

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

COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION

FINANCE OFFICER

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

The responsibilities of the financial officer are to carry out all financial management activities of the project in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and the World Bank Guidelines for Financial Management. Under the supervision of the Senior Financial Officer (SFO), The Financial officer will:

- Check the Payments paid from the Designated Account and Income Tax slips for all relevant payments.
- Check all Financial Transactions under Sub-Components 1.1, 2.2 and Components 3 and 4.
- Prepare all payments related to Sub-Components 1.1, 2.2 and Components 3 and 4 and also make sure that all supporting documentation on financial transactions is maintained, to those payments, including: (i) Payment by transfers and/or checks from the Designated Account, (ii) Direct Payments; and (iii) Replenishment Application.
- Prepare the bank reconciliation for monthly replenishment of CDR Designated Account.
- Prepare the consolidated quarterly and annual project financial statements and liaise with the Financial Specialists at Kafalat and Green Plan, the PCU Project Manager and other departments to reflect forecast of onward disbursements.
- Check whether appropriate record and documentation for audit is maintained.
- Check whether the records for all the Contracts are maintained.
- Prepare withdrawal applications and submit them for signature.
- Maintain a fixed Asset Register.
- Monitor CDR Designated Account movement through the review of Designated Bank Account payments and the direct payment.
- Prepare disbursement plan.
- Report to the SFO on all relevant issues related to financial management.
- Address any financial management requirements related to the project as directed and supervised by the SFO.

III- Qualifications and Experience

- A minimum of bachelor's degree in business, accounting, economics or any relevant field. A master's degree would be an advantage.
- A professional accountancy qualification (CPA, CA, CMA etc...) would be a distinct advantage
- A minimum of 5 years of professional experience working on similar assignments.
- Shall have relevant previous experience with financial management of projects and/or similar positions. Experience in Projects financed by the World Bank or other international organizations would be considered as an advantage.
- Should be proficient in Arabic and English, French would be an advantage.

IV. Reporting Line

The PCU Financial Officer will report directly to the Senior Financial Officer and collaborate closely with technical teams, field staff, and relevant stakeholders.

V. Duration of Assignment

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

VI. Location

The position will be based at the CDR Offices, with occasional field visits as required.