FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

LOWLAND LIVELIHOOD RESILIENCE PROJECT PHASE II (LLRP II, P180076)

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)

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Acronyms

ATI	Agricultural Transformation Institute
CBO	Community Based Organizations
CDD	Community Demand Driven
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DA	Development Agent
DRDIP	Development Response Displacement Impacts Project
ECC	Ethiopian Cooperative Commission
EDRMC	Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission
EIAR	Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
EMI	Ethiopia Meteorological Institute
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
ERA	Ethiopian Road Authority
ESS	Environmental and Social Screening
ETC	Ethio-Telecom Communication
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FPCU	Federal Project Coordination Unit
HUP	Historically Underserved People
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ILRI	International Livestock Research institute
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GRC	Grievance Redress Committee
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
KDC	Kebele Development Committee
LDI	Livestock Development Institute
MILL	Ministry of Irrigation and Lowland
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoLS	Ministry of Labor and Skill
MoP	Ministry of Peace
MoUDI	Ministry of Urban Development and Infrastructure
MoWSAs	Ministry of Women and Social Affairs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PAPs	Project Affected Peoples
PIM	Project Implementation Manual
PWDs	People with Disabilities
RF	Resettlement Framework
RPCU	Regional Project Coordination Unit
RuSaCCO	Rural Savings and Credit Cooperatives
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SER	South Ethiopia Region
SWEP	Southwest Ethiopia People
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

WB	World Bank
WPCU	Woreda Project Coordination Unit

1. Introduction

The Lowland Livelihoods Resilience Project phase II (LLRP II) is an integrated and comprehensive development program planned to be implemented by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands (MILLs) in collaboration and partnership with implementing partners including Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ethiopian Cooperative Commission (ECC), Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC), Ethiopia Meteorological Institute (EMI), and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI). One value added to the design is the technical collaboration, the project is envisaging with international organizations operating in the country to ensure state-of-the-art technology transfer and innovations. This includes the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) institutes such as International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICEPI), etc. by using both a top-down and CDD approach along pastoralist routes targeting selected woredas of Afar, Somali, South Ethiopia Region (SER), Oromia, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Southwest Ethiopia People (SWEP) regions and Dire Dawa city administration based on woreda-selection criteria. The objective of the project is to enhance the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities to the impacts of climate change in the lowlands of Ethiopia. The LLRP II will contribute to the promotion of structural and economic transformation through increased productivity and broad-based economic growth, reduction of vulnerabilities, and improved environmental sustainability, and is expected to contribute to the development of policies of the country's Arid and Semi-Arid Lowlands (ASALs).

Since the commencement of Phase I of the LLRP, pastoral and agro-pastoral communities have benefited from improved social services and economic infrastructure, sustainable environmental management activities, small scale, and micro irrigation scheme development, diversifying income generating activities (CIG), access to financial service through RuSaCCO, improving agricultural production, and livelihood interventions to increase incomes.

The GoE has designed LLRP II with a budget of US$ 440 million to expand and sustain a comprehensive developmental intervention impact to directly benefit both the Pastoral and Agro-pastoral communities. LLRP II covers seven regions (Afar, Benshangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Somali, South Ethiopia, Southwest Ethiopia) and one city administrator (Dire-Dawa).

The proposed project will have four complementary components: a) Pastoral risk management for resilience (PRMR) with US$248 million, b) Integrated rangeland management (IRM) with US$65 million c) Climate resilient and sustainable livelihood (CRSL) with US$ 88 million; d) Project Management, and policy engagement (PMPE) with US$ 39 million allocated.

Component 1: Pastoral Risk Management for Resilience (PRMR) aims to enhance disaster risk management and climate change mitigation and adaptation capacities through two interrelated sub-components. The first sub-component focuses on strengthening integrated early warning and response systems, which address climate-related hazards and involve multiple agencies. The second sub-component supports the planning and implementation of climate-smart disaster preparedness and resilience-building strategic investments in the project-targeted areas. This component has two sub-components: (a) Subcomponent 1.1: Support to strengthen Multi-Hazard, Impact-Based, Multi-Sectoral Early Warning and Early Action System in the pastoral and agro-

pastoral lowlands of Ethiopia; and Sub-component 1.2: Support Climate-Smart Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Building Strategic Investments.

Component 2: Integrated Rangeland Management (IRM) targets building on the experiences of LLRP I, component two will use natural rangelands as an entry point for participatory, integrated, nature-based, and climate-smart investments to improve the production, productivity, and health of the rangeland resources. This will in turn contribute to the improvement of livestock productivity, and the livelihoods of the PAPs and the resilience of the rangeland ecosystem. The component will have three complimentary sub-components, (1) Participatory Rangeland and Pasture Management; (2) Rangeland Health Monitoring and Institutional Capacity Building; and 3) Conflict Management, Access to Key Natural Resources and Renewable Energy. The planning and implementation of component 2 will be coordinated with components 1 and 3 for synergy and complementary for better impacts. The project will make use of research out puts and innovations on feed and pasture improvements for lowlands developed through the Bank and CGIAR cooperation under the Accelerating Innovations by CGIAR on Climate Change Research (ICARDA etc., for innovative and improved feed technologies and practices for lowlands) project. Under this component, there are three sub-components including the (a) Sub-component 2.1. Participatory Rangeland and Pasture Management (PRPM); (b) Sub-Component 2.2. Rangeland Health Monitoring and Institutional Capacity Building; and (c) Sub-Component 2.3. Conflict Management, Access to Key Natural Resources, and Renewable Energy.

Component 3: Climate Smart and Resilient Livelihoods (CSRL) with a primary focus on Livestock and Crop (Agro-Pastoralism), will introduce and finance climate-smart technologies, practices and approaches at household levels that will tackle the critical challenge of agricultural (livestock and crop) production and productivity, resilience to climate risks, and mitigation of GHG emissions from livestock and land use change, to enhance sustainable PAP livelihoods. The component will include the following two complimentary sub-components: (a) Sub-Component 3.1. Support Climate-smart Livestock and Crop Productivity and Value chains; and Sub-component 3.2. Livelihoods Diversification and Commercialization.

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning: This component will facilitate overall institutional coordination and partnerships among sector ministries, non-governmental and international organizations; manage project implementation procedures and processes; monitor implementation and outcomes; learn; knowledge management and policy engagement at all levels of project execution. The component includes two subcomponents: Subcomponent 4.1-Project Management and M&E; and Subcomponent 4.2-Knowledge Management and Policy Engagement.

The LLRP II is prepared under the World Bank's Environment and Social Framework (ESF). As per the Environmental and Social Standard (ESS)10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure, MILLs should provide information for the stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, or intimidation.

1.1. Objectives of the LLRP II Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

The overall objective of this SEP is to define a program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation throughout the entire project cycle. The SEP outlines how the project team will communicate with stakeholders and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints about project activities or any activities related to the project.

2. Stakeholder Engagement Activities

2.1. Brief Summary of LLRP I Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Several consultations have been conducted during the implementation of parent LLRP with community members, community representatives, community leaders, government institutions, project-affected persons (PAPs), CSOs, CBOs, and other non-government organizations, and the media working in the LLRP intervention area and others. The stakeholder engagement activities were conducted during sub-projects identification, planning, and prioritization, feasibility studies, CIG selection, business type selection and business plan preparation, E&S risk management instrument preparation, implementation, and performance review at all implementation levels. During parent LLRP implementation, encouraging achievements were observed in stakeholder engagement and community participation, from which experiences have been obtained for Phase II. As a multi-sector investment project, all concerned government structures and implementing sectors were well engaged in planning, implementation, and monitoring of the parent project. Furthermore, trust has been built with the communities and the various stakeholders in the intervention areas.

2.2. Summary of Stakeholder's Consultations for LLRP II

The stakeholder and community consultations are being carried out at federal, regional, Woreda, and Kebele levels. At the federal level, consultations were conducted at the LLRP coordination office. Different stakeholders have participated in the consultation including FAO Ethiopia, EMI, MoA, MoWSA, ILRI/AICCRA, LLRP, MoP, and FEPA. Besides, consultation was conducted with five regional levels implementing partners including Benishangul Gumuz, Dire Dawa city, Southwest, and Somali Region to assess the potential benefits and impacts of the LLRP II components' activities. The main purpose of the consultation was to gather insights and knowledge from those stakeholders regarding to the livelihoods improvement and resilience to climate change impacts in the context of pastoral and agropastoral livelihood and production system.

The concerns raised by federal, regional and woreda level stakeholders and potential beneficiaries including vulnerable groups and historically underserved communities are presented as follows. The concerns raised by the federal to woreda includes; 1) there is no sufficient capacity from the partner agencies for the implementation of the E&S risk management instruments (SA, RF, SRAMP, SEP, LMP, GBV SEA/SH Action Plan and ESMF); 2) the project may have a risk of promoting soil acidity, pollution of the environment; 3) previous projects gave more emphasis towards Environmental aspect than the social aspect of the ESMF in general; 4) water contamination from construction activities (from drilling fluids, lubricants etc); 5) possible displacement of people, and land acquisition; 6) noise pollution from machineries and dust pollution from heavy duty machineries and movement of vehicles; 7) possible health, OHS, security, and

GBV issues from temporary workers (labour influx); 8) loss of biodiversity by clearing forests for rangeland, road, bridge etc.; 9) introduction of new or exotic species (crop, plant and animal breed) and forage grass into the ecosystem may interfere with the existing(indigenous) species reproduction; 10) when rangeland is protected from the external environment it may restrict the movement of people and cattle; 11) lack of inclusiveness and limitations in implementing full package service provisions in social services, social conflict arising from mismanagement of the cash flow and improper selection of CIG members and so on; and 12) during construction there may be an incidence of bringing invasive weeds **("Anbessa Qontre")** to the area with sand.

On the other hand, the concerns pinpointed by the community and the vulnerable groups and historically underserved communities include: 1) the project may have impact on community health, labor influx, GBV, STIs and child labor; 2) the project may lead to conflict over land boundaries, water and pasture, putting cattle in human fields; 3) if the project is not managed well it may lead to soil erosion, land acquisition, loss of agricultural land, loss of perennial crops and loss of livelihood; 4) the accumulation of water here and there may lead to the spread of diseases like malaria among the workers, and the community; 5) cemeteries and burial places might be affected, 6) during project activities there might be right of way issue; 6) people (women, disabilities, children, elders, and people who are sick) and cattle may be hurt because of open trenches and borrow pits; 7) legally protected areas, habitats, cultural heritage, wild animals (bushbuck, lion, tiger and leopard) and indigenous plant like **'zisifast'** may get affected**;** and 8) limited supply of PPE like gloves, first aid kits, helmet, safety shoes, glove, eye glass, for laborers of sub projects.

The project has suggested the following mitigation mechanisms: 1) introducing and implementing appropriate project level E&S indicators for a successful performance measure, 2) putting a functional institutional arrangement, like institutional coordination, communication and integration assign appropriate focal person/expert by the implementing agencies (IAs) and partner agencies (PAs) to follow up the project and creating strong communication platform and data sharing, 3) reclamation of acid affected soils using agricultural lime, optimum application rate of chemical fertilizer, 4) E & S safeguard activities should align with design team at an early stage for the effective implementation of the project, 5) assessing the effectiveness of species (breeds, plants, crops etc) in other regions before introduction to the project site and follow-up mechanism after being introduced to the sites, 6) training on water resource management, best practice site visit and sharing experiences from other regions, 7) using traditional conflict resolution mechanism of the area is mediation by clan and religious leaders to resolve any conflict such as related to conflict over rangeland for cattle, murder etc., and formal law enforcement will be used when needed, 8) infrastructure implementation should avoid sensitive habitats and heritage sites or high risks will be excluded as well as interventions in critical habitats will be avoided since early stages during analysis of alternatives and screening. If significant impacts to the biodiversity are foreseen, development of BMPs will be required, 9) avoidance of construction activities during the breeding season of wildlife and other sensitive seasons or times of the day, 10) re-vegetation of disturbed areas replaced with indigenous plant species, 11) select quarry and borrow sites far from settlement and environmentally sensitive areas, 12) Regularly spray water to suppress the suspension of dust during construction, Select transport routes to minimize noise pollution in sensitive areas and install noise silencer on the construction machineries, 13) laborers working in dusty areas should be provided with requisite protective equipment, 14) provision of STDs, HIV and AIDS prevention measures such as distribution of condoms to workers/local people both male and female and disseminate traffic management plans in the project area, 15) all drums, containers or bags containing oil/fuel/lubricating materials and other hazardous chemicals will be stored at farm mechanization centers, garages and irrigation command area on a sealed and/or bonded area in order to contain potential spillage, 16) regularly Maintain road cross structures and foot paths and construct new ones based on additional needs and 17) before implementing the infrastructure consult the public on the

land acquisition process and provide adequate compensation for the property loses and damages. This is usually done when the appropriate PAPs are identified during the screening and prior the construction activities start.

3. Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

Stakeholder identification is an initial phase in project management. Typically, stakeholders can be individuals, groups, local communities, and other stakeholders that may be directly or indirectly affected by the project, positively or negatively. There can be many stakeholders depending on the type, scope, and complexity of the project. For successful project management, key project stakeholders should be identified and managed to satisfy their requirements. Understanding the importance of stakeholder identification will increase the efficiency of your stakeholder management system.

LLRP -II stakeholders are the different parties, both Project affected, and others interested in the project, who are directly or indirectly affected by the project. As per the WB ESS 10, individuals or groups that are affected or likely to be affected by the project will be identified as 'project affected parties' and other individuals or groups that may have an interest in the project will be identified as 'other interested parties'. Within these categories, vulnerable groups are those parties (individuals or groups) who, because of their unique circumstances, may be disadvantaged by the project, who may be less able to access Project benefits or less able to participate in engagement activities. Based on this definition/categorization, the project will further identify individuals or groups who may have different concerns and priorities about project impacts, mitigation mechanisms and benefits, and who may require different, or separate, forms of engagement. Stakeholder identification and analysis is an important tool to determine the appropriate level of communication between the project and different stakeholders. According to the requirements of WB ESS10, the process of stakeholder engagement will involve the following, as set out in further detail in this ESS: (i) stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) planning how the engagement with stakeholders will take place; (iii) disclosure of information; (iv) consultation with stakeholders; (v) addressing and responding to grievances; and (vi) reporting to stakeholders.

3.1. LLRP II Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

LLRP II enhances stakeholder engagement from the early stages of the project preparation process and throughout the project lifecycle, enabling meaningful stakeholder participation. Table 1 below shows the key stakeholders identified for LLRP II. Additional stakeholders interested in the project may be identified, so the stakeholder list may change during the lifecycle of the project.

3.1.1. Project-affected parties

LLRP II project intervention areas identified as being directly (actually or potentially) impacted by the project and/or most vulnerable to project-related change. The project will encourage and closely work with those involved in the project activities such as individuals, groups, and other entities. This not only helps determine impacts and their significance but also helps decision-making regarding mitigation and control measures. Examples of affected parties for LLRP II projects include individuals and beneficiary communities whose access to land or other assets or land use is affected by project supporting investments or project implementation sectors. Project affected parties include:

- ✓ Community (including Pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, village heads, religious leaders, clan leaders).
- ✓ Woreda/City and Kebele Administration and Kebele level structures ((Kebele development committee (KDC), Rangeland management council (RMC), grievance redressing committee (GRC), Water User association, Irrigation User Association, …)
- ✓ Project institutional arrangement (steering committee, technique committee).
- ✓ Federal, Regional and woreda sector implementing sectors and their implementing partners.
- ✓ Contractors.

3.1.2. Other interested parties

Individuals/groups/entities that may not experience direct impacts from the project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the project and/or who could affect the project and the process of its implementation. Interested parties of the project's stakeholders include the federal Ministerial institutions like Ministry of Finance (MoF), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Women and Social Affair (MoWSA), Ministry of Peace (MoP), Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), Ministry of Labor and Skill (MoLS), Ministry of Urban Development and Infrastructure (MoUDI), Ethiopian Road Authority (ERA), Federal Cooperative Commission (ECC), Federal Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), LDI, EDRMC, EIAR, ATI, ILRI, EMI, Ethiopian telecommunication (ETC)/Safarcom, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) (FAO, USAID, ICARDA, Mercy Corps, etc), and their regional counterparts, Universities and Research Institutions, National and International Development Partners including the World Bank (WB), International Fund for the Agriculture Development (IFAD), and Others; Consultants and private sectors.

3.1.3. Disadvantaged or vulnerable groups

Persons who may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by the project intervention as compared with other groups due to their vulnerability, and that may require special engagement efforts to ensure their equal representation in the consultation and decision-making process associated with the project. These can be elders, women, persons with disabilities (PWDs), women headed households, pastoral and semi-pastoral communities, unemployed youth, HUPs etc who need special attention during project design, planning, implementation, and monitoring.

The proposed activities of LLRP II may have potentially impacts on the historically underserved people (HUP) as the project will be implemented in Afar, Somila, Gambella, Benishangul, South Ethiopia, and areas where are pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in Oromia regions, who meet the requirement of ESS7. The parent project's social assessment (SA) including social development plan (SDP) was updated based on the ESS7 requirements for LLRP II and disclosed prior to appraisal. The social risks and impacts relating to HUPs are assessed in the Ethiopian context through an enhanced SA (including SDP) based on an extensive engagement process with potential project beneficiaries including those who will be identified as vulnerable groups and underserved peoples. The SA targets historically underserved people and vulnerable groups, and the SDP emphasizes ensuring benefit sharing mechanisms during the implementation of subprojects. The SDP has concerted actions that will enhance the benefit-sharing mechanism for them with an

appropriate budget. The concerns and preferences of historically underserved people have addressed through meaningful consultations and integrated into subproject designs.

The principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) will not apply as the project targets all the HUP in Afar, Somila, Gambella, Benishangul, South Ethiopia, and areas where are pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in Oromia regions. Provisions for implementation of benefit sharing in subproject design are included in the ESCP and key findings of the SA have also informed the project design.

Table 1 Summary of project stakeholder needs

Community	Stakeholder group	Key characteristics	Language needs	Preferred notification means (e- mail, phone, radio, letter)	Specific needs (accessibility, large print, day time meeting,
Community (including Pastoralists, agro pastoralists, village heads, religious leaders, clan leaders and other underserved communities)	Project affected parties and host community	Consultation to identify their needs related to the project, and consider their views about the project that helps to improve their livelihood, service provision, and economic resilience	Local language	Face-to-face/verbal communication	Consultation meetings, and different type of workshops
Government including the regional, woredas, and Kebele level administrators, non-governmental institutions and other relevant organizations e.g. MoP, MoWSA, ILRI, EMI, FAO, and so on	other interested groups	Provide services to the community in a way that meets the governmental and non-government objectives and goals. Especially on issues related to the improvement of the beneficiaries' livelihood, service provision, and economic resilience.	Local language and English	Verbal communication, email, letters, etc.	Meetings
Contractors	other interested groups	Consultation to provide relevant information on the role and responsibility of the contractors to achieve the objective of the project.	Local language	Face to face/verbal communication, group discussion and public events.	Meetings in close by locations within the communities and authorities
People with disabilities	Vulnerable group	Hearing impairment (Hearing loss) Visual impairment (Low vision or blindness) Physical impairment (Mobility disabilities)	Special support		Written information
Women including the women-headed households	Vulnerable group	Consultation times will have to align with the needs of women. Women may have limitations about the time of day or location for public consultation; they may need childcare for meetings or other additional support and resources to enable them to participate in consultations.	Local language	Verbal, community announcements, posting notices, focused group meetings, etc.	Meetings in close by locations within the communities
Child headed households and children	Vulnerable group	Consultation with community and contractors on issues of child labor abuse to protect children.	Local language	Verbal, community announcement, posting notice, focused group	Meetings in close by locations within the communities

				meetings, etc.	
Elder	Vulnerable group	Elders may have limitations about time of day or location for public consultation; additional support and resources to enable them to participate in consultations.	Local language	Verbal, community announcement, posting notice, focused group meetings etc.	Meetings in close by locations within the communities
Unemployed youth	Vulnerable group	Consultation with community, local authority and contractor accommodate the unemployed youth based on the available opportunities	Local language	Verbal, community announcement, posting notice, focused group meetings etc.	Meetings in close by locations within the communities

4. Stakeholder Engagement Program

Effective stakeholder engagement is an important aspect of ensuring the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhancing project acceptance, or obtaining broader community support, and making a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation. Stakeholder engagement involves building and maintaining relationships. It also involves preserving the active support and commitment of the people to the implementation of change, through program or project delivery.

4.1 Methods of Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is a necessary approach to engage specific stakeholder groups and provide them with relevant information and opportunities to voice their opinions on issues that are important to them. LLRP II is a multi-sector and multi-stage investment project following the CDD development model, and project beneficiaries will have many opportunities to interact personally with project proponents during the planning, implementation, and monitoring stages of the project. Consultation will be conducted during the updating and preparation of social assessment, environmental and social management framework, and resettlement framework. In addition, during the implementation of the LLRP II the consultations will provide ample opportunity for communities to share their views, including on their priority needs. LLRP II applies the following principles for stakeholder engagement:

- ✓ **Openness and life-cycle approach**: Public consultations for the project will be undertaken on a continuous basis throughout the whole project lifecycle from preparation through implementation. Stakeholder engagement will be free of manipulation, interface, coercion, and intimidation.
- ✓ **Informed participation and feedback**: Information will be provided and widely distributed among all stakeholders in an appropriate format; conducted on a timely basis;
  - Understandable and accessible information related to the project, including in relevant local and major languages and in formats that can be understood by people who are illiterate.
  - Assure those stakeholders' concerns and feedback is taken into consideration during decision-making.
- ✓ **Inclusiveness and sensitivity**: Stakeholder engagement is undertaken to support better communications and build effective relationships. The participation process for the project is inclusive and the stakeholders are always encouraged to be involved in the consultation process.
- ✓ **Gender approach for consultation**: Consultation times will have to align with the needs of women. Women may have limitations about time of day or location for public consultation; they may need childcare for meetings or other additional support and resources to enable them to participate in consultations.

Improved access to information and sensitivity to stakeholder needs are key principles underlying the choice of engagement methods. Particular attention will be paid to socially OTHER groups, especially female heads of households, young people, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and the cultural sensitivities of different ethnic groups in the project area.

4.2 Purpose and timing of stakeholder engagement program

The general purpose of this SEP is to define a program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation during the preparation and implementation of the proposed LLRP II. The SEP outlines how FPCU with relevant stakeholders including MILLs, MoA, as well as implementing partners which include MoA, ECC, EIAR, EDRMC, EMI, ATI and contractors/subcontractors, private sector companies, enterprises will communicate with stakeholders and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or file complaints. Table 2 below shows the summary of the types of stakeholders expected to be involved in this project, along with the types of involvement and planned timelines throughout the project cycle.

Table 2 Type of stakeholders, Mode, Level, and Methods of Engagement and Planned schedule

Stakeholder	Type of Stakeholder	Level of Engagement	Method of Engagement	Frequency of Engagement
Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist (People residing in the project area)	Direct	Local	During the preparation of site-specific plans, to identify appropriate techniques to reach these groups. Public meetings, separate meetings specifically, for women and vulnerable; Face to-face individual interviews; visits to affected vulnerable groups and individuals; Disclosure of written information - posters, leaflets, Information desks at woreda/ kebele offices. Grievance mechanism, by Represented local leader, woreda/kebele Admin	Multiple and continuous
Communities (adjacent kebeles and villages)	Direct	Local	site-specific plan (community consultations, FGD) by Woreda and/or Kebele	Continuous
Disadvantaged/ Vulnerable groups/ individuals	Direct	Local	Public meetings, separate meetings specifically for women and vulnerable; Face-to-face individual interviews; visits to affected vulnerable groups and individuals. Grievance mechanism, by Represented local leader, woreda/kebele Admin	Multiple and continuous
MoF	Responsible for project's overall financial management, and transfer of funds	Federal	Progress reporting	Quarterly
MIL, PCU	IA and regulator for the implementing sectors	Federal	Face-to-face meetings, workshops; Social Media Communication - Facebook, Twitter; Disclosure of written information Brochures, posters, leaflets, website Information desks.	Continuous
MoF, MoWSA, MoWE, MoLS, MoA, MoUDI, MoH, FPCU, ERA, and ECC	Steering committee	Federal	Face-to-face meetings, workshops; Social Media Communication - Facebook, Twitter; Disclosure of written information Brochures, posters, leaflets, website Information desks.	Periodically
Environment Protection Agency	Regulatory	Federal /regional	Meetings, Environmental and Social instruments/ documents clearance, training, workshops.	Periodically
World Bank, IFAD, and others	Funding	Country level	Progress Reporting and Implementation Support Missions	Continuous with Quarterly & biannual reports
Universities/ research institution and Ethiopian Disaster and Risk Management Commission (EDRMC), Ethiopian Metrology Institute (EMI)	Interested parties	Federal/regio nal level	Face-to-face meetings, workshops; Social Media Communication - Facebook, Twitter; Disclosure of written information Brochures, posters, leaflets, website Information desks.	Periodically
Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	Regulatory	Federal/Regio nal/Zonal/Wo reda level	Meetings, Environmental and Social instruments/ documents clearance, training, workshops	Continuous

Regional/woreda agriculture, road, urban development, Water and energy, finance, Women and social affair, and cooperative agency	Interested parties	Regional/ Woreda	Face-to-face meetings, workshops; Social Media Communication - Facebook; Disclosure of written information Brochures, posters, leaflets, and website Information desks.	Periodically
Civil society organizations (CSOs), NGOs and Associations operating with PAPs.	Interested parties	Federal/Regional level	Meetings, workshops; Social Media Communication - Facebook, Disclosure of written information - Brochures, posters, flyers, etc	Periodic
Contractors and consultants	Interested parties	Federal/local	Face-to-face meetings, workshops; Community awareness sessions; Social Media Communication - Facebook, Contractual / Progress Reporting steering committee; GRM.	At least one in a month

4.1. Proposed strategy for information disclosure

Various engagement techniques are used to build relationships, gather information, consult, and share project information with stakeholders. Selecting an appropriate consultation method should consider the culturally appropriate method of consultation and the purpose of working with stakeholder groups. The following table shows the techniques used by LLRP II:

Table 3   Proposed strategy for information disclosure

Project Stage	List of information to be disclosed	Methods proposed	Timetable: locations/ dates	Target Stakeholders	Responsibilities
Project design	Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP), and Environmental and Social commitment Plan (ESCP),	Stakeholder Public Consultation and meetings	Meetings take place in Somali, Afar, Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, SNNP, and Southwest Ethiopia People (as feasible) either in person or virtual prior to the project approval	Government institutions, local authorities/implementers, local NGOs, implementation partners, donors, and pastoralists and agro pastoralists in general,	PCU/MoF,MIL/ environment and social risk management team
	Environmental and social management framework (ESMF), Social Assessment (SA) including a description of GRM, Security Risk Assessment and Management Plan (SRAMP), and GBV/SEA/SH Risk Assessment and Action Plan; Resettlement Framework (RF), and Labour Management Procedures (LMP).	Public consultation meetings, formal meetings, one one-on-one Interviews, e-mail, website, electronic and social media;	After project approval by the WB Board, Public meetings will take place in Somali, Afar, Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, SNNP, and South West Ethiopia PEOPLE regions	Pastoralists and Agro Pastoralist in general, local authorities, local and international NGOs, implementation partners, donors	PCU/MoF,MIL/ environment and social risk management team
Project implementation	Implementation of site-specific approved Environment and social screening, ESIA, ESMPs, GBV/SEA Action Plan, and RAP	Community meetings, Woreda notice boards, electronic and local social media, including radio, SMS, Website, Community notice board	To be defined by the PCU - Before commencement of activities in subprojects that require these specific instruments and during preparation of instruments.	Potential beneficiaries (Pastoralist and agro-pastoralists), regional, and local authorities, implementation partners the general public, NGO, and other interested parties	MOF and MILL together with local counterparts and community institutions

4.2. Proposed Strategy for Consultation

Where it is proposed to involve the community, the Project shall describe how that involvement will occur, and when it will occur. Some techniques of involvement may include:

➢ Public meetings (these are open with no restriction on who may attend);
➢ Advisory panels (a group of individuals, chosen to represent stakeholder groups, which meet periodically to assess work done / results obtained and to advise on future work);
➢ Interviews (a structured series of open-ended interviews with selected community representatives to obtain information/concerns/views);
➢ Questionnaires (written, structured series of questions issued to a sample of local people to identify concerns/views/opinions); and
➢ Participatory appraisal techniques (a systematic approach to appraisal, based on group inquiry and analysis and, therefore, multiple and varied inputs.

Table 4: Proposed Strategy for Consultation

Project stage	Topic of consultation	Methods proposed	Timetable: Locations/ dates	Target stakeholders	Responsibilities
Project Design	➤ Information on the nature of the Project, duration of the Project, potential impacts on the environment, social and economic impacts as well as the developed E&S risk management instruments such as ESMF, RF, LMP, ESCP, SEP, SA and so on ➤ Discussion about pollution prevention measures, environmental protection, and human health ➤ Compliance with national regulations (ESMF and other ESRM instruments procedure and others) ➤ Planning and preparation of technical documentation	Public meetings, workshops, participatory appraisal techniques, Questionnaires and interviews	At Woreda and community, regional, and national level	Relevant government authorities, ministries, and public institutions, and interested NGOs	MILL
Construction	➤ Safe and healthy working conditions ➤ Labor procedure ➤ Quality of work ➤ Obligation to provide workers with protective personal equipment (PPE) ➤ Accessible grievance forms for submission of any grievance by	Public consultation and Meetings	Before and after starting the contracted work at the Construction site reportedly	Contractor with Employee, community, and local governments	Contractor and client

	the workers ➢ Terms of employment including wages, hours of work, overtime compensation, any benefits (leave for illness or holiday) ➢ Development of infrastructure on the local and regional level ➢ Duration of the construction work ➢ Employment of local people from the settlements in the surrounding the project location ➢ Possible delays in the work				
	➢ Discussion about pollution prevention measures and environmental protection and human health ➢ Sustainable usage of natural resources ➢ Community Health and safety	Advisory panels, Workshop, and meetings	Before and after starting the contractor work at the ground	With government organizations, contractors, and NGO	MILL
	➢ Compliance with the WB and national regulations (ESIA procedure and others) ➢ Environmental, H&S protection ➢ Implementation of pollution prevention measures on projects ➢ Support of local economy by engagement of the local communities	Workshop, and meetings	During implementation at the regional and national level	Regulatory bodies, contractors, and other stakeholders	MILL

	➤ Increased local and regional economy by improved road infrastructure. ➤ Labor procedure				
Monitoring and evaluation	➤ Construction according to the designs and respecting the measures prescribed in the documents regarding the environmental protection, OH&S and labor conditions for the project ➤ Tender procedure and relevant issues ➤ Health and safety at work (PPE for all persons on site, license to work or drive the specific vehicles, first aid training, first aid kits on site, firefighting equipment, etc.) ➤ Supervision of the construction activities ➤ Proper signalization of the project sites ➤ Reporting	Questionnaires, monitoring checklists, and interviews	During the implementation period at Kebele, Woreda, regional, and national level	Implementors of the project, regulatory body, consultants, and donors,	MILL

4.3. Proposed strategy to incorporate the view of vulnerable groups

The principle of inclusiveness will guide the stakeholder engagements, particularly with respect to vulnerable individuals and groups. In cases where vulnerable status may lead to people's reluctance or physical incapacity to participate in large-scale community meetings, the project will hold separate small group discussions with them at an easily accessible venue. This way, the project will reach out to groups who, under normal circumstances, may be insufficiently represented at general community gatherings. Some strategies to be adopted to reach out to these groups include:

- ✓ Identify leaders of vulnerable and marginalized groups to reach out to these groups.
- ✓ The existing partners operating in pastoral communities in project target areas such as MoWSA and other regional stakeholders maintain a database of marginalized groups among communities.
- ✓ Leverage existing LLRP phase I as well as similar interventions such as Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Project (RLLP) and Development Response Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) which include vulnerable populations who overlap with this project to use their systems to identify and engage the HUPs and other vulnerable groups.
- ✓ Engage community leaders, CSOs, and NGOs working with vulnerable groups.
- ✓ Organize face-to-face focus group discussions with these communities in general and vulnerable groups, in particular.

4.4. Timelines
The disclosure process associated with the release of project E&S risk management appraisal instruments, as well as the accompanying SEP will be implemented within a timeframe that shall be agreed upon:
- ✓ Placement of the E&S risk management instruments such as ESMF, RF, LMP, SA, ESCP, and SEP in the public domain – will be finalized prior to appraisal.
- ✓ 60-day disclosure period will be finalized prior to appraisal
- ✓ Public consultation meetings in project-affected communities and with other stakeholders to present and discuss findings of the ESRM instruments will be finalized prior to appraisal.
- ✓ Addressing stakeholder feedback received on the entire disclosure package will be finalized prior to appraisal.

The SEP will remain in the public domain for the entire period of project development and implementation and will be updated on a regular basis as the project progresses through its various phases, to ensure timely identification of any new stakeholders and interested parties and their involvement in the process of collaboration with the project. The methods of engagement will also be revised periodically to maintain their effectiveness and relevance to the project's evolving environment.

4.5. Review of Comments
Reports back to stakeholder groups will be done through various means including national annual sector performance review meetings of all the implementing agencies. Through the project's planned communication channels, the results of the project will be disseminated to stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels.

4.6. Future Phases of Project

Stakeholders' identification and analysis will be updated and kept informed on an ongoing basis with project progress. This includes monitoring and reporting on the project environmental and social performance and implementation of the SEP including the GRM on a quarterly basis. This is important for the wider public, but specifically critical for the directly impacted community members.

5. Resources and Responsibilities for Implementing Stakeholder Engagement Activities

5.1. Resources

The MIL and the relevant local government institutions will be responsible for the implementation of the activities in this SEP. The PCU will allocate adequate resource for the implementation of the SEP. The financing will be further used for producing communication materials, including local media and radio content, and traditional information sharing mechanism for effective information sharing with communities and documentation. The budget for SEP implementation will be updated when the SEP is updated as needed. MIL will be responsible for implementing stakeholder engagement for the Project. Besides, the PCU will assign experts to overlook the overall SEP implementation.

Table 5: Estimated Budget for SEP Implementation

No	Budget categories*	Total costs (Dollar)
1	Technical Support for the implementation of the SEP	40,000
2	Consultations/ Participatory Planning, Decision-Making Meetings	20,000
3	Trainings	24,000
4	Grievance Mechanism	10,000
	TOTAL:	**94,000**

*Note: this estimated budget is subject to change based on the needs at the ground

5.2. Management Functions and Responsibilities

National Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project Steering Committee (NLLRPSC): The National Steering Committee (NSC) will have overall oversight responsibility for coordination and field costs and operating and administrative costs of the project including the issues of the E&S risk management. The **NLLRPSC** will be the highest governing body for the project and will provide overall governance and strategic guidance for the project. The NLLRPSC will be chaired by the State Minister of the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowland (MILL). Members of the steering committee could expand as required and may include MoA, MoF, Ministry of Women and Social Affair (MoWSA), Ministry of Peace (MoP), Ministry of Urban Development and Infrastructure (MoUDI), Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE), Ministry of Labor and Skill (MoLS), Ethiopian Road Authority (ERA), and Federal Cooperative Commission (FCC) etc. Specifically, NLLRPSC will be responsible for reviewing and approve the annual work plan and budget of the Project and reviewing progress reports on a quarterly basis.

Project Coordination Unit (PCU): The established Project Management and Coordination Unit (PCU) for the parent LLRP will maintain to serve the proposed project carry out the overall coordination, planning, monitoring, and supervision of the Project including the ESRM. Accordingly, PCU will be responsible for i) consolidation of the annual Project action plan and budget for all components, ii) consolidation of quarterly physical progress and Interim financial reports, iii) channelling of resources to the Project implementing RPCU based on approved annual work plan and budget, and iv) coordinating implementing agencies and serve as a secretariat to the National Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project Steering Committee (NLLRPSC). The PCU will deploy critical staff including the coordinator, component lead consultants, Disaster Risk Management Consultant, Water and Irrigation Consultant, Civil Infrastructure Consultant, M&E, Environmental consultant, Gender and Nutrition Consultant, Social risk management consultant, MEAL consultant, Livestock and crop consultant, Livelihood Consultant, Rangeland management Consultant, and Rangeland Health Monitoring Consultant, etc. The PCU will also be responsible for planning, implementation, and regular reporting of activities under the project.

6. Grievance Mechanism

The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) addresses grievances in an efficient, timely, and cost-effective manner, that arise in the Project, either due to actions by MIL or project implementation, or the contractor/sub-contractors employed, from affected communities and external stakeholders. A separate grievance redress mechanism is developed to address worker grievances by the MIL. The main objective of a GM is to assist and resolve complaints and grievances in a timely, effective, and efficient manner that satisfies all parties involved.

6.1. Basic Grievance Management Process

The GRM will be a distinct mechanism that will allow stakeholders, at the community level, to provide feedback on project impacts and mitigation programs. The project will also establish and functionalize project GRM for affected parties and a separate grievance mechanism for all direct and contracted workers to raise workplace concerns, as provided under ESS2. An environment and social risk management expert will be assigned at MILLs to follow up complaints related to affected parties by the project. The complaint, to be filed, should be related to the project components and/or to its implementation and management. Any complaint not directly related to the project will be referred to the appropriate responsible government body. The LLRP grievance resolution processes are indicated in the Table 3.

The established parent LLRP GRM will be strengthened and serve for LLRP II throughout the implementation period. A Grievance redress committee will be established in the new project implementing Woreda and Kebele level composed of the local community to ensure accessibility and transparency of the GRM.

Grievances and complaints related to GBV/SEA will be managed confidentially by assigned GBV focal persons or Women and Children Affairs office in each beneficiary regions. As part of the GRM committee, GBV focal person (delegate from Women and Children Affairs) who have the necessary trainings on GBV case management will be assigned to address GBV cases and support survivors to get the necessary services. GBV survivors will get the required GBV services like psycho-social support, medical services, legal support, and economic support free of charge.

The complaints recorded, resolved, and referred including GBV cases will be reported quarterly with the environmental and social implementation performance report to the World Bank and other relevant stakeholders.

LLRP II will establish a grievance redress committee with five (5) members among laborers of the contractor of the subproject. The contractor and the borrower will create awareness of the grievance redressing mechanisms, methods of grievance submission, aways of investigation, and communication of the response and the appeal system to direct and indirect labor of the project.

Further, a GRM guideline prepared for parent LLRP is updated/revised and will be used to strengthen and support the establishment of project GRMs. The revised GRM guideline captured the specific protocols to address sensitive complaints related to GBV/SEA/SH, corruption, and procurement and contract management.

Table 7   LLRP GRM Management Process

Process	Description	Time Frame	Other Information
Establishment of GRM Committees at all Project implementation sites	▪ GRM Committee will be established at the subproject level comprising of members from local elders, beneficiaries (Women and Men), Woreda/ Kebele MILLs-PCU representative, Women, Youth, and children officer, etc.	Before project implementation	Training will be provided by MILLs-PCU (ESRM experts) for the GRM Committee members and beneficiaries
Receipt of grievance	▪ Face to face; telephone; verbal, letter; mail; e-mail; website; recorded during public/community interaction, others. ▪ Any other convenient mechanism for PAPs, disadvantaged, vulnerable groups, etc.	1 Day	Appropriately disclose Telephone no., an Email address, etc;
Grievance assessed and logged	▪ Significance assessed and grievance recorded or logged (i.e., in a logbook). ▪ It will be prudent to have a grievance record book where the grievances are recorded for follow up. ▪ Grievances concerning sexual exploitation and abuse/gender-based violence should be treated as confidential. Only the nature of the complaint and the processing outcome should be recorded. Region/ Woreda/ Kebele, Children, and Youth Offices in the subcomponent implementation area will be responsible for GBV GRM. MILLs, shall allocate budget to this office for capacity building and related GBV aspects.	3-6 Days	Significance criteria: Level 1 –one-off event; Level 2 – complaint is widespread or repeated; Level 3- any complaint (one-off or repeated) that indicates a breach of law/ policy
Grievance is acknowledged	▪ Acknowledgment of grievance through appropriate medium.	2 Days	Grievance focal person
Verification, investigation, action	▪ Investigation of the complaint is led by grievance committee chairperson. A proposed resolution is formulated by committee and communicated to the complainant by focal person in written form.	3-8 Days	GRC members
Monitoring and evaluation	▪ Data on complaints are collected in uptake location and reported to every concerned body (World Bank)	8-10 Days	
Provision of feedback	Feedback from complainants regarding their satisfaction with complaint resolution is collected from uptake locations	5-9 Days	
Training	Training needs for staff/consultants in the PCU, Contractors, and Supervision Consultants will be provided on grievance redressing mechanism.		

6.2 The World Bank Grievance Redress System

Communities and individuals who believe they will be impacted by a World Bank-supported project can file a complaint through existing project-level grievance resolution mechanisms or through the World Bank's Grievance Redemption Service (GRS). GRS will ensure that any complaints received are promptly considered to address project-related concerns. Communities and individuals affected by a project may submit complaints to the World Bank's independent inspection panel to determine whether harm has occurred or has occurred because of the World Bank's failure to comply with ESS standards/policies and procedures. Complaints can be made at any time after the concern has been raised directly with the World Bank and bank management has been given an opportunity to respond. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS), the following website can be used *http://www.worldbank.org/GRS*. For information on how to submit complaints to the World Bank Inspection Panel, the following website link can be used: www.inspectionpanel.org.

7. Monitoring and Reporting

7.1. Stakeholder Monitoring and Reporting

Stakeholders at various levels engage in monitoring or evaluating a particular project or program or policy, share control over the content, the process, and the results of the monitoring and evaluation activity, and engage in taking or identifying corrective actions.

Stakeholders have the right and the responsibility to know what is happening in the program or project, which aspects need corrective action, what the results are, and which lessons can be learned and shared with one another, but they should not simply be recipients of monitoring and evaluation reports.

Control Stakeholder Engagement is the process of monitoring overall project stakeholder relationships and adjusting strategies and plans for engaging stakeholders. This process compares the stakeholder management plan with the results from engaging stakeholders.

When stakeholders are involved from the beginning of the evaluation process, it is more likely to reduce stakeholders' distrust and fear of evaluation. Increase stakeholders' awareness of and commitment to the evaluation process. In sum, when stakeholder engagement is done effectively, it improves communication channels between parties, creates, and maintains support for the project, gathers information for the organization, reduces the potential for conflict or other project-crippling issues, and enhances the reputation of the organization.

The project also invite a third party to the monitoring system. The goal of using third parties to assess the status and performance of a project, its compliance status, or emerging issues through a specialized party is to provide an unbiased perspective on the issue and status and to make recommendations for improvement, where relevant. Third-party monitoring is used widely in technical and engineering projects, physical infrastructure, financial or procurement compliance, governance and accountability, and environmental and social monitoring of project implementation.

7.2. Reporting back to stakeholder groups

The stakeholder engagement process will aim to support the development of strong, constructive, and responsive relationships among the key stakeholders for successful management of the environmental and social risks. Effective stakeholder engagement between the MILLs and project stakeholders improves the environment and social sustainability of projects, enhances project acceptance, and makes a significant contribution to successful project design and preparation.

All stakeholder engagement meetings will have minutes, which will be stored in the project stakeholder engagement database; this will be to ensure that (i) there are records that can be referred to and that all views raised are taken into consideration, and (ii) commitments made are delivered upon.

The SEP will be periodically revised and updated as necessary during project implementation. Quarterly, annual, or other report summaries and internal reports on public grievances, inquiries, and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventive actions, will be collated by responsible staff and referred to the senior management of the project. The quarterly, annual, or other summaries will provide a mechanism for assessing both the number and nature of complaints and requests for information, along with the Project's ability to address those in a timely and effective manner. Information on public engagement activities undertaken by the Project during the year may be conveyed to the stakeholders in various ways. Some of the most common ways of communicating with stakeholders include email updates, monthly progress reports, focus groups, physical notice boards, presentations, and meetings with various stakeholders.