

GREEN, AGRI-FOOD TRANSFORMATION FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY - GATE TERMS OF REFERENCE

FOCAL POINT (MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER)

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Republic of Lebanon represented (The Borrower) represented by the Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) as a representative to the Borrower will implement the Green, Agri-food Transformation for Economic Recovery (the “GATE” or “Project”), funded by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD or the World Bank or the Bank). The total project cost is Two Hundred Million United States Dollars (US\$ 200,000,000).

GATE Project aims to improve the resilience of farmers and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Lebanese agri-food sector. The project is designed to facilitate access to finance, support climate-smart investments, and restore critical infrastructure services to sustain and enhance the agricultural value chain. Through targeted interventions, it seeks to increase agricultural productivity, strengthen food security, and promote sustainable economic growth. The project is structured into key components focusing on value chain investments, infrastructure development, enabling regulatory improvements, and knowledge management.

The Project is structured into five main components, each designed to strengthen the resilience of Lebanon’s agri-food sector and support farmers and SMEs.

Component 1: Climate Smart Investments in Agri-food Value Chains (US\$71 million):

The objective of this component is to provide access to finance to strengthen the resilience and improve the competitiveness of farmers and SMEs involved in agri-food value chains. The component will promote climate smart practices, create higher value addition, improve links between farmers, agribusinesses and markets, and unlock diversification opportunities. The project will finance activities specifically designed to benefit women and seek to contribute to reducing some of the gender gaps identified in terms of access to finance, inputs, markets, technical capacity building activities, improved confidence and negotiation skills as well as addressing social norms through a carefully designed behaviorally informed outreach campaign, also targeting men.

Component 2: Climate-Smart Infrastructure and Services for Agri-Food Sector Development (US\$100 million):

The objective of this component is to restore service delivery, build operational capacity and ensure the sustainability and climate-resilience of public infrastructure underpinning the agri-food sector. It will be structured across two subcomponents: Subcomponent 2.1. Improving rural community infrastructure for agriculture; and 2.2. Restoring access and protecting agency-managed infrastructure and services underpinning agriculture.

Component 3: Improving the Enabling Environment and Restoring Support Services (US\$21 million)

The objective of this component is to restore and strengthen the capacity of sector institutions to support the recovery and transformation of the agri-food sector.

Component 4: Project and Knowledge Management (US\$8 million)

This component will support the coordination and management of the implementation of the project. It will finance overall project management, including inter alia: (a) coordination among different stakeholders; (b) monitoring and evaluation (M&E), including reporting climate benefits to the MoE to comply with the Paris Agreement reporting requirements; (c) project Environmental and Social Standards (ESS); (d) hiring of a gender specialist; (e) project fiduciary administration, internal controls, and audits; (f) communication and information activities, and (g) the establishment and maintenance of a grievance mechanism (GM) and a citizen's engagement mechanism. timely communication of results. This component will also finance a third-party monitoring (TPM) mechanism, as well as timely communication of results. In addition, the project will recruit a Service Provider (NGO) specialized in child labor prevention and response and who will be responsible for supporting the project in preventing, mitigating, monitoring, and responding to such risks during implementation. It will finance the development of an action plan to combat child labor and a roadmap to improve social protection for farmers.

Component 5: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) (US\$0 million allocated initially)

This component will have zero funding allocation at the onset and will only be triggered in emergency circumstances; the project will support the preparation of a procedure manual governing the CERC operations.

Each component is designed to work together, ensuring a holistic approach to strengthening Lebanon's agri-food sector and supporting economic recovery.

In order to facilitate project implementation, the CDR is establishing a Project Coordination Unit (PCU), to be staffed by professionals, who will lead or support the achievement of the respective project component objectives.

Subcomponent 1.2 of the Project will be implemented by Kafalat which shall provide loans to eligible agribusinesses to finance investments, working capital, and technical services. Kafalat will maintain a Project Management Unit (PMU), staffed with financial and risk management experts, to handle loan disbursement, monitoring, and compliance with World Bank guidelines.

Subcomponent 2.1 of the Project will be implemented by the Green Plan. This sub-component involves investments in climate-smart infrastructure and services. It will work closely with municipalities and stakeholders to develop and prioritize projects such as hill lakes, road rehabilitation, and irrigation improvements. Green Plan will establish a dedicated PMU to oversee implementation and ensure proper coordination.

Consequently, CDR will be responsible for coordinating with both Kafalat and Green Plan and consolidating fiduciary aspects. While Green Plan and Kafalat will manage their respective components independently, CDR will facilitate alignment and coordination to ensure coherence across the project.

II. SCOPE OF WORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In close coordination with the Minister of Energy and Water and the concerned departments at MoEW.

The Focal Point (Ministry of Energy and Water) will support the implementation of the GATE project with a special focus on **Component 2.2. Restoring access and protecting agency-managed infrastructure and services underpinning agriculture.**

Tasks

1. Support the planning including the budget planning of activities related to irrigation and wastewater management under component 2.2, and more specifically in the identification, preparation of terms of reference and procurement of the studies and activities foreseen under component 2.2 of the project, in coordination with the relevant services at the MoEW and Project Coordination Unit at CDR.
2. Ensure that the proposed activities are aligned with the national strategies and plans related to irrigation water supply and wastewater management, and reflect evolving national priorities.
3. Review the activities foreseen under component 2.2 and coordinate with the relevant services at the MoEW for endorsement.
4. Facilitate the engagement of MoEW in the procurement and evaluation of consultants and bids foreseen under component 2.2 of the project, as needed.
5. Follow up on the implementation of the activities under component 2.2.
6. Advise and support on overall institutional coordination responsibilities within the project related to integrated water resources management.
7. Advise and support on overall legal aspects related to integrated water resources management within the project.
8. Advise on the financial sustainability of the proposed projects, and propose tariff models to be applied to operating institutions and beneficiaries.
9. Support the preparation of capacity development plans, communication and outreach on integrated water resources management to all concerned stakeholders in the project, and support in its implementation.
10. Provide expert opinion on matters related to integrated water resources management and any other tasks as requested by the PCU at CDR.
11. Attend and participate in the management, coordination and technical meetings as requested by the PCU at CDR.

III. QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- Bachelor's degree in engineering or sciences or any related relevant degree. Masters is a plus.
- At least 10 years of experience in integrated water resources management, with focus on wastewater management and irrigation
- Proficiency in Arabic, English
- Excellent coordination skills
- Proven written and oral communication skills.

V. REPORTING LINE

The Focal Point (Ministry of Energy and Water) will report directly to the CDR and MOEW and collaborate closely with technical teams, field staff, and relevant stakeholders. The Focal Point shall submit monthly activity report and attendance time sheet to the CDR PCU.

VI. DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

The initial contract duration is 11 months, renewable based on performance and project requirements.
The contract is time based.

VII. LOCATION

The position will be based at the Ministry of Energy and Water Offices, with occasional field visits as required.