs and practices that oppress or cause bodily or mental harm to women are prohibited.
3	Article 37-Rights of Access to Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Everyone has the right to bring a justifiable matter to, and to obtain a decision or judgment by, a court of law or any other competent body with judicial power.
4	Article 39-Rights of Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The rights of groups identified as 'Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' and defined them as "a group of people who have or share a large measure of common culture or similar customs, mutual intelligibility of language, belief in a common or related identity, a common psychological make-up, and who inhabit an identifiable, predominantly contiguous territory." -It also portrays their rights up to self-determination-the right to secession; speak, write, and develop their own languages; express, develop, and promote their cultures; preserve their history; and, self-government, which includes the right to establish institutions of the Government in the territory that they inhabit and equitable representation in state and Federal Governments. As aforementioned, most EA-RDIP SOP II target communities are from these population groups.
5	Article 40-The Right to Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every Ethiopian citizen has the right to the ownership of private property. Unless prescribed otherwise by law on account of public interest, this right shall include the right to acquire, to use and, in a manner compatible with the rights of other citizens, to dispose of such property by sale or bequest or to transfer it otherwise. - "Private property", for the purpose of this Article, shall mean any tangible or intangible product which has value and is produced by the labor, creativity, enterprise or capital of an individual citizen, associations which enjoy juridical personality under the law, or in appropriate circumstances by communities specifically empowered by law to own property in common. -The right to ownership of rural and urban land, as well as of all natural resources, is exclusively vested in the State and in the peoples of Ethiopia. Land is a common property of the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia and shall not be subject to sale or to other means of exchange. -narrates that, "Ethiopian pastoralists have the right to free land for grazing and cultivation as well as the right not to be displaced from their own land". - Ethiopian peasants have right to obtain land without payment and the protection against eviction from their possession. The implementation of this provision shall be specified by law. - Every Ethiopian shall have the full right to the immovable property he builds and to the permanent improvements he brings about on the land by his labor or capital. This right shall include the right to alienate, to bequeath, and, where the right of use expires, to remove

		<p>his property, transfer his title, or claim compensation for it. Particulars shall be determined by law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Without prejudice to the right to private property, the government may expropriate private property for public purposes subject to payment in advance of compensation commensurate to the value of the property.
6	Article 41-Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -States that “Ethiopian pastoralists have the right to receive fair prices for their products, that would lead to improvement in their conditions of life and to enable them to obtain an equitable share of the national wealth commensurate with their contribution. This objective shall guide the State in the formulation of economic, social and development policies.”
7	Article 43-The Right to Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Peoples of Ethiopia as a whole, and each Nation, Nationality and People in Ethiopia in particular have the right to improved living standards and to sustainable development. - Nationals have the right to participate in national development and, in particular, to be consulted with respect to policies and projects affecting their community.
8	Article 44-Environmental Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -All persons have the right to a clean and healthy environment. -All persons who have been displaced or whose livelihoods have been adversely affected as a result of State programs have the right to commensurate monetary or alternative means of compensation, including relocation with adequate State assistance.
9	Article 54 -Members of the House of People’s Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -states that “Members of the House [of Peoples Representatives], on the basis of population and special representation of minority Nationalities and Peoples, shall not exceed 550; of these, minority Nationalities and Peoples shall have at least 20 seats.” These groups have less than 100,000 members and most live in the ‘Developing Regional States’. Due to limited access to socioeconomic development and underserved status over the years, the Ethiopian government has designated Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella and Ethiopian Somali as ‘Developing Regional States’ (DRS).
10	Article 89-Economic Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -specifies, ‘The Government has the obligation to ensure that all Ethiopians get equal opportunity to improve their economic situations and to promote equitable distribution of wealth among them’. -states that, “Nations, Nationalities and Peoples least advantaged in economic and social development shall receive special assistance. Government shall take measures to avert any natural and manmade disasters, and, in the event of disasters, to provide timely assistance to the victims.” -Government shall provide special assistance to Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples least advantaged in economic and social development. -Government has the duty to hold, on behalf of the People, land and other natural resources and to deploy them for their common benefit and development. - Government shall at all times promote the participation of the People in the formulation of national development policies and programs; it shall also have the duty to support the initiatives of the People in their development endeavors. -Government shall ensure the participation of women inequality with men in all economic and social development endeavors.

		-Government shall endeavor to protect and promote the health, welfare and living standards of the working population of the country.
11	Article90-Social Objectives	-To the extent the country’s resources permit, policies shall aim to provide all Ethiopians access to public health and education, clean water, housing, food and social security. -Education shall be provided in a manner that is free from any religious influence, political partisanship or cultural prejudices.
12	Article 91-Cultural Objectives	-Government shall have the duty to support, on the basis of equality, the growth and enrichment of cultures and traditions that are compatible with fundamental rights, human dignity, democratic norms and ideals, and the provisions of the Constitution. -Government and all Ethiopian citizens shall have the duty to protect the country’s natural endowment, historical sites and objects.
13	Article 92-Environmental Objectives	-Government shall endeavor to ensure that all Ethiopians live in a clean and healthy environment. -The design and implementation of programs and projects of development shall not damage or destroy the environment. -People have the right to full consultation and to the expression of views in the planning and implementations of environmental policies and projects that affect them directly. -Government and citizens shall have the duty to protect the environment.

In general, The Ethiopian Constitution recognizes the presence of plurality in ethnic groups, including historically underserved, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, as well as the rights to their identity, culture, language, customary livelihoods, socioeconomic equity and justice. There are approximately 80 culturally distinct ethnic groups within Ethiopia.

3.3. Ethiopian Relevant Laws and Regulations

The effects of development projects on the environment and social fabrics should be assessed in order to ensure that projects, as much as possible, must be in harmony with the overall environment. In one way or another, this ultimately contributes to ensure sustainable development. In this regard, policies, legislative frameworks, guidelines and standards have been developed by governmental and non-governmental organizations so as to contribute for the enhancement of sustainable development. The relevant policy, legal and administrative frameworks of the Government of Ethiopian and the policies of the World Bank have been stated in the following sections.

3.3.1. National Social Protection Policy (2012)

The current Government of Ethiopia views social protection as a means to make other investments more effective, efficient and to support economic growth. Social protection is not presented as a right of citizens, nor as an obligation of the state to its citizens. Even when the constitutional rights are referred to, it is prefaced with the condition of ‘progressive realization of social and economic rights’; which rights would be progressively realized, for whom and why, is left unstated. Even the constitution is vague about rights and responsibilities: Article 41(5) prefates support with the condition of ‘within available means’, Article 41(6) states the ‘state shall pursue policies’ (rather than protect rights of individuals), and Article 41(7) states ‘to the extent the country’s resources permit’. What is not clear is how the available means and resources are determined, amidst a range of pro-growth objectives, which policies will be pursued, and for whom. This aligns with the broader ideological foundations of the government, whereby citizens are recipients of government benevolence, which acts to protect the population based upon what it deems as vital, not as something that citizens can demand.

The rights that one could theoretically demand include the international conventions and instruments that the Government of Ethiopia has ratified, such as those outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the African Charter on Rights and Welfare of the Child. This is constitutionally upheld in Article 13(2): ‘The fundamental rights and freedoms specified in this Chapter shall be interpreted in a manner conforming to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenants on Human Rights and International instruments adopted by Ethiopia’. However, in practice there are few examples when non-state actors or individuals have been able to demand such rights be protected. Throughout the most recent decade, the government has heavily restricted CSO and NGO abilities to engage in rights-based activities, which has restricted the support for any demand of these types.

The main objectives of Social Protection Policy of Ethiopia are the following:

- Protect poor and vulnerable individuals, households, and communities from the adverse effects of shocks and destitution;
- Increase the scope of social insurance;

- Increase access to equitable and quality health, education and social welfare services to build human capital thus breaking the intergenerational transmission of poverty;
- Guarantee a minimum level of employment for the long term unemployed and underemployed;
- Enhance the social status and progressively realize the social and economic rights of the excluded and marginalized; and,
- Ensure the different levels of society are taking appropriate responsibility for the implementation of social protection policy.

3.3.2. National Digital Transformation Strategy

Technological change has been the primary driver of social development, productivity improvements and inclusive growth. Ethiopia's digital economy is at an early stage of development with few private sector players offering digital services and some government driven digitalization initiatives. While these initiative and services help solve important challenges, they cut across multiple stakeholders and require a coordinated effort to maximize their impact. The digital transformation strategy was developed to provide a collective vision and, specifically to meet the following key objectives:

- To propose an inclusive digital economy approach that will catalyze the realization of Ethiopia's broader development vision.
- To emphasize the need for a sense of urgency and mobilize critical stakeholders to address the imperatives to enable an inclusive digital economy.
- To coordinate and strengthen current initiatives underway so the most pragmatic and strategic pathways are explored to unlock growth and maximize impact.
- To ensure an inherently international approach that will enhance Ethiopia's place in regional and global value chains while benefitting from best practice and interoperable systems.

The strategy took into consideration the current economic drivers (Agriculture, Manufacturing and Services), the priority sectors, and the national objectives of jobs creation, forex earnings and inclusive prosperity as a means of identifying the most relevant digital enabled pathways for Ethiopia. These are:

- Pathway 1: Unleashing value from agriculture,
- Pathway 2: The next version of global value chains in manufacturing
- Pathway 3: Building the IT enabled services, and
- Pathway 4: Digital as the driver of tourism competitiveness.

3.3.3. National Policy on Ethiopian Women

Nationally, the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (1995) includes articles on rights including rights to life, security and liberty (Article 14, 16, 17); rights to equality (25) and marital, personal and family rights (34). Article 35 on Rights of Women supports affirmative measures to enable women “to compete and participate on the basis of equality with men in political, social and economic life as well as in public and private institutions”. Article 36 on Rights of Children stipulates that children should be free of corporal punishment or cruel and inhumane treatment in schools and other institutions responsible for the care of children.

National Policy on Ethiopian Women (1993) aimed to institutionalize the political, economic, and social rights of women by creating appropriate structures in government offices and institutions so that public policies and interventions are gender-sensitive and equitable. It was this policy that created the Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs. The policy aims to: 1) Facilitate conditions to increase equality between men and women so that women can participate in the political, social and economic life of their country on equal terms with men and ensure that their right to own property as well as their other human rights are respected and that they are not excluded from the enjoyment of their fruits of their labor or from performing public functions and being decision makers; 2) Facilitate the necessary conditions whereby rural women can have access to basic social services and to ways and means of lightening their work-load; and 3) Eliminate, step by step, prejudices as well as customary and other practices that are based on the idea of male supremacy and enabling women to hold public office and to participate in the decision making process at all levels.

3.3.4. National Youth Policy

Endorsed on 12 March 2004, the National Youth Policy (NYP) is one of Ethiopia’s most significant youth-specific state documents. It argues that an age-based definition of youth is ‘most suitable for research and policy purposes’ and goes on to define youth as people between 15 and 29 years. The NYP envisions ‘creating [an] empowered young generation’ with values incorporating a democratic outlook, knowledge, professional skills, organized engagement and ethical integrity. The objectives of the policy include: to ‘bring about active participation of youth’ in socioeconomic, political and cultural activities; and ‘enable [youth] to fairly benefit from the results’.

There are two levels of narrative within the NYP: a broad narrative about the status of youth, and a narrative more specific to youth employment. At the broader level, high levels of poverty, economic and political marginalization are identified as main factors restricting young people's 'potential energies and capabilities'. The policy envisions changing the dire socioeconomic and political situation through 'active participation' of the youth. The government aims to play an instrumental role to help youth organize themselves and actively participate in 'development endeavors, building democratic system and good governance'.

The narrative specific to youth employment issues has multiple layers. The NYP suggests that the government alone cannot 'resolve the problem of unemployment'. Hence, the policy aims to create favorable conditions for the youth to 'create new jobs for themselves' and to enable the private sector to create job opportunities for them. It also advocates for policy interventions that shape both formal and informal employment opportunities, and suggests that these can help address the under- and unemployment problems among youth. With regard to rural youth, ensuring access to land and expansion of off-farm activities are identified as part of the solution to youth unemployment.

3.3.5. Cultural Policy of Ethiopia (2016)

The cultural policy clearly states strategic issues and strategies regarding the conservation and protection of heritage resources of the country. Article 2 of the Policy states to systematically identify, develop, preserve and use the cultural, historical, and natural heritages of the peoples of Ethiopia, to sustainably apply them for economic, social and human development, and to facilitate their study, documentation, visibility and transfer to the next generation.

It also devised implementation strategies, which includes:

- The country's heritages shall be protected and maintained in accordance with their cultural and historical values by devising and applying a heritage management system
- Close relations shall be forged with communities and other partners to protect and manage the country's heritages Moreover, the Policy put down strategic statement regarding "Cultural Resources and Indigenous Knowledge" under article 2.3 and maintains:

Relevance to the Project: In planning and implementation of the proposed project, consideration should be taken to protect cultural, historical, and natural heritages of the country in general and the project area in particular.

3.3.6. Ethiopian Laws on Pastoralists and Minority Groups

The Ethiopian Constitution also recognizes the rights of pastoral groups inhabiting the lowland of the country. The constitution under article 40 (4) stipulates “Ethiopian pastoralists have a right to free land for grazing and cultivation as well as a right not to be displaced from their own lands”. The Constitutions under Articles 41(8) also affirms that “Ethiopian Pastoralists have the right to receive fair prices for their products, that would lead to improvement in their conditions of life and to enable them to obtain an equitable share of the national wealth commensurate with their contribution. This objective shall guide the State in the formulation of economic, social and development policies.” Pastoralist regions/areas recognized by the government are: Afar; Somali; Borena Zone and Fentele Woreda (Oromia); South Omo Zone, Bench-Maji Zone, and parts of Decha Wereda in Keffa Zone (SNNPR); and, Nuer Zone (Gambella). The pastoralists comprise approximately 12-15 million people that belong to 29 groups of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples²⁰. Whilst government policies have strengthened, and resource allocations increased over the last decade²¹, pastoralist areas are still amongst the least served in terms of basic services.

The Constitution also recognizes another group called “national minorities”. Article 54 (1) states that: “Members of the House [of Peoples Representatives], based on population and special representation of minority Nationalities and Peoples, shall not exceed 550; of these, minority Nationalities and Peoples shall have at least 20 seats.” These groups have less than 100,000 members and most live in the “Developing Regional States”. Owing to their limited access to socio-economic development and underserved status over the decades, the Ethiopian government has designated four of the country’s regions, namely: Afar, Somali, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Gambela as Developing Regional States (DRS). In this respect, Article 89 (2) of the Ethiopian Constitution stipulates: “The Government has the obligation to ensure that all Ethiopians get equal opportunity to improve their economic situations and to promote equitable distribution of wealth among them”. Article 89 (4) states: “Nations, Nationalities and Peoples least advantaged in economic and social development shall receive special assistance”.

²⁰ Pastoralist Forum Ethiopia, <http://www.pfe-ethiopia.org/about.html>

²¹ PASDEP (2005 -2010), the previous five-year poverty reduction plan to GTP promoted more targeted assistance to marginalized areas – the emerging national regions and pastoralist/agro-pastoralist areas (MOFED, 2010)

3.4. Proclamations

3.4.1. Proclamations

3.4.1.1 Expropriation of Land holdings for Public Purposes, Payments of Compensation and Resettlement Proclamation (1161-2019)

The GoE has issued a new proclamation (1161/2019) which addresses the public's concern on the previous proclamation (455/2000). The new proclamation has included many changes in provisions including the provision of livelihood restoration of PAPs beyond compensation of the lost asset and property. The new proclamation defines the basic principles that have to be taken into consideration in determining compensation to a person whose landholding is going to be expropriated. The Proclamation is applicable on both rural and urban lands. The general condition for which land and property can be expropriated is for public purpose defined as use of land by the appropriate body or development plan to ensure the interest of citizens to acquire direct or indirect benefits from the use of the land and to consolidate sustainable socio-economic development.

As per the Proclamation No. 1161/2019(Article 13) valuation of displacement compensation for communal landholding is based on the use of the communal land; or the lost benefits and livelihood of the displaced people through identifying communal land clearly. The method of allocating the displacement compensation money or the use of it in kind to all members of the communal landholding community shall be clearly determined. In addition to compensation according to *Proclamation No. 1161/2019 Article 13(1)* `displacement compensation shall be paid equivalent to 15 times the highest annual income he/she secured during the three years preceding the expropriation of the land`. Compensation will be in an amount sufficient to reinstate displaced people to their economic position prior to displacement; the regionally relevant administration is required to give another piece of land to any person who lost his land in favor of a public project (*Proclamation No1161/2019*). The assessment of compensation does not include the value of the land itself, but the property and any development made on the land because land is a public property and not subject to sale in Ethiopia.

A rural landholder whose landholding has been permanently expropriated (where substitute land is not available) shall be paid displacement compensation, in addition to compensation payable for property situated on the land and for permanent improvements made to such land, the land holder shall be paid displacement compensation which is equivalent to 15 times the highest annual income he generated during the last 3 years preceding the expropriation of the land(*Proclamation No.*

1161/2019, Article 13). Complaints arising from landholding rights are resolved amicably through the establish complaint hearing body and apple council or in accordance with and administration laws of the regional state.

3.4.1.2. Proclamation on Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (No. 209/2000)

The Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) has been established by Proclamation No. 209/2000 as a government institution with a legal personality. The Proclamation has also provisions for management of cultural heritages in part two, exploration, discovery and study of Cultural Heritages in part three and miscellaneous provisions in part four.

Article 41 of the Proclamation deals on Fortuitous Discovery of Cultural Heritages and Sub-Article 1 states that, any person who discovers any Cultural Heritage in the course of an excavation connected to mining explorations, building works, road construction or other similar activities or in the course of any other fortuitous event, shall forthwith report to the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage(ARCCH), and shall protect and keep it intact, until the Authority takes delivery thereof. Sub-Article 2, on the other hand states that, the Authority shall, upon receipt of a report submitted pursuant to Sub- Article (1) hereof, take all appropriate measures to examine, take delivery of and register the Cultural Heritage so discovered.

3.4.1.3. Labour Proclamation (No. 1156/2019)

The Labour Proclamation (which was revised in 2019) provides the basic principles which govern labour conditions taking into account the political, economic and social policies of the Government, and in conformity with the international conventions and treaties to which Ethiopia is a party. The proclamation under its Part Seven, Chapter One, and Article 92 of this proclamation deals with occupational safety, health and working environment, prevention measures and obligations of the employers. Accordingly, the Proclamation obliges the employer to take the necessary measure for adequate safeguarding of the workers in terms of their health and safety. In addition, in this proclamation under its Part Six, Chapter1 and 2 described about women and young safety that women are not assigned on the works that may risk to women health and also overnight work including night shift work. Regarding young employees, organizations do not hire young personnel less than 15 years old and if they hire young between age 15 and 18 years, they should not allow to work more than 7 hours per day and also overnight work including night shift work. Moreover, the

Occupation Health and Safety Directive provides the limits for occupational exposure to working conditions that have adverse impacts on health and safety.

Women shall not be discriminated against as regards employment and payment on the basis of their sex. It is prohibited to employ women on type of work that may be listed to be particularly odious or harmful to their health; an employer shall not terminate the contract of employment of women during her pregnancy and until four months of her confinement reformulated by Labour Proclamation No.156/2019 as until four months after her confinement. Grant leave to pregnant women without deducting her wage; adhere to the occupational health & safety requirements provided in the proclamation; take appropriate steps to ensure that workers are properly instructed and notified concerning the hazard of their respective occupation and the precautions necessary to avoid accident and injury to health; provide workers with protective equipment, clothing and other materials and instruct them of its use; and Ensure that the work place and premises do not cause danger to the health and safety of the workers.

3.5. World Bank Environmental and Social Standards Applied to EA-RDIP SOP II

According to the World Bank Environmental and Social standards, projects supported by the Bank through Investment Project Financing are required to meet the Environmental and Social Standards (ESS). The ESS is designed to help Clients to manage the risks and impacts of a project, and improve their environmental and social performance, through a risk and outcomes-based approach. Clients are required to manage environmental and social risks and impacts of the project throughout the project life cycle in a systematic manner, proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and the potential risks and impacts.

Specific to Historically underserved local communities, Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities , The World Bank Environment and Social Standard (ESS 7) applies. This ESS applies to a distinct social and cultural group identified in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of this ESS. ESS7 contributes to poverty reduction and sustainable development by ensuring that projects supported by the Bank enhance opportunities for Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local communities to participate in, and benefit from, the development process in ways that do not threaten their unique cultural identities and well-being.

Since the proposed development project is to be implemented in some of the project regions where historically underserved communities is a possibility, this standard should be considered and the project should respect these people's dignity, human rights, and cultural uniqueness so that they receive culturally compatible, social and economic benefits and do not suffer from adverse effects during the development process.

The standard underlines the requirement of avoiding/minimizing adverse impacts on Sub-Saharan Africa Historically Underserved Local Communities in a project area, respecting the local culture and customs, fostering good relationship and ensuring that development benefits are provided to improve their standard of living and livelihoods. It also ensures that the development process fosters full respect for the human rights, dignity, aspirations, identity, culture, and natural resource-based livelihoods of these peoples/communities. Some important and specific ESS7 objectives are:

1. To ensure that the development process fosters full respect for affected parties' human rights dignity, aspirations, identity, culture, and natural resource-based livelihoods;
2. To avoid adverse impacts of projects on Historically Underserved Local People, or when avoidance is not possible, to minimize, mitigate and/or compensate for such impacts;
3. To promote sustainable development benefits and opportunities in a manner that is accessible, culturally appropriate and inclusive;
4. To improve project design and promote local support by establishing and maintaining an ongoing relationship with the affected IPs throughout the life of the Project;
5. To obtain the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of the HUC in the three circumstances described in this ESS;
6. To recognize, respect and preserve the culture, knowledge, and practices of Indigenous Peoples, and to provide them with an opportunity to adapt to changing conditions in a manner and in a timeframe acceptable to them.

Paragraph 24 to 26 of ESS-7 mention circumstances requiring free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). The provisions for FPIC mentioned therein is quoted below:

"24. Indigenous Peoples(HUC) may be particularly vulnerable to the loss of, alienation from or exploitation of their land and access to natural and cultural resources. In recognition of this vulnerability, in addition to the General Requirements of this ESS (Section A) and those set out in ESSs1 and 10, the Borrower will obtain the FPIC of the affected Indigenous Peoples in accordance with paragraphs 25 and 26 in

circumstances in which the project will:

- (a) have adverse impacts on land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation;
- (b) cause relocation of Indigenous Peoples from land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; or
- (c) have significant impacts on Indigenous Peoples cultural heritage that is material to the identity and/or cultural, ceremonial, or spiritual aspects of the affected Indigenous Peoples lives.

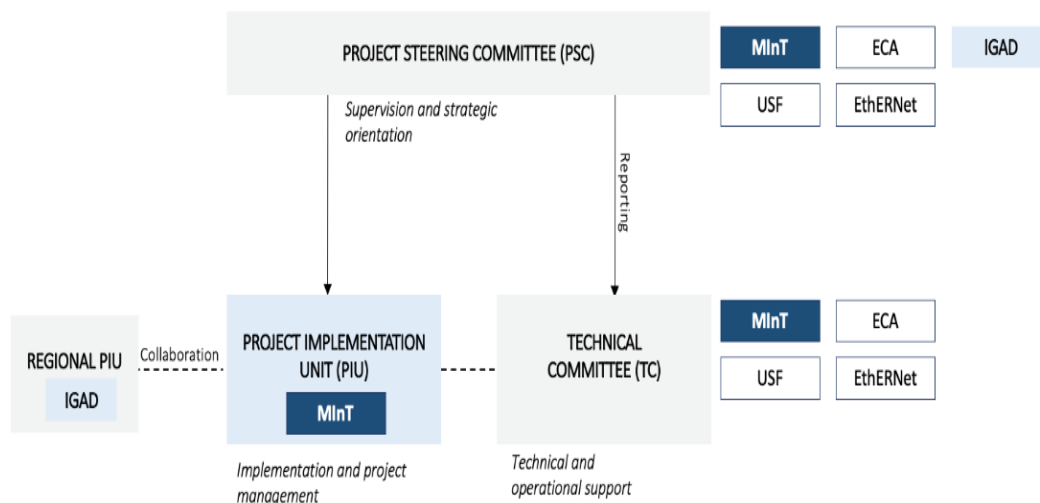
In these circumstances, the Borrower will engage independent specialists to assist in the identification of the project risks and impacts.

3.6. Institutional Framework

3.6.1. Institutional Arrangement for EA-RDIP II Project Implementation

The overall EARDIP SOP II implementation will be under the oversight of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT) in coordination with the Ethiopia Communication Authority (ECA), Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) and Federal Environmental Protection Authority (FEPA). The existing PIU under the MInT will serve as the main implementing agency in Ethiopia. Environment and Social specialists will be on board by effectiveness. Additional support will be provided towards i) hiring key technical specialists, with subject matters expertise in connectivity infrastructure, cyber-security etc; ii) key equipment, material, and logistics related requirements for the PIU staff, shared with the existing project. The detailed composition and role of the PIU will be set forth in the Ethiopia PIM. The PIU will be primarily responsible for project implementation, including overseeing core project-related fiduciary functions, M&E and E&S commitments in Ethiopia. In addition, the PIU will also act as the single point of contact for the regional PIU at IGAD (where Ethiopia is a member) to facilitate collaboration on designing and implementing specific activities. The PIU will submit project reporting to the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC), the National Technical Committee (NTC) and engage with the NTC on specific matters requiring technical expertise/input on an ad-hoc basis. Figure 2 depicts the main reporting lines.

Figure 2: National Implementation Arrangement for the EA-RDIP SOP II in Ethiopia



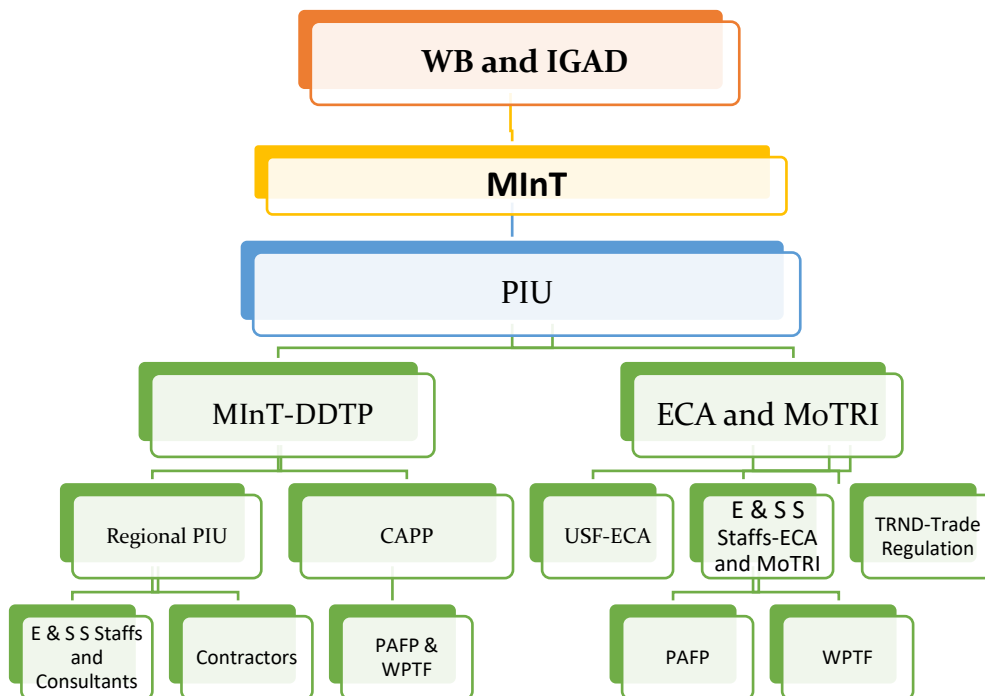
At the region level, EA-RDIP SOP II project implementation is led by regional institutions such as Science, Innovation and Technology Commission in Afar, Innovation and Technology in Gambella and Innovation and Technology Bureau in Somali region, with the involvement of relevant institutions at the state, Zonal, Woreda, Kebele and community levels with specific accountabilities and decision-making roles based on existing mandates. Also, it will take the leading responsibility to establish the Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) and Regional Project Technical Committee (RPTC). The constituency and role of the RPSC and RPTC resemble the NPSC and NPTC but at the regional level.

3.6.2. Institutional Arrangement for ULCPF Implementation

The EARDIP SOP II institutional framework and environmental and social staffing arrangement within the institutions are shown in Figure 3 below. The digital infrastructure works will be implemented by Directorate for Digital Transformation Program (DDTP), and trade-related activities will be implemented by MoTRI. The DEDFP in the DDTP will act as the PIU, and new PIU will be established in ECA and MoTRI. The existing PIU under DDTP, MInT will be strengthened. The PIUs will hire environmental and social staff for implementation of the ESMF, hire environmental and social consultants to prepare the required E&S instruments, and contractors with adequate environmental, health and safety (ESHS) specialists for implementation of the subprojects.

MInT will hire Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) comprising of competent Environmental Safeguards Specialist, Social Safeguards Specialist and GBV Specialist (with expertise of gender) at the PIU, that base the project office at the respective regions but coordinate and oversee the overall implementation of the ESMPs across the Project Operation Areas (POAs) in their respective regions. The number of the CAPP will depend on the number of POAs in the respective target regions. The Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) will closely work with the PIU, RPSC, RPTC and Woreda Project Task Force (WPTS). Likewise, MInT will hire Project Area Focal Person (PAFP) who will take the leading role for the overall coordination and implementation of the project’s ESMPs including the RF at the Woreda level. Besides, the implementation arrangement will establish Woreda Project Task Force (WPTF) comprising the Heads and Experts from Woreda Rural Land Use and Administration Office, Woreda Environmental Protection Office, Woreda Women and Children Affairs Office, Woreda Trade and Industry Office, and Woreda Peace and Security Office. The WPTF will closely work with Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) and Project Area Focal Person (PAFP) to oversee the day-to-day E&S performance of the project as compliance with the ESMPs.

Figure 3: Institutional Arrangement for ULCPF Implementation



Key:

- WB-World Bank
- IGAD: Intergovernmental Authority on Development
- MInT-Ministry of Innovation and Technology
- PIU-Project Implementation Unit
- DDTP-Directorate for Digital Transformation Program
- ECA-Ethiopia Communication Authority

MoTRI-Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration
CAPP- Cluster Area Project Personnel
USF-Universal Support Fund
TRND-Trade Relations and Negotiation Directorate
E and S S Staffs-Environmental and Social Safeguards Staffs
PAFP-Project Area Focal Person
WPTF-Woreda Project Task Force

3.6.2. Roles and responsibilities of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU)

The PIU is responsible for the overall coordination and management of project implementation activities, including the day-to-day fiduciary requirements, liaising technically with all partner agencies, NGOs and the private sector actors involved in the EA-RDIP SOP II implementation. The PIUs will be tasked with the responsibility of managing E&S safeguards aspects, and undertaking all procurement and contract management activities. As stated earlier, the PIU will recruit dedicated Social Development Specialists who will be responsible for planning, designing and implementation of the ULCPF/ULCP, monitoring and reporting quarterly on the implementation of the ULCDP and other relevant social management plans.

3.6.3. Woreda Project Task Force and Cluster Area Project Focal Person

At project level, the Woreda Project TaskForce/WPTF and concerned Cluster Area Focal Person (CAFP) and ProjectArea Focal Person (PAFP) will be responsible to facilitate and assist PIU for planning, designing, implementation and monitoring of the ULCP including community consultations, managing project-related complaints and grievances, and supporting community mobilization efforts of the project. The project site office and PIU will recruit a dedicated E&S staff /specialist to be responsible for the implementation of the planned activities in this ULCPF and ULCP prepared under this framework.

The E&S specialist/staff will be responsible for managing E&S issues of the project at the local level, with technical support and guidance from the social staff/specialist at the PIU. In addition, the E&S specialist will also serve as the focal persons for the GRM at the local level. In addition, the E&S specialist will also be responsible for reporting and helping to manage sensitive incidents, such as grievances related to SEA/SH to the Social staff at the PIU/MInT.

The staffs to be recruited at the PIU and project site office will be trained by the World Bank in collaboration with the PIU/DDTP on the management of project-related E&S risks and impacts. The organizational structure will be reviewed periodically to ensure the effectiveness of ULCP implementation.

3.6.4. Roles and Responsibilities of Units and Individuals

The roles and responsibility of key agencies/units envisaged for the implementation of the ULCPF and ULCP are shown in the table below.

Table 4: The Roles and Responsibilities of Units

Key Units	Roles and Responsibilities
PIU at MInT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procure environmental and social consultants to prepare the required E&S instruments such as ESIA, RAP, ULCP, and EIA needed for the World Bank and government approvals - Planning, budgeting, and ensuring the implementation of the ULCPF/ULCP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Coordinate and monitor ULCPF/ULCP activities with the CAFPP/WPTF established by MInT and DDTP. o Collating ULCPF/ULCP -related activities from the CAFPP/WPTF along with their performances and outcomes. o Undertaking periodic monitoring of ULCPF/ULCP, and preparation and

	<p>dissemination of quarterly ULCPF/ULCP implementation reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensuring necessary financial and human resources for effective implementation of the ULCPF/ULCP and other E&S management plans. - Ensuring the project activities as per the various guidelines and directives issued by the government and other related organizations - Ensuring effective management and reporting of project-related complaints and grievances as per the project GRM.
E & S staff with PIU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Screening of proposed subprojects to identify presence of ULCs and categorize the project's risk and impact on ULCs and requirement of safeguard instruments to be prepared (ESIA or RAP, ULCP, etc.) - Prepare terms of reference for the E&S studies of subprojects - Reviewing consultant deliverables related to ESIA including ULCP, reviewing bid documents for inclusion of ESMP and ULCP measures, supervising construction activities, producing periodic monitoring reports, - Supervising Construction Supervision Consultant/CSC for the implementation of ULCP & ESMP - Closely coordinate with other concerned agencies, local governments, and communities to support the implementation of ULCP
CSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ULCP, RAP and ESMP implementation in close coordination with E&S staff/PAFP at Project site of MInT - Preparation of monthly ULCDP and RAP progress reports and submit to PIU - CSC will have dedicated environment, social and OHS staff
WPTF and CAPP at the project site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitate and assist CSC and PIU for planning, designing, implementation and monitoring of the ULCP & RAP/LRP, as required - Lead the implementation of stakeholder consultation activities at the community level as per the ULCPF & ULCP - Supporting the PIU in identifying affected ULC communities in the subproject and updating the list of stakeholders. - Mobilizing and organizing consultations and project engagement activities related to implementation of ULCP - Disseminating project-related information in a timely manner. - Managing and ensuring the smooth functioning of the GRM. - Reporting (monthly) on ULCP and GRM to PIU

3.6.5. Approval and Implementation Schedule for the ULCP

This ULCPF is prepared by PIU and ULCPs during implementation will be prepared by E&S consultants procured by PIU in close collaboration with Social Development Specialist of project site office. ULCPs will be prepared as per the guidance made and the provisions specified in the ULCPF. The ULCPs will be reviewed and approved by Social Specialist of PIU.

The PIUs of the respective components will ensure that required funds planning, designing and implementation of ULCPs are available on timely manner. For the project, an indicative schedule for implementing the ULCP is shown in the Table 4, assuming a sequential order of proposed activities. Some of these steps may overlap in their timing and some will be repeated throughout the project cycle.

Table 5: milestones for ULCDP Implementation Schedule

Activities	Milestone	Schedule
Deploy PIUs with required logistics	PIU established and started functioning	1 st year
Recruit required social staff and specialist/PAFP and provide them orientation/training on ULCPF/ULCP Continue implementing consultation, information dissemination and participation programs and form GRM committee and initiate GRM awareness activities along with resolution of grievance (if any) Consultation with ULCs, local communities, officials of concernedline agencies and local government. Similarly, CBOs, NGOs and Civil Society of the concerned project area will equally be considered during the preparation and the implementation of the ULCP.	Required social staff recruited Orientation/training provided/organized Activities related to consultations and information dissemination started. GRM established and started Functioning	1 st year
Identify ULC communities and other stakeholders with potential interests/rights (both customary and legal) on the land or other natural resources that are proposed to be developed, managed, appropriated, utilized, or impacted by the proposed project activity through screening and social assessment exercises	Screening of ULCs in the project area carried out	1 st year
Undertake assessments of ULC communities present in subproject areas and mainstreaming and targeted activities for ULCP Prepare and distribute copies of draft ULCP to the affected ULC Communities	Assessment of ULC communities conducted and draft ULCP prepared Draft ULCP discussed with the ULC communities in the subproject	1 st year
Finalize the ULCP incorporating the relevant comments and feedback provided by ULC communities and stakeholders	ULCP prepared, disclosed and implemented.	1 st year

Activities	Milestone	Schedule
Implement ULCP	ULCP implementation started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation of the Potential Impact • Enhancement of the benefits • Monitoring of the ULCP implementation 	2 nd year
Contract and mobilize independent Monitoring agency	Independent Monitoring agency selected and mobilized	2 nd year
Implement internal and external monitoring programs	Periodic monitoring reports are prepared and disseminated	From 2 nd year and throughout the construction period

3.6.6. Implementation of the Specific Measures to ULCs

Based on the past experiences, some generic measures for ULCs are outlined in table below. The source of funding and the agencies responsible to implement the proposed strategies are included in the table.

Table 6: Generic Measures for Underserved Local Communities

Proposed Strategies	Sources of Funding	Agencies Responsible
A. Inclusion		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure awareness raising, active participation and capacity building of the ULC communities - Ensure of participation in awareness campaign, project implementation and monitoring - Ensure equal wages for similar work during implementation - Launch project information campaign to inform the target groups about the key features of the project and sub project. 	Component 1 (sub-Component 1.1. and 1.2.) Component 3 (sub-component 3.1.) Component 4	PIU-MInT ECA and MoTRI
B. Program and Planning		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asses and analyze the presence of ULC communities in sub project and sites - Treat and support ULCs, preferentially - Involve ULCs in beneficiary groups to increase their participation. - Define training/income generation activities based on the identified needs and priorities of ULC in the subproject area. 	Component 1 (sub-Component 1.1. and 1.2.) Component 3 (sub-component 3.1.) Component 4	PIU-MInT ECA and MoTRI, and CSC
Capacity Building		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct project related meetings in indigenous community areas to encourage their participation. Ensure a quorum which includes representation from ULC groups. - Provide targeted assistance/training aimed at ULC groups to enhance livelihoods and participation in the subcomponents - Built in awareness campaign about the project in the subproject - Build capacity of indigenous peoples, promoting necessary knowledge and skills to participate in subcomponent activities - Develop capacity through trainings on application of Digital literacy system to ULCs 	Component 1 (sub-Component 1.1. and 1.2.) Component 3 (sub-component 3.1.) Component 4	PIU-MInT ECA and MoTRI, and CSC

3.6.7. Cost Estimate and Financing for ULCP

Budget for implementing ULCPF/ULCP will be part of the project budget. The budget covers the costs of project staff allowances and consultants to prepare compliance reports including supervising and monitoring reports, data collection, social assessment, and preparation of ULCP. Below is a rough budget estimate for ULCPF implementation. Budget for ULCP implementation is not part of this estimate.

Table 7: Budget estimate for ULCPF Implementation

No.	Items	Quantity	Rate (USD)	Amount-USD
1	Staff Allowance	26*	50	1,300
2	Consultant fee	5	3,000	15,000
3	Transportation Cost	5	500	2,500
4	Data Collection	Lump sum	10,000	10,000

5	Others	Lump sum	500	500
6	Comtingency	10%	-	2,925
Total (in US Dollars)				32,230

*** Eligible staff composition**

1. One Social Safeguards specialist from PIU
2. Five social safeguards specialists from regional PIU (one from each regional state-Afar, Benisjangul Gumuz, Gambella, Somali and Tigray)
3. Five zone social safeguards (one from one zone of each regional states)
4. Five zone lead facilitators (one from one zone of each regional states)
5. Five CAPP (from one Woreda of each regional states)
6. Five drivers (one from each regional state)

The ULCP will include information on detailed cost of mitigation measures and other rehabilitation entitlements for ULCs in the affected areas and administrative and monitoring costs. Sources of funding for the various activities and financing plans for ULCP will be indicated when an ULCP is developed. Costs for land expropriation, if any, shall be financed by MInT.

4.0. POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE PROPOSED INVESTMENT

4.1. Potential Benefits of the Project

In general, promote the digital market within and among the target countries of the EA-RDIP, remove cross-border barriers, and create enabling environment. Specific potential positive socio-economic impacts of the project in relation to ULCs include:

I. Social Benefits

The following are the social benefits identified from the stakeholder and community consultation sessions carried out during the preparation of the ULCPF.

a. Benefits related to Component 1-cross-border and national backbone network connectivity (subcomponent 1.1.)

- Improved access to weather information
- Access to online jobs will reduce unemployment and poverty in the ULC territories.
- Improved and expanded livelihoods in the ULC areas with better returns and inclusion of ULCs in the digital development.

b. Benefits Related to Component 1- last mile connectivity, including in borderland areas (subcomponent 1.2)

- Private market is efficient in transforming women, thus the EA-RDIP SOP II can benefit from exploiting the private sector/market
- Local coordinators at rural and urban areas can be women and can drive the women owned enterprises in a positive direction, MIS, training, follow-up and designating a hotline for GRM can help to prevent or mitigate potential impacts
- TVET and ETHERNET can contribute on providing support to women and their enterprises
- Being supported with sufficient training, involving women unions or associations and working on market network can provide a better probability of implementing the project component related to women-owned enterprises promotion.
- Digitalized service platforms saves transportation costs and time when accessing government services
- Digitalized service platforms adds another layer of privacy by avoiding middlemen
- Digitalized facilitated informal workers' access to pandemic relief after the onset of disasters like drought, flood or man-made disasters.
- The mix of social media platforms will keep beneficiaries informed and enable them to share information,
- GRMs will be available through multiple channels, such as telephone hotlines, email and SMS

c. Benefits related to component 3-digital enablers for cross-border trade and service delivery (subcomponent 3.1)

- If women are provided with the required support in the ICT sector, they are active and effective in transforming their life and changing the fate of a given household and country,
- The project will benefit women, given that it is innovation and technology focused. Since it is linked with Djibouti, it will help to strengthen the existing socio-economic tie and helps to enhance cross-border data market and online market integration.
- Diversification of livelihoods into online business and value addition of local produce due to better online markets leading to stable income and food security. In particular, pastoralist group members hoped to market their livestock and meat online and deliver more livestock products to markets outside their territories due to connection to the digital integration project.

Assistance to Vulnerable People: The project will assist vulnerable people who will be affected by the project in relation with displacement and resettlement process. Such assistance may include the following activities:

- Identification of vulnerable people, how the project makes them more vulnerable and identification of the cause and impacts of their vulnerability, preferably through an identification mechanism devised with, and implemented by the beneficiary community; this step is critical because often vulnerable people do not participate in community meetings, and their disability/vulnerability may remain unknown;
- Identification of required assistance at the various stages of the process: negotiation, compensation, moving;
- Implementation of the measures necessary to assist the vulnerable person;
- Monitoring and continuation of assistance after resettlement and/or compensation, if required, and/or identification of those entities, whether Governmental or not, that could sustain the Program's assistance beyond its period of activity.
- Assistance may take the following forms, depending upon vulnerable persons' requests and needs:
 - Assistance in the compensation payment procedure (e.g., specifically explain the process and procedures, make sure that documents are well understood);
 - Assistance in the post payment period to secure the compensation money and reduce risks of misuse/robbery;
 - Assistance in moving: providing vehicle, driver and assistance at the moving stage, assist the person in identifying his/her resettlement plot;
 - Assistance in building: providing materials, workforce, or building houses

- Counseling in matters such as family issues, health, etc;
- Assistance during the post-resettlement period, particularly if the solidarity networks that the vulnerable person was relying on have been affected: food support, health monitoring, etc.; and,
- Health care if required at critical periods, particularly during moving and transition periods.

4.2. Potential Adverse Risks and Impacts of the Project

a. Potential adverse effects on ULCs related to Component 1-cross-border and national backbone network connectivity (subcomponent 1.1.)

- Risk 1: Risk of project activities not being safeguards responsive during the project life cycle . Where HUCs form minorities and are considered by majority groups as having lower social and economic status, negative impacts from lack of safeguards may be more severe than with other groups. If the PIU failed to use a special approach that considers the context and unique socio-economic conditions of the HUCs, they will not maintain the optimum level of safeguarding the interest of HUCs and preventing them from being dis-proportionately affected by the adverse risks and impacts of EA-RDIP SOP II.
- Risk 2: Risk on the community due to hazardous materials (mainly batteries, e-waste, chemicals for land clearance). Increased risk may be envisaged for groups of lower economic status and higher unemployment, including children, due to unfavorable siting of settlements, greater informal housing and collection of materials, hence may have a greater impact on HUCs. The risks may include exposure to pollution such as air, construction waste, noise, water, and solid and liquid wastes, e-wastes, and inappropriate disposal of wastes, as well as impacts related to project workforce interactions with members of project affected local communities. Increased incidence of communicable and vector-borne diseases may occur because of construction activities. Construction activities may also result in an increase in traffic-related accidents and injuries to local communities. These risks could have considerable impacts on community health. For example, people can be exposed to e-waste-related toxicants through air (e.g., open burning of e-wastes), soil (e.g., random disposal of e-waste), water via ingestion (e.g., food chains contamination due to disposal and primitive recycling processes), inhalation, and dermal absorption (e.g., dust and direct exposure of workers who labor in poor recycling areas and their families). E-waste is not biodegradable with a strong tendency to bioaccumulate in agricultural lands posing a community health concern. These risks could become more apparent in the long term perhaps during and post-project implementation.

- Risk 3: Ambient perturbation on the community due to intense works locally at construction and decommissioning, and new economic activities subsequent from productive use of the ICT.
- Risk 4: Risk on community health, safety and/or security due to the influx of people, mainly project workers and other new comers subsequent to the new economic activities resulting from the productive use of the ICT. Non-local workers who will be engaged in the construction activities may increase the community risk of sexually transmitted diseases, and risks to women and girls if not adequately supervised and trained. If HUCs are viewed as lower social or economic status by neighboring ethnic groups, women and girls from the HUCs/ groups may face higher risks in this regard.
- Risk 5: Risk on damage of cultural heritage. Damage, removal or destruction of cultural heritage may have a disproportional effect on HUCs, due to imbedded belief systems, cultural value and minority cultural identities, but can be mitigated through the effective participation of HUCs in project sites.
- Risk 6 Risk on labour conditions. Increased risk may be envisaged for groups of lower economic and education status, , including HUCs. Since the project requires a professional skills on more technical aspects of the sub-project activities and the utilization of digital technologies (where the community members can involve in providing services through data centers, IXP and data content distribution networks (CDNs), requires digital literacy they may not get a chance of being employed.
- Risk 7: Disproportionate impacts on Historically Underserved Communities (HUCs): As per Article 89 of the Constitution of the FDRE, there are communities in all the three connectivity routes proposed in the EA-RDIP SOP II recognized as Historically Underserved Communities (HUCs) that meet a distinct social and cultural group identified in accordance with paragraphs 8 of the ESS7. In the Ethiopian context, Afar, Ethiopian Somali, Benishangul-Gumuz Gambella as well as pastoralists and semi-pastoralist in parts of Oromiya and former SNNPR Regional States are categorized as Historically Underserved People (HUP), that meet the criteria set under ESS7. Owing to this fact, there are good reasons that underline the disproportionate adverse resettlement impacts of the project to the HUCs (this is to all targeted sub-components 1.1, 1.2. and 3.1.).
- The pastoral communities in the project target areas are inextricably linked to the land on which they live and the natural resources on which they depend. This means that HUCs' means of livelihood (mobile pastoralism) cannot be possible if they are relocated from

collective land under traditional ownership or customary use and, thus, their economic production systems may be dismantled.

b. ***Potential adverse effects on ULCs related to Component 1- last mile connectivity, including in borderland areas (subcomponent 1.2)***

- Risk 1: Risk on lack of capacities. Application via digital technologies could exclude those unable to use ICTs. Lack of capacity on the use of offline digital tools to circumvent issues related to the lack of internet connection or digital literacy.
- Risk 2: Risk of exclusion of affected stakeholders (HUCs like pastoralists, refugees, IDPs and others) due to their vulnerability and/or potential concerns about the project. HUCs and those relying on pastoralism or hunting and gathering may have lower incomes and be more affected by private provider pricing of digital services. In addition, social and political dynamics in a given area may reduce access to digital services to those of a lower social status (for example preferential routing of digital infrastructure). Where HUCs form minorities, and are considered by majority groups as having lower social and economic status, a lower level of participation by HUCs may be likely. That is the project may exclude those without access to ICTs and the internet and lacking digital literacy, especially in remote areas.
- Risk 3: Risk on Women. Where HUCs from minorities and are considered by majority groups as having lower social and economic status, exclusion, risks and impacts for historically underserved women are likely to be greater.
- Risk 4: Risk to HUCs. HUCs and those relying on pastoralism or hunting and gathering may have lower incomes and be more affected by private provider pricing of digital services. Thus, they fail to afford the available services. In addition, social and political dynamics in a given area may reduce access to digital services to those of a lower social status (for example preferential routing of digital infrastructure). The presence of conflict among local communities, political unrest and social rift in project areas can restrict access to use digital services.
- Risk 5: Risks related to stability and conflict: In addition to the project risks, at this time due to ongoing instability in Ethiopia, there is increased risk of conflict and violence. Often groups meeting ESS7 occupy the periphery of mainstream society, culture and the economy, and therefore (while all Ethiopians are affected) they may be an increased risk from instability and conflict. Any related risks resulting directly or indirectly from project activities require a high degree of caution and analysis for mitigation and avoidance measures. The presence of

biases based on ethnic background or political view can restrict HUCs and other vulnerable groups can be restricted from getting opportunities for professional development or higher occupational position placement. This limits the above raised groups from improving their professional careers and personal aspirations.

C. ***Potential adverse effects on ULCs related to Component 3- digital enablers for cross-border trade and service delivery (subcomponent 3.1)***

- HUCs' generally lack the necessary economic skills to survive if relocated to a different living environment.
- HUCs' economic, social, and legal status frequently limits their capacity to defend their rights to, and interests in, land, territories, and natural and cultural resources, and may restrict their ability to participate in and benefit from development projects.

4.3. Mitigation and Management Measures

To avoid or minimize adverse impacts to HUCs or minority groups, while at the same time ensuring their inclusion in benefits and full participation the project will:

- i. Mitigation mechanism for risk on lack of capacities: The choice of technology and software is crucial for the technical sustainability of ICT programs. The use of low-cost, simple and traditional technologies is often recommended. The existing technologies in relation to IXP, DCs and CDN . Technology can be changed by the characteristics of its use or by changes in the physical or social setting within which the technology exists. Hence, the capacity building efforts will focus on HUCs contexts and level of exposure to digital technologies, practice HUCs based application and combining unique needs of the HUCs and their knowledge base
- ii. Mitigation mechanisms for risk of project activities not being safeguards responsive during the project life cycle: check if consultations with HUCs were sufficient and the HUCs have accepted mitigation measures being proposed. Ensure whether the identified risks are addressed in relevant plan or other E & S safeguards instruments. Provide capacity building training to social safeguards specialist and schedule the implementation of the proposed safeguards compliance procedures and monitoring procedures. Identify procedures for addressing HUCs related impacts which may occur during implementation but were not predicted in the impact assessment.
- iii. Mitigation measures to risk of exclusion of affected stakeholders (HUCs like pastoralists, refugees, IDPs and others) due to their vulnerability and/or potential concerns about the

project: Among others the following measures are indicated a)PIU and community leaders should ensure equal participation of HUCs during consultation and along the project cycle; b) Carry out a continuous awareness-raising of HUCs' rights to land, natural resources and livelihoods; c) Use of communication mechanisms that will assure their participation in the project/Use of local leaders from their groups; d) Adequate communication framework to ensure HUCs voices are heard, pending issues resolved and grievances heard and e) enhance the HUCs capacity in digital literacy.

- iv. Mitigation measures for risk on Women exclusion: Key actions to address the exclusion include giving girls opportunities to access top digital learning environments and engage with digital technology, developing digital skills programs toward employability, providing digital skills training for out-of-school girls, creating safe spaces that inspire participation and inclusion in digital education for girls and boys, and encouraging female role models in the digital and tech sectors.
- v. Mitigation measures for risk on the community due to hazardous materials (mainly batteries, e-waste, chemicals for land clearance): The following measures are suggested
 - Further reference shall be made to the relevant WBG EHS Guidelines to manage OHS risks to security personnel.
 - Conduct regular training and awareness project focused on the key and relevant content of international and national guidance, the ESMP, Code of Conduct, accident and incident reporting, accident root cause analysis and remedial measures, projects for project workers, community and IAs;
 - Environmental and Social Clauses for Contractors Consultation (it will be included in bids and contractors' contracts)
 - Adhere to Hazardous material and Wastes Management set out in the ESMF
 - Adhere to Labor Management Procedures (LMP).
 - Adhere to Liquid and Solid Waste Management Guideline prepared for EA-RDIP SOP II.
 - Ensure ESHS provisions are incorporated in the bidding documents and contract agreement for construction.
 - Ensure that waste management is operable to reduce the fuel element for fire
 - Ensure a fire alarm/smoke alarm system is operable within the sites
 - Conduct regular Environmental and Social Monitoring and audit (the security monitoring will be included in regular E&S monitoring).
- vi. Mitigation measures for risk on ambient perturbation on the community:

The following mitigation measures are recommended to minimize impacts on the communities around:

a) Dust

- Regularly spray water to suppress the re-suspension of dust during construction; particularly during use of gravel roads and dirt tracks.
- Limit the speed of vehicle movements to minimize dust.
- Laborers working in dusty areas should be provided with requisite protective equipment such as dust masks and dust coats for preventive and protection purposes.

b) Noise

- Avoid using heavy construction machinery during night-time.
- Select transport routes to minimize noise pollution in sensitive areas.
- Install noise silencer on the construction machineries.
- Where necessary, ensure good and appropriate selection of agriculture machinery and equipment with low level of noise .
- Where necessary, fit with noise mufflers and maintain the construction machineries

and equipment timely to minimize excessive noise releases.

vii. Mitigation measures for risk on community health, safety and/or security due to the influx of people, mainly project workers and other new comers subsequent to the new economic activities resulting from the productive use of the ICT:

- Undertaking periodic awareness creations for workforce on safe working practices.
- Provision of STDs, HIV and AIDS prevention measures such as distribution of condoms to workers/local people both male and female.
- (IEC) messages about HIV/AIDS, STDS, COVID 19 protection, counseling and care.
- Include best practice health and safety provisions in the construction contracts and ensure strict compliance with national legislation and EHS Guidelines,
- Ensure notifications at ongoing construction canals.
- Disseminate traffic management plans in the project area, through campaigns in schools and communities with other relevant sectors, and ensure speed limits and traffic controls for project vehicles and equipment.

viii. Mitigation measures for risk on damage of cultural heritage:

- Inventory of Heritage features and Consultation with Community and official stakeholders (including local bodies) during ESIA

- Avoid risks and impacts: (i) Safety check of fragile structures/features to plan and avoid the specific type of works, (ii) Prepare alternate design to avoid sitting of structures/ activities near heritage features; or prevent disturbances or access restrictions to such areas
 - Consider at the design stage, risks to heritage due to potential overexploitation or impacts due to overuse
- ix. Mitigation measures for risk of HUCs capacity to afford services:
- Selecting digital service platforms which are sustainable and less costly,
 - Contextualizing digital platforms and services to the unique context, demand and interest of HUCs,
 - Introducing voucher or waiver/cost sharing mechanism to enhance the affordability capacity of HUCs.
 - Introducing adult education or short term trainings to fill the skill gaps of HUCs in using the digital platforms, services and devices
- x. Mitigation measures on risks related to labor conditions on HUCs:
- Compliance with wage payment regulations.
 - Establishment of an effective grievance mechanism.
 - Equipping workers with the tools they need for their jobs.
 - Conduct awareness creation program related terms and conditions of employment including their rights and obligations
- xi. Mitigation measures on lack of labor opportunities for HUCs: the following measures are suggested:-
- Recruitment policies will need to consider social issues and project acceptability. Considering the high local impact of the project in terms of land and disruption of existing lifestyles, together with the distrust of "outsiders", it is probably wise to maximize local employment.
 - Local residents are looking forward to construction-related employment opportunities, especially refugees, IDPs, women and landless youth.
- xii. Mitigation measures on risk of disproportionate impact on HUCs:
- Strengthening the institutional capacities of HUCs and local government for better understanding on project benefits and potential adverse risks and impacts;
 - Increasing local skills and capacities in adverse risks and impacts screening and mitigation;
 - Supporting structural (e.g., construction of digital infrastructure) and non-structural (e.g., building codes and policies/procedures for risk analysis of infrastructure projects) measures to reduce or avoid the possible impacts of natural hazards; and

- Building up and diversifying livelihoods assets and activities.
 - The site-level Plam/or targeted assessment process will be conducted by PIU in consultation with local government and community leaders, as well as local organizations and experts, to ensure a good understanding from multiples sources of community and ethnic dynamics at each implementation site. The approach to HUCs will be designed to avoid isolating ethnic groups or exacerbating local tension.
- xiii. The PIU will ensure key project stakeholders, principally representatives of MInT, local government and principal private sector partners, are sensitized by a consultant with appropriate experience of vulnerable communities in Ethiopia on relevant groups to ESS7, and the ESF requirements under WB projects. This will also be a key intervention to ensure vulnerable communities' inclusion in discussions, policy development and investment within project components 1 and 3, and wider inclusion in project processes and benefits.
 - xiv. The PIU will ensure that HUCs in project areas (as well as any national organization) are informed of activities, design, and implementation processes to seek input and to provide clarification. This should include informing national or local NGOs.
 - xv. PIU will ensure that consultations are carried out inclusively, for example ensuring that locations, languages, timings and pre-notification are done in non-discriminatory and culturally appropriate manners. This includes understanding limits to communications access, and providing full or summary documentation in a language and format that is accessible to communities.
 - xvi. Minority groups/vulnerable peoples will have equitable access to opportunities, such as employment within project activities, and benefits of market digitalization. Given the lower exposure of the minority groups in the digital sector, initiatives focused on digital literacy will allow them to benefit from the outcomes of the project, thereby granting them an equitable access to opportunities.
 - xvii. The GRM will contain additional measures to ensure maximum accessibility to the mechanism by community members, including the nomination of a trusted local focal point(s) by the communities in question. SEP, screening reports, both draft and final ESIA/ESMPs and ULCP/ULCPF, if needed, and monitoring reports are to be disclosed, including translation and/or presentation where necessary. Measures must be developed, consulted on, publicly disclosed and put in place prior to the start of any activities that might cause adverse impacts.

4.4. Proposed Action Plan: Risks, Challenges, Opportunities and Mitigation Measures

Table 8 : Proposed action plan on risks, challenges, opportunities and mitigation measures

Social Risks, Impacts and challenges	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Body	Budget
Risk on lack of capacities of HUCs	The choice of technology and software is crucial for the technical sustainability of ICT programs. The use of low-cost, simple and traditional technologies is often recommended. The existing technologies in relation to IXP, DCs and CDN . Technology can be changed by the characteristics of its use or by changes in the physical or social setting within which the technology exists. Hence, the capacity building efforts will focus on HUCs contexts and level of exposure to digital technologies, practice HUCs based application and combining unique needs of the HUCs and their knowledge base,	PIU at MInT, Contractors, Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) with Woreda administration office, sector experts	Core activity of component 1,2,3 and 4 and budget from E & S safeguards instrument implementation
Risk of project activities not being E&S safeguards responsive during the project life cycle	check if consultations with HUCs were sufficient and the HUCs have accepted mitigation measures being proposed. Ensure whether the identified risks are addressed on ULCDP and other E & S safeguards instruments. Provide capacity building training to social safeguards specialist and schedule the implementation of the proposed safeguards compliance procedures and monitoring procedures. Identify procedures for addressing HUCs related impacts which may occur during implementation but were not predicted in the impact assessment. Furthermore, hiring or assign E & S safeguards expert at national PIU and regional project coordination office. Assign E & S Safeguards focal person at woreda level and providing the capacity development training on the Projects E&S instruments requirements and WB ESF standards are additional suggestions.	PIU at MInT, Contractors, Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) with Woreda administration office, sector experts and lead facilitators hosted at Communication Office	Core activity of component 4 and budget from E & S safeguards instrument implementation
Risk of exclusion of affected stakeholders (HUCs like pastoralists, refugees, IDPs and others) due to their vulnerability and/or potential concerns about the project	The following measures are indicated a)PIU and community leaders should ensure equal participation of HUCs during consultation and along the project cycle; b) Carry out a continuous awareness-raising of HUCs' rights to land, natural resources and livelihoods; c) Use of communication mechanisms that will assure their participation in the project/Use of local leaders from their groups;	PIU at MInT, Contractors, Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) with Woreda administration office, sector experts and Woreda women and child affairs office and pastoral development office	Core activity of component 1,2 and 4 and budget from E & S Safeguards instrument implementation

Social Risks, Impacts and challenges	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Body	Budget
	<p>d) Adequate communication framework to ensure HUCs voices are heard, pending issues resolved and grievances heard and</p> <p>e) enhance the HUCs capacity in digital literacy.</p>		
Risk on Women exclusion	Key actions to address the exclusion include giving girls opportunities to access top digital learning environments and engage with digital technology, developing digital skills programs toward employability, providing digital skills training for out-of-school girls, creating safe spaces that inspire participation and inclusion in digital education for girls and boys, and encouraging female role models in the digital and tech sectors.	PIU at MInT, Contractors, Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) with Woreda administration office, sector experts and Woreda women and child affairs office	Core activity of component 4 and budget from E & S safeguards instrument implementation
Risk of labor influx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Conduct labor influx risk screening prior to sub-projects implementation (as part of E & S instruments). -Ensure that sub-project planning considers workforce estimates, skills required, workforce recruitment policy and management, and availability of workforce housing and other utilities. -As much as possible, recruit sub-projects workforce from the local labor (particularly unskilled labor). -Monitor change in labor influx throughout the life cycle of a sub-project, effectiveness of mitigation measures, -Conduct training (once in a year) for all sub-project participants on the likelihood, significance and management of labor influx. 	PIU at MInT, Contractors, Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) with Woreda administration office, sector experts and Woreda women and child affairs office and labor and skill office	Core activity of component 4 and budget from E & S safeguards instrument implementation
Risk on damage of cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory of Heritage features and Consultation with Community and official stakeholders (including local bodies) during ESIA - Avoid risks and impacts: (i) Safety check of fragile structures/features to plan and avoid the specific type of works, (ii) Prepare alternate design to avoid sitting of structures/ activities near heritage features; or prevent disturbances or access restrictions to such areas - Consider at the design stage, risks to heritage due to potential overexploitation or impacts due to overuse 	PIU at MInT, Contractors, Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) with Woreda administration office, sector experts and Woreda women and child affairs office, culture and tourism office and EPA	Core activity of component 4
Risk of HUCs capacity to afford services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Selecting digital service platforms which are sustainable and less costly, - Contextualizing digital platforms and services to the unique context, demand and interest of HUCs, 	PIU at MInT, Contractors, Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) with Woreda administration office, sector experts and	Core activity of component 2

Social Risks, Impacts and challenges	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Body	Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introducing voucher or waiver/cost sharing mechanism to enhance the affordability capacity of HUCs. - Introducing adult education or sort term trainings to fill the skill gaps of HUCs in using the digital platforms, services and devices 	Woreda women and child affairs office, labor and skill office	
Risks related to labor conditions on HUCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compliance with wage payment regulations. - Establishment of an effective grievance mechanism. - Equipping workers with the tools they need for their jobs. - Conduct awareness creation program related terms and conditions of employment including their rights and obligations 	PIU at MInT, Contractors, Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) with Woreda administration office, sector experts and Woreda women and child affairs office, labor and skill office	Core activity of component 1
Lack of labor opportunities for HUCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment policies will need to consider social issues and project acceptability. Considering the high local impact of the project in terms of land and disruption of existing lifestyles, together with the distrust of "outsiders", it is probably wise to maximize local employment. Local residents are looking forward to construction-related employment opportunities, especially refugees, IDPs, women and landless youth. 	PIU at MInT, Contractors, Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) with Woreda administration office, sector experts and Woreda women and child affairs office, labor and skill office	Core activity of component 1
Risk of disproportionate impact on HUCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening the institutional capacities of HUCs and local government for better understanding on project benefits and potential adverse risks and impacts; - Increasing local skills and capacities in adverse risks and impacts screening and mitigation; - Supporting structural (e.g., construction of digital infrastructure) and non-structural (e.g., building codes and policies/procedures for risk analysis of infrastructure projects) measures to reduce or avoid the possible impacts of natural hazards; and - Building up and diversifying livelihoods assets and activities. 	PIU at MInT, Contractors, Cluster Area Project Personnel (CAPP) with Woreda administration office, sector experts and Woreda women and child affairs office and pastoral development office	Core activity of component 1,2,3 and 4

5.0. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM IN EA-RDIP SOP II

5.1. Proposed Grievance Redress Mechanism

A project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is developed as part of the EARDIP SOP II- SEP and will be implemented throughout the project cycle. The project GRM offers a special consideration for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups (DVGs). To this effect, the institutional setup of the project GRM considers the voice of the DVGs and Historically Underserved Communities (HUCs) by including their representative in the Project Site Grievance Management Committee (PSGMC) and Kebele Grievance Management Committee (KGMC). To make the project GRM accessible to the project-affected communities, including HUCs and VDGs, the PSGMC serve as the grassroots level of entry point.

The members of PSGMC include clan leaders, community elders, religious leaders, and representatives of women, youth and other DVGs. The PSGMC will handle grievance in a culturally appropriate manner and provide opportunities to utilize the customary conflict resolution system before referring to the next level of appeal. Also, this venue will help to resolve issues and complaints of affected person at the earliest point to make the project GRM process faster and cost-effective. In case, agreement is not reached through the mediation of the PSGMC, the person with the complaints presented his/her case to the KGMC. The members of the KRMC shall include the Kebele administration or council member, the project area focal person, representatives of project-affected communities (clan leader and elected community elder), and representatives of DVGs and HUCs. With similar manner of grievance appeal and management through the PSGMC, the process of resolving grievance through KGMC will look all the possible opportunities to solve grievance based on the customary system. The project GRM process maintaining special consideration for DVGs and HUCs will extend to Woreda and Regional Grievance Management Committee structures (see details in the SEP). Yet, the project GRM will not impede the rights of the project-affected party with complaints, for taking the case to the regular court system.

Moreover, the project GRM is complementary to other existing formal grievance redress mechanisms within the legal and administrative structures including Police, Anti-Corruption Office, and Human Rights Commission. Project affected parties shall also be informed about the existing legal and formal mechanisms and be allowed to make use of them wherever they find it necessary.

5.2. GRM Steps and Timeframe

The project grievance process will be simple and administered as far as possible at the local levels to facilitate access, flexibility and ensure transparency. To achieve this, the project GRM involves the following steps and timeframe alongside each step.

Step 1: Receiving complaints at PSGMC meeting place. The means of receiving complaints provides multiple options for submission of grievances by project-affected persons in order to minimize barriers that may prevent others from forwarding their issues. These channels include the following:

- (a) *In person*: This may be verbal or written submissions done at any time through face-to-face interactions with members of the PSGMC.
- (b) *Grievance box*: Grievance boxes placed in strategic places of project implementation sites or communities where project affected parties would drop in their grievances at any time.
- (c) *Phone Call or SMS*: The project-affected parties with complaints can make a call and text SMS to any of the members of the PSGMC for presenting his/her complaints orally and to arrange the meeting with the committee for submission in written.
- (d) The members of the PSGMC will meet within one day after the complaint is being received to resolve the case and let the person with the complaints know the decision within 24 hours.
- (e) If agreement not reached, the PSGMC will submit the case to KGMC in the same day.

Step 2: The KGMC will meet within 24 hours after receiving unresolved cases of complaints from the PSGMC for decision. The KGMC will let the PSGMC know the decision within the same day which in turn let know the person with complaints within one day.

Step 3: W/CGMC will sit for meeting to investigate the complaints received from the KGMC within a week time and decision will be made accordingly.

Step 4: As members of the RGMC will meet every three weeks to investigate and make decision on the unresolved complaints received from the W/CGMC. As the RGMC mostly likely receive complex issues, the process of decision making will yet take another one-week time as appropriate.

Step 5: In due process from step 1 to step 4, the person with complaints will receive the decision made by the highest level of the GRM appealing system within one month time. If still not

satisfied with the decision made by the RGMC, the person will be informed the right to appeal through the formal court system and he or she can be decision accordingly.

A written record of all complaints will be maintained, having all the necessary information required for its management (see SEP for details).

The project will provide contact details for responsible personnel assigned for the GRM, during consultation and awareness raising sessions, MInT websites as well as posted in places with full view of the public, as required, any written form exists or the steps of the GRM procedure will be translated in to local language understandable to the HUCs. In the case of a complaint where anonymity is requested, the grievance management committees at all levels, PIU and any resulting grievance process must respect this condition.

Awareness on grievance redress procedures will be created through a public awareness campaign, with the help of print and electronic media and radio. The implementing PIU will ensure that the HUCs are made aware of the GRM and their entitlements and assured that their grievances will be redressed adequately and in a timely manner. However, where HUCs or the community are not literate in languages other than their own, special assistance will be sought from community leaders, CBOs, and NGOs having knowledge of their language, culture, or social norms, or having working experience among the HUC, who will help the HUCs express their concerns, consult about mitigating measures, and explain to them the project and its potential impact on the HUCs.

5.2. World Bank Grievance Redress Services

Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by a WBG supported program, may submit complaints to existing program-level grievance redress mechanisms or the WBG's Grievance Redress Service (GRS). The GRS ensures that complaints received are promptly reviewed in order to address program-related concerns. Program affected communities and individuals may submit their complaint to the WBG's independent Inspection Panel which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, as a result of WBG non-compliance with its policies and procedures. Complaints may be submitted at any time after concerns have been brought directly to the WBG's attention, and WBG Management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the WBG's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS), please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/GRS>. For information on how to submit complaints to the WBG Inspection Panel, please visit you may download relevant information on how to file a request from the following source: www.inspectionpanel.org.

6.0. INFORMED CONSULTATION AND MAIN FINDINGS

This section, among others, deal with key issues like the community's reflections, concerns and aspiration for the EA-RDIP SOP II; community institutions; livelihoods, household structure and leadership and causes of conflict and traditional resolution mechanisms in the area. Furthermore, it focuses on natural resources use and control in the project areas; types and use of land tenure; ethnic relationships in the project areas; cross-cutting issues in the EA-RDIP SOP II communities involved in the underserved local community planning framework ; community involvement in development projects; summary of community consultation with community representatives and community involvement in the EA-RDIP SOP II project.

6.1. Engagement of ULCs and other Stakeholders

As envisaged by the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) prepared for the project, the project will conduct meaningful consultations with all the project identified stakeholders, including the ULCs in and around the project area to ensure that the priorities, preferences, and needs of the indigenous groups are taken into consideration adequately while designing ULCP and other mitigation mechanisms. With that objective in view, a strategy for consultation with ULC has been proposed so that all consultations are conducted in a manner that ensures full and effective participation. The approach of full and effective participation is primarily based upon transparent, good faith interactions, so that everyone in the community is empowered to join fully in the decision-making process. It includes providing information in a language and manner the community understands and, in a timeframe, compatible with the community's cultural norms. Care will be taken to maintain transparency of the Project, reduce potential conflicts, minimize the risk of project delays, and enable the Project to design the ULCDP and required resettlement and the rehabilitation program as a comprehensive development program to suit the needs and priorities of the project affected ULCs.

The development of the ULCP will follow a participatory approach to enable ULCs to have a role in the project planning and development process. Once detailed design is finalized, the detailed project activities and location of the ULC communities and impacts on UL community and households will be determined. ULCs that will be impacted due to the implementation of the project will be interviewed on an individual basis, consulted in group discussions and meetings to understand and collect their views on their needs, priorities, and preference regarding the project implementation. Separate focus group discussions will be organized with indigenous communities to assess the project impacts and benefits to these groups. Based on the social assessment finding, an ULCDP will

be prepared with the feedback from consultation and respects their views, concerns, requests and recommendations and also fully considered.

The affected ULCs will be actively engaged in all stages of the project cycle, including project preparation, and feedback of consultations with the UL communities will be reflected in the project design, followed by disclosure. Their participation in project preparation and planning will inform them about project design and will be continued in the project execution. Once the ULCP is prepared, it will be translated into Amharic and local language (if possible) and made available to them before implementation.

The ULCP implementation will continue this participatory approach to enable meaningful consultation and effective participation of ULCs. The project will adopt a strategy to ensure involvement of ULCs in project preparation and implementation. Core components of this strategy are (a) the representation of ULC on ULCPF/ULCP implementation structures; (b) a grievance management system for the resolution of grievances and disputes; and (c) monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track implementation issues. The detailed implementing plans will be developed jointly with the UL communities. The project team will work with them on the community schemes. For household-specific schemes and activities, the project team will work with individual households belonging to underserved people to develop and implement their household-specific schemes. The time and location of consultations will be determined as appropriate to the needs of ULCs and vulnerable people.

6.2. Summary of Consultation Government Officials and Stakeholders

I. Summary of Concerns and Views raised by the stakeholder Members during ULCPF Preparation.

Table 9: Summary of concerns and views raised by the stakeholder members during ULCPF Preparation

S.n	Stakeholders	Date	Location	# of Participants	Views Raised by participants on BRWDLP II	Clarification and Response from the Team
1	PAP-Elidar Woreda	09/03/2015 E.C	Haweli/galafi Village Center	18 (13 Male and 5Female)	<p>Benefits: the gadgets such as tablets, smartphones and computers that were necessary in accessing the digital services were too expensive for them. Also, the mobile internet service was weak, intermittent, and the services too expensive, it can have the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project will help the youth gain better access and participation in the Digital Integration Enhancing teaching learning process - The youth can use the internet for research, studies, communication, and entertainment including sports. - The project is good and was unlikely to negatively affect the HUCs, except for fences, kiosks other temporary business structures along the roads where fiber optic cables will be laid, but this they acknowledged will be temporary and rare. - At community level there is need for community centers with internet connections. It was argued that the best way to reach 	<p>The project is expected to have an important impact on the country's resilience through increased digital access for consumption and production, through improved business information systems providing validated data and analyses to decision makers, and through increased drought preparedness. The project will contribute to improve pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods through community level sub-projects to increase digital access and use, involving targeted communities in the development, management, and maintenance of digital sector investments.</p>

S.n	Stakeholders	Date	Location	# of Participants	Views Raised by participants on BRWDLP II	Clarification and Response from the Team
					<p>them with project information was through their clan leaders and local administrators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cost of accessing internet in the homes be reduced to improve usage, - Improved access to learning and teaching materials for HUCs learners - Access to weather information for better farming - Increased online business leading better returns and value for money - Reduce carbon emissions because with stable and affordable internet connections fewer people will travel for meetings or classes away from home or even to visit cyber cafes in towns. - Access to online jobs will reduce unemployment and poverty in the HUCs territories. - Contributing to solve social inequality related problems by integrating and including vulnerable groups 	
					<p>Risks: the project implementation can have the following risks:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy landscapes may fail to include the interests of HUCs, youth, women and people living with disabilities (PLWDs) in the country, while also ensuring gender equity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compensation for all affected communities regardless of their land holding is effected; - Land-to-land replacement in the case of loss of land; - Compensation is provided for loss of assets other than land.

S.n	Stakeholders	Date	Location	# of Participants	Views Raised by participants on BRWDLP II	Clarification and Response from the Team
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exclusion of the HUCs from the project. This is likely to result from the HUCs' current limited access to ICT equipment and internet services, inadequate awareness and inadequate on computing and the digital integration. - It affects ecologically sensitive areas like; forest and park. - If the E and S safeguards instruments are not managed properly and if the project hires a large amount of laborers it may result on gender based violence problems. - Trenches for laying the fiber optic cables unless managed properly will pose safety challenges for humans and livestock. This will be mitigated through effective warning signs, barricades, and effective backfilling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Displaced persons should be assisted in their efforts to improve or restore their livelihoods (capacity building opportunities); - Awareness creation around computing, online jobs, and digital integration opportunities in general. Some HUC youth were accessing internet on their smart phones mainly for entertainment. They need to be moved beyond entertainment to identifying digital integration opportunities. - To utilize digital integration opportunities members of HUCs require training and capacity development on computing and other knowledge and skillsets necessary for their effective participation in the digital integration. - After training and capacity development the HUC youth will require mentorship from seasoned digital integration actors. This will help entrench them in the digital integration, benefit, and mentor others in their communities to work and do business in the emerging integration. - Since there are no cyber cafes in the shopping centres in HUC territories it will be appropriate for the project to support the establishment of community centres with Wi-Fi to support HUC youth and other interested people gain experience and skills to start cybercafé business as demand for services outstrip the capacity of the community centres. - EARDIP SOP II will enhance benefits for HUCs school children if the project

S.n	Stakeholders	Date	Location	# of Participants	Views Raised by participants on BRWDLP II	Clarification and Response from the Team
						supports provision of IT equipment to schools in their territories. This will give HUC children a head-start in gaining computing skills, accessing learning and teaching materials online and ultimately getting ready for the digital Integration.
					<p>Mitigation mechanisms: Among others the following mitigations mechanisms are suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proper ULCP process, handling and compensation shall be on place - Community shall be engaged from planning to project implementation - Effective GBV handling and prohibition mechanism for child labor needs to be considered - Change shall be achieved on decision-making and school enrolment. Male are given upper hand on both dimensions, thus needs to be changed. Women shall involve on the decision making process. 	<p>- Adapting safeguards measures to the poverty context provides a useful guide to mitigation actions and also provides an opportunity to link safeguard outcomes to the Bank's mission of poverty reduction.</p> <p>-Bringing vulnerable groups into mainstream of project/development benefits.</p> <p>-Better integration of the mitigation objectives of safeguards with the objectives of enhancing social and environmental sustainability</p> <p>Anticipated risks are expected to be easily mitigated. Along the various stages of the project implementation, there will be an affirmative action or other equivalent mechanism which helps to identify the vulnerable PAPs and design a mechanism that responds in line with their needs and contexts.</p>
					<p>Communication methods: we prefer to use local communication mechanism- 'Dagu.'</p> <p>We can also use other communication mechanisms like radio transmission and community notice board.</p>	<p>Apart from the local communication mechanism- Dagu the project will use the following communication methods. Public meetings, workshops; Social Media Communication -Facebook; Disclosure of written information - (Brochures, posters, flyers, and slicker) and radio transmission.</p>

S.n	Stakeholders	Date	Location	# of Participants	Views Raised by participants on BRWDLP II	Clarification and Response from the Team
					<p>Grievance Redress Mechanism: The GRM is locally established which is consisting of community leaders and elderly. Thus, we can integrate the project's GRM with the local GRM mechanism. But capacity building support is vital.</p>	- Strengthen client capacity and enhance responsibility and ownership, by providing training on the project's GRM mechanism and on how to best strike a balance among the local and the project's GRM mechanism.

III. Summary of Issues Raised during Federal-Stakeholder Consultation

Table 10: Summary of issues raised during Federal-Stakeholder Consultation

Issues raised
I. Federal Level Stakeholder Consultation
1. Benefits of the project:
<p>Ministry of Innovation and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to information to a wider group • Job creation (temporary construction and creative economy) • Device affordability • Reduced environmental pollution. • Increased e-resources to institutions • Infrastructure sharing • Efficiency through improved service delivery • Increased digital skills (<i>Participant 1-MInT-October 23, 2022</i>).

Women and Social Affairs(MoWSA)

The project will be helpful for MoWSA, especially if it is linked with the gender MIS (project supported by AfDB) and can be effective if it is guided by findings and directions stated under Women Development Index (indicator). The project will benefit for potential women entrepreneurs if they start working on the well-established and active women-owned enterprises. For instance the owner of RIDE Hybrid Designs PLC is women owned enterprise, and there are many women engaged in agricultural business, these successful women can be engaged also in the digital sector. Much work is required at grass root level to engage the rural communities. In most cases refugees and IDPs requires short and medium term solutions; hence, EA-RDIP SOP II shall be linked with emergency response projects **(Participant 4-MoWSA-October 26, 2022)**.

FS3- Development Bank of Ethiopia

We believe that the project will contribute to enhance the Public Private partnership by improving access to finance for women. EA-RDIP SOP II will enhance the service delivery in the financial sector by providing technical assistance in a way that enhances the three main principles of DBE that is *connectivity, affordability and accessibility*. We believe there will be grants for women owned enterprises or digital market platforms for women. Thus, goes in line with the mission and objectives of DBE **(P5-DBE-October 31, 2022)**.

2. Project design and implementation:

MoWSA

The project design and implementation shall visit active interventions like, African Women Speak (COMESA) which is an online market platform with an access to 50 million people. In the case of Ethiopia, there are active women and if the language barrier is resolved, the number of women who will actively involve in the online marketing will increase. Furthermore, the project design shall consider the national access and usage gap on internet access and mobile usage for women. Interventions needs to be integrated with the financial instruments of National Bank of Ethiopia and have to contribute on improving the financial literacy status of women **(Participant 4-MoWSA-October 26, 2022)**.

Development Bank of Ethiopia

While dealing with enhancing women owned enterprises, the project items and activities related with capital expenditure investment item shall be linked with operational capital investment. Thus, existing systems related to capital expenditure is treated under wholesale category and handled at head office. In the case of operational capital expenditure, it can be linked with microfinance retail, lending/granting institutions. While delivering technical assistance, the project can borrow lessons from 'Rural Financial Intermediation

Program, Training association Micro-enterprises, Federal and Regional Cooperatives commission and support from consultants (*P5-DBE-October 31, 2022*).

3. Contribution of Stakeholders on the Overall EA-RDIP SOP II project implementation

Development Bank of Ethiopia

The contribution of DBE on the process of implementation of the project can include;

- Differential treatment to women-improving policy instruments at our institution.
- Refining financial instruments- interest rate reduction for women, exclusive funding, and risk sharing mechanism (providing fund in the form of partial grant) (*P5-DBE-October 31, 2022*).

4. Contribution on Environmental and social safeguards:

MINT(PIU)

- Closely help and deliver capacity building training to contractors, suppliers, etc., to close knowledge/skill gaps and minimize the likelihood of risks to happen to subprojects;
- Undertake follow up monitoring to ensure that proposed mitigation measures are implemented according to the C-ESMPs;
- Lead on developing and delivering a series of spot checks to ensure social and environmental risks are properly implemented by both the contractor and beneficiary;
- Receive social and environmental complaints relating to EARDIP SOP II activities and ensuring that they are addressed in accordance with the GRM;
- Undertake monitoring visits to subprojects sites according to E&S issues therein;

FS3-Development Bank of Ethiopia

DBE can share its experience on hazard waste management, on ESMS implementation, corrective action plan, field visit and putting in place a time bounded requirements. We have a rich experience in E and S safeguards and we have a senior officer dedicated for this task (*P7-DBE-October 31, 2022*).

5. Lessons learned:

FS2- MoWSA

Nationally, gender equality projects brings the 2nd largest fund in Ethiopia, but there are better accomplishments in solving women related problems on the projects implemented and funded by UNFPA (SGBV, FGM, early marriage and reporting system), UN-Women (on women

empowerment, GBV, coordination and leadership) and UNICEF (Child protection, child marriage, early marriage and FGM). Thus, EA-RDIP DOP II shall take lessons from the projects implemented by these UN institutions and it shall use existing infrastructures to better execute the project components and to provide practical benefit to women (*Participant 4-MoWSA-October 26, 2022*).

FS3-Development bank of Ethiopia

- The successful implementation of WB-Women Entrepreneurship Development Project (WEDP) has transformed different women owned enterprises and hence can serve as a source of lesson on the implementation of components of EA-RDIP SOP II related to enhancing women owned enterprises.
- If women are provided with the required support, they are active and effective in transforming their life and changing the fate of a given household and country,
- Private market is efficient in transforming women, thus the EA-RDIP SOP II can benefit from exploiting the private sector/market, (*P8-DBE-October 31, 2022*)
- TVET and ETHERNET can contribute on providing TA to women and their enterprises
- Local coordinators at rural and urban areas can be women and can drive the women owned enterprises in a positive direction,
- MIS, training, providing ID to beneficiaries, follow-up and designating a hotline for GRM can help to prevent or mitigate potential impacts,
- (*P8-DBE-October 31, 2022*).

6. Negative impact of the project:

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7. Challenges:

FS-2 MoWSA

One of the beneficiaries of the project is IDPs and refugees, since the infrastructures are temporary; it discourages the contractors to engage on such kinds of settings (*Participant 4-MoWSA-October 26, 2022*).

Though there are some initiatives from the government institutions like gender responsive budgeting system, there is no a platform that involves MoWSA on the donor funded interventions or activities run by CSOs. For every project implemented by different ministries and institutions, in most case gender is included as a main component or as a cross-cutting issues, but gender directorate or office representatives or MoWSA are not consulted. MoWSA is not also awarded a functional role in different projects which should have been the case (*Participant 4-MoWSA-October 26, 2022*).

8. Suggested mitigation measures:

FS-3 Development Bank of Ethiopia

- The E and S requirements can be included as part of the financial agreement in the PAD, which is the case,
- Training need assessment on women owned enterprises and providing technical assistance,

- Including the provision of E and S impact management principles and preparation and submission of E & S safeguards report as part of the loan agreement,
- Conducting follow-up, field visit, preparing and implementing Corrective Action Plan (CAP),
- Including time bounded requirements and if not met taking corrective measures like shifting a risk category and eventually excluding the service supplier, *(P7-DBE-October 31, 2022)*.

IV. Summary of Issues Raised during Regional-Stakeholder Consultation

Table 11: Summary of issues raised during Regional-stakeholder consultation

Issues raised
I. Regional Level Stakeholder Consultation
1. Benefits of the project:
<p>RS2- Afar-BoWSA The project will be helpful for BoWSA, on providing financial and technical support. The project will benefit women, given that it is innovation and technology focused. Since it is linked with Djibouti, it will help to strengthen the existing socio-economic tie and helps to enhance cross-border data market and online market integration <i>(Participant 11- Afar-BoWSA-November 10, 2022)</i>.</p>
2. Project design and implementation:
<p>RS1- Afar-Science, Innovation and Technology Commission The project shall consider the utilization of community level ICT infrastructures like community centers for ICT and knowledge management. This will help to enhance the intervention on Internet Exchange Points (IXP) and Household internet solutions. We expect also both <i>(Participant 9- Afar-Science, Innovation and Technology Commission -November 09, 2022)</i>.</p>
<p>RS2-BoWSA The project shall assess on-going activities which are focused on ICT and women economic empowerment <i>(Participant 11- Afar-BoWSA-November 10, 2022)</i>..</p>

3. Contribution of Stakeholders on the Overall EA-RDIP project implementation

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RS2- Afar-BoWSA

We can integrate the exiting activities like initiatives on training, diary production, and other pastoral community development activities with the activities and platforms of EA-RDIP SOP II. There are IDPs in Zone 2, 5 and 1, hence we can use the project to provide digital services to them. There are some negative consequences of the war on the northern part of Ethiopia and early marriage is accompanied with dropping out from school; thus EA-RDIP SOP II can help us to fight such kinds of malpractices. There is high rate of 1-5 years old mortality and these platforms (Internet Exchange Points and mobile solutions) can be used for emergency response purposes. We can mobilize resources and traditional communication mechanisms like 'Dagu' and work on local radio transmission to promote the project and enhance community engagement. Another contribution will be working on follow-up and reporting on the project progress and overall implementation (*Participant 11- Afar-BoWSA-November 10, 2022*).

4. Lessons learned:

RS2- Afar-BoWSA

We expand the success of women owned enterprises in the agriculture sector in to ICT and digital service supply sector. Being supported with sufficient training, involving women unions or associations and working on market network can provide a better probability of implementing the project component related to women-owned enterprises promotion (*Participant 12- Afar-BoWSA-November 10, 2022*).

5. Negative impact of the project:

RS1- Afar-Science, Innovation and Technology Commission

Though the project have plenty benefits, if the required E & S safeguards tools are not in place, it may have the following negative impacts;

- The project may have negative impact on the environment and the community (*Participant 9- Afar-Science, Innovation and Technology Commission -November 09, 2022*).

RS2- Afar-BoWSA

The project may have dis-proportionate impact on pastoral communities and women. (*Participant 12- Afar-BoWSA-November 10, 2022*).

6. Challenges:

RS2- Afar-BoWSA

The major challenges are:

- Afar region is left behind on executing gender related activities; the better performers are Amhara, SNNP and Oromia regional states.
- Afar women development groups are not strong as such.

- Both education and health offices have poor working relationship with BoWSA.
 - Leaders and experts working on women and social affairs are not executing their respective activities at the needed level
 - The report prepared and submitted to the regional council on gender and development is generic and is far from reflecting the specific issues on the ground.
 - A permanent committee on women and social affairs to the regional government council is not active.
 - The gender directorate directors are not members of the management teams on different regional bureaus, the good practice we have is in regional health bureau.
 - The perception they have to women is very poor and they did not involve the representatives of the gender directorate in planning and implementation activities.
 - The social cluster which is chaired by the President of Afar Regional state is not working closely with gender directorates of the various offices
- (Participant 12- Afar-BoWSA-November 10, 2022).**

7. Suggested mitigation measures:

RS-1 Afar-Science, Innovation and Technology Commission

- The E and S requirements can be included as part of the financial agreement in the PAD, which is the case,
- Training need assessment on capacity building requirements of the staffs and providing technical assistance,
- Including the provision of E and S impact management principles and preparation and submission of E & S safeguards report as part of the loan agreement,
- Conducting follow-up, field visit, preparing and implementing Corrective Action Plan (CAP),
- Including time bounded requirements and if not met taking corrective measures like shifting a risk category and eventually excluding the service supplier, **(Participant 9- Afar-Science, Innovation and Technology Commission -November 09, 2022).**

RS2- Afar-BoWSA

- We can use the GO-NGO forum as a point of entry to raise and implement project activities related to women.
- The women and children affairs coordination unit can work on reaching out to different sectors and thereby contribute to the proper implementation of the project.
- The GRM activities can be linked to the women development groups and can help to prevent GBV.
- Leaders and experts working on women and social affairs are not executing their respective activities at the needed level
- Women can work on coordination activities and increase the effectiveness of the project.
- A permanent committee on women and social affairs to the regional government council is not active.
- The regional cooperatives commission and small and micro-enterprises can work to organize women enterprises.

-The regional labor and skill bureau and TVET can provide training for staffs and beneficiaries.
 -The project can provide an opportunity for women who are graduated in ICT and who are currently residing in zone 3, 2 and 1 of Afar region.
(Participant 12- Afar-BoWSA-November 10, 2022).

6.3. Summary of Consultation with Community

I. Summary of Issues Raised by Community representatives.

Table 12: Summary of issues raised by community representatives

Issues raised
1. Benefits of the project:
<p>Benefits: the gadgets such as tablets, smartphones and computers that were necessary in accessing the digital services were too expensive for them. Also, the mobile internet service was weak, intermittent, and the services too expensive, it can have the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project will help the youth gain better access and participation in the Digital Integration Enhancing teaching learning process - The youth can use the internet for research, studies, communication, and entertainment including sports. - The project is good and unlikely to negatively affect the HUCs, except for fences, kiosks other temporary business structures along the roads where fiber optic cables will be laid, but this they acknowledged will be temporary and rare. - At community level there is need for community centers with internet connections. It was argued that the best way to reach them with project information was through their clan leaders and local administrators. - The cost of accessing internet in the homes be reduced to improve usage, - Improved access to learning and teaching materials for HUCs learners - Access to weather information for better farming - Increased online business leading better returns and value for money - Reduce carbon emissions because with stable and affordable internet connections fewer people will travel for meetings or classes away from home or even to visit cyber cafes in towns. - Access to online jobs will reduce unemployment and poverty in the HUCs territories. - Contributing to solve social inequality related problems by integrating and including vulnerable groups

Feedback by the assessment team

The project is expected to have an important impact on the country's resilience through increased digital access for consumption and production, through improved business information systems providing validated data and analyses to decision makers, and through increased drought preparedness. The project will contribute to improve pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods through community level sub-projects to increase digital access and use, involving targeted communities in the development, management, and maintenance of digital sector investments.

Risks: the project implementation can have the following risks:-

- May fail to include the interests of HUCs, youth, women and people living with disabilities (PLWDs) in the country, while also ensuring gender equity.
- Exclusion of the HUCs from the project. This is likely to result from the HUCs' current limited access to ICT equipment and internet services, inadequate awareness and inadequate on computing and the digital integration.
- It affects ecologically sensitive areas like; forest and park.
- If the E and S safeguards instruments are not managed properly and if the project hires large amount of laborers it may result on gender based violence problems.
- Trenches for laying the fiber optic cables unless managed properly will pose safety challenges for humans and livestock.

Communication methods: we prefer to use local communication mechanism- '*Dagu.*'

We can also use other communication mechanisms like radio transmission and community notice board.

Grievance Redress Mechanism:

There is locally established GM which is consisting of community leaders and elderly. We can integrate the project's GRM with the local GRM mechanism. But capacity building support is vital.

Participants of the community consultation: 17 (12 Male and 5 Female) from Elidar Woreda, Afar Region November 18-21, 2022.

6.4. Disclosure and Dissemination Strategies

Project-related information will be publicly disclosed throughout the project lifecycle using a range of channels, including the following:

- Periodic stakeholder consultations, such as public hearings
- Organizing community meetings, FGDs, participatory appraisal techniques, household interviews and social mobilization techniques as appropriate
- Project-related information will be posted on the notice boards at the public offices
- Information dissemination through social media such as Facebook, Messenger or WhatsApp and local communality radio, among others.
- Digital boards will also be placed on selected worksites to display up-to-date information regarding the project, ensuring that ULCs understand the information well.
- Development and distribution of project factsheet, information on the GRM in Amharic and other local languages.

In addition, the draft and final version of the ULCP will be disclosed to the stakeholders, including the affected ULCs through appropriate channel, and consulted with them to get their comments, concerns, and feedback on the draft ULCP. The ULCP will be finalized incorporating the relevant suggestions and feedback received from the representatives of ULCs and stakeholders. The final ULCP will be disclosed once approved by concerned Offices, MInT-PIUs and World Bank.

7.0. PREPARATION OF THE ULCP

7.1. Steps for ULCP Preparation

Underserved Local Community Plan (ULCP) will be prepared if it is determined that HUCs are present in or have collective attachment to the subproject area. The steps for preparing an ULCP are as follows:

1. Screening to identify whether Underserved Local-ULCs are present in or have collective attachment to the project area;
2. Social assessment and analysis to address the social concerns of the sub-project area from identified ULC groups;
3. Identifying the views of the affected ULCs at each stage of the project, and particularly during project preparation;
4. Where FPIC is determined to be required, conduct FPIC according to ESS7, with the FPIC process documented;
5. Where FPIC is determined to not be required, meaningful consultation is needed, and with the consultation process;
6. Determining institutional arrangements (including capacity building wherever necessary) for screening project-supported activities, evaluating their effects on ULC, preparing ULCP (if required), and addressing grievances; and
7. Preparation the ULCDP and obtaining approval of and disclosure by PIU and the World Bank
8. Conducting monitoring and reporting.

7.1.1. Screening

During the planning and design phase of the subproject, a screening survey will be carried out based on group discussions with the communities in the sub project area to identify the presence of any UL communities which have a collective attachment to the subproject area. Apart from consultations with community members, consultations and in-depth interviews will also be carried out with the NGOs working in the area and with representatives of local self-government. The screening will look into the details of ULC/HUC households, assessing the number of such households in proposed sub project area. If the result shows that there are ULC communities, issues related to the community will be included in the scope of ESIA exercise.

7.1.2. Social Impact Assessment

If the screening findings confirm likely impacts on UL communities, the project will engage qualified and experienced experts to carry out a social assessment of the affected UL families and community as a part

of the site-specific ESIA or independent social assessments that relates with plan. The project will be responsible for conducting the SA/ESIA and the development of an action plan with the help of UL communities and organizations working for them. Discussions will focus on both positive and negative impacts of the sub project. The suggestions and feedbacks of the community taken through meaningful consultations will be incorporated on the design hence to ensure the broader community support for the project. The ESIA will gather relevant information on demographic, social, cultural, economic, and networking aspects of each household and needs of the community as a whole and will assess the likely impacts on ULCs. The impacts on UL communities should be considered significant, if the project or project component positively or negatively: (i) affect their customary rights of use and access to land and natural resources; (ii) change their socio-economic status and livelihoods; (iii) affect their cultural and communal integrity; (iv) affect their health, education, sources of income and social security status; and/or (v) alter or undermine the recognition of indigenous knowledge.

7.2. Suggested Format and Contents for the ULCDP

The suggested format for the ULCDP is as follows:

- Summary of targeted social assessment, including the applicable legal and institutional framework and baseline data. Baseline data to include: gender disaggregated data on number of ULC households by impact category; social, cultural and economic profile of the households/communities; land tenure information;
- Description of sub projects and implications for UL communities;
- Summary of the results of meaningful consultations tailored to ULC communities;
- Summary of FPIC exercise when relevant (since FPIC is not expected to be required, consultation exercise needs to be documented);
- Findings of the needs assessment of the ULC communities;
- Community development plan based on the results of need assessment;
- Modalities to ensure regular and meaningful engagement with the community;
- Institutional arrangements and linkages with other national or state level programs;
- Institutional mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of ULCP implementation and grievance redress;
- Implementation schedule and cost estimate for ULCP implementation.

7.3. Sub-Project Approval

In the event that the sub-project has an ULC group in its subproject area, the project shall not approve the subproject until a satisfactory ULCP has been prepared and shared with the affected UL community. When a standalone ULCP is not needed because the majority of beneficiaries of the sub project are specific ULC HHs, the project design should ensure that all elements of ESS7 are incorporated into the sub-project level ESMP as recommended by ESIA.

The FPIC will be required on any matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories (whether titled or untitled to the people in question) and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned. When an FPIC process is required, a stakeholder consultation process will need to be initiated to define and agree on an FPIC process. The indigenous peoples who may be affected by the Project will have a central role in defining the FPIC process. The consultation process should be launched as early as possible to ensure full, effective and meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples. The FPIC must be obtained before the subproject activities requiring FPIC can be started, although the focus is to screen out such activities requiring FPIC.

8.0. MONITORING AND REPORTING

The goal of monitoring activities is to measure the success of the activities described in the Framework and Plan and determine whether interventions have prevented or mitigated adverse risks and impacts of EA-RDIP SOP II Project on HUCs and VDGs, and to determine whether further interventions are required to mitigate adverse impacts or monitoring is to be extended in some areas. The goal of regular inspection activities is to ensure that sub-component activities comply with the plans and procedures laid out in this ULCPF and ULCDP prepared for the project.

The effective implementation of the ULCPF and the plan for EA-RDIP-SOP II for Ethiopia fall under the management functions and responsibilities of both the project implementing agency, i.e., MInT. The Social Specialist of the PIU at MInT is responsible for the overall management functions of this ULCPF and ULCP. This management function requires incorporating the defined ULCP activities into the project's environmental and social management system.

The main monitoring responsibilities and inspection activities will sit with the PIU, which will administer the overall project-related E&S monitoring and implementation as laid out in the different E & S safeguards instruments (LMP, ULCPF, RPF, ESMF, ESCP, SRAMP, SEP and GBV SEA/SH Prevention & Response Action Plan) . The PIU will have overall responsibility for the implementation of the mitigation measures, as well as for monitoring for compliance. The PIU's Social Specialists will assess progress of activities against the action plan defined in the ULCPF and will report any non-compliance to MInT PIU management. Indicators are identified and will be used as a baseline for assessing progress on the ULCPF and the ULCP implementation. Some relevant indicators of monitoring will include:

- Adequacy and quality of stakeholder engagement and information disclosure activities, incorporating HUCs and VDGs,
- Implementation of consultations and related processes to obtain Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC), as necessary,
- Adequacy and responsiveness of complaint handling,
- Overall implementation of the the framework actions and the ULCP in addressing impacts, including capacity building and awareness raising interventions,
- ULCP actions and mitigation measures are effective in sustainably enhancing the livelihood of ULCs affected peoples' living standards and income levels,
- Implementation of specific measures developed under the project ULCPF and the ULCP,
- Any conditions that were not anticipated during the preparation of the ULCP but could

disadvantage HUCs and VDGs but and require further corrective actions/ adjustment,

- Complaints and grievances lodged by ULCs are followed up and that where necessary, appropriate corrective actions are implemented,
- Level of satisfaction of target HUCs and VDGs with the project implementation scope.

An independent consultant recruited by the PIUs will be responsible for the independent monitoring and evaluation. The monitoring will be done twice- mid-term and final term within the project period. The external monitoring will be conducted by an expert consultant specialized in social science with specialized in Indigenous Peoples issues. Key indicators of external monitoring and evaluation are presented as follow:

- Effectiveness of public consultation and awareness of project benefits, and livelihood enhancement measures entitled to the affected ULCs and local peoples;
- Level of satisfaction of affected ULCs and local peoples with the provisions of ULCP;
- Effectiveness and efficiency of grievance redress mechanism (documentation, process, resolution);
- Effectiveness and sustainability of entitlements and income rehabilitation measures for affected ULCs and local peoples;
- If applicable, process followed to obtain broad community support through FPIC -record of processes, participants, locations and agreement obtained;
- Capacity of affected ULCs and local peoples to restore/re-establish livelihoods and living standards with the support provided by the project;
- Suitability of actions undertaken for mitigation and compensation of access restriction and livelihood impacts due to project;
- Appropriateness of activities planned and implemented for assuring ULCs and affected people's participation in ULCP planning and implementation;
- Institutional capacity for supporting the ULCP elaboration and implementation, internal monitoring and reporting systems
- Channeling of funds for compensation of loss of income and livelihoods and allowances for affected ULCs and local communities.

The result of the M&E will be documented in the quarterly E&S performance progress reporting structure, which will outline key recommendations and specific time-bound action items to strengthen the implementation of the DP. In addition to capturing the progress on the ULCPF and the ULCP ,the report will capture lessons learnt and best practices . As part of the project technical support, the World Bank will also periodically supervise the implementation of the ULCPF and the stipulated ULCP

activities. Necessary technical support and expertise will be mobilized at the request of the project implementing entity, MInT.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of ULCPF Study Participants

Annex 1.1. Stakeholder Consultation Participants

No	Name	MDAs	Position	Cellphone No.	email
Federal Level					
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11	Mesfin Belachew (Ph.D)	Project Coordinator for Ethiopia Digital Foundations Project (EDFP)	MInT/PIU		Mesfin.belachew@mint.edu.et
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18	Mohamed Awol Ebrahim	Peace and Security	Director		
19	Mohamed Ahmed	Trade & Industry	Director		
Somali					
20	W/ro Fatuma Mohamed	MinT	Head		
21	Ubha Abduirahaman	Women and Child Affair	Deputy Head		
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32	Yonas Abebe	Peace and Security bureau (Previous Head for Environment bureau)	Deputy Head	0965023516	yonasabebe021@gmail.com
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39	Ahmed Abdulkadir	Trade Office	Head	0911664100	
40	Sultan Ahmed	Peace and Security Office	Head	0912551650	
41	Seada Aminu	Women and Child Office	Head	0925028187	

Annex 1.2. Community Consultation Participants

No	Name	Social Status	Cell No
Community Level Consultation			
1	Meriam Ebrahim	Student (8 th) Grader	0924453454
2	Kamil Hmphre		0961424775
3	Yasin Ahmed	Clan Leader	
4	Asia Ali	Housewife	
5	Hamedu Ali	Clan Leader	
6	Ahmed Mohamed	Community Member	0910271758

7	Adon Eile	Community Member	0920323933
8	Fatuma Ali	Community Member	0942057843
9	Mohamed Ali Haider	Community Member	0977048977
10	Edris Abdo	Community Member	0920638233
11	Umed Ahado	Community Member	0961106265
12	Ali Gedo	Community Member	0992681725
13	Ahmed Kebir	Community Member	0942149101
14	Abrham Mohamed	Community Member	
15	Hamed Endris	Community Member	
16	Teyba Umer Ali	Community Member	0986688260
17	Amina Ali	Women Affairs	0911307363

Annex 2: Outline of Elements on ULCP

Outline of elements required for Underserved Local Communities Development Plan (ULCDP) include the following:

- a. A summary of the targeted social assessment, including the applicable legal and institutional framework and baseline data.
- b. A summary of the results of the meaningful consultation tailored to ULCs, and if the project involves the three circumstances specified in paragraph 24 of ESS7, then the outcome of the process of FPIC carried out with the affected ULCs during project preparation.
- c. A framework for meaningful consultation tailored to ULCs during project implementation.
- d. Measures for ensuring ULCs receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate and gender sensitive and steps for implementing them. If necessary, this may call for measures to enhance the capacity of the project implementing agencies.
- e. Measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or compensate ULCs for any potential adverse impacts that were identified in the social assessment, and steps for implementing them.
- f. The cost estimates, financing plan, schedule, and roles and responsibilities for implementing the ULCDP.
- g. Accessible procedures appropriate to the project to address grievances by the affected ULCs arising from project implementation, as described in paragraph 35 of ESS7 and in ESS10.
- h. Mechanisms and benchmarks appropriate to the project for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the implementation of the ULCP, including ways to consider input from project affected ULCP in such mechanisms.