

SAP072: WATER-RES - Enhancing the ability to address the risks of water scarcity in areas most affected by climate change and water shortage in Syria

Access the document:

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/board-document/gcf-b45-02-add03-rev01>

We welcome this adaptation proposal aimed at enhancing climate-resilient water security for vulnerable communities in Syria, which is in need of support after decades of conflict and increasing climate stress. This proposal is also a strong example of a locally-led, participatory approach to climate action. We would especially like to highlight the use of community-based governance structures to act as liaisons between local authorities and community members, capacity building for farmers and farmers' associations and the direct outreach to tens of thousands of households across the region. We hope that this early involvement of the community will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the project.

We would also like to note the goal for equitable and meaningful inclusion of women across the proposal. From the representation of women in water use associations to targeting women heads of households for water-efficient fixtures and greywater systems, the proposal reflects a thoughtful consideration of both the unique impacts of water scarcity on women and the role they play in terms of water management in their communities, all overseen by a dedicated gender and safeguarding specialist. In addition, we are very pleased by their Gender Action Plan.

We also note the design of the revolving grant fund which provides interest free and fee-free repayable grants to farmers. We hope that in the implementation phase, the repayable nature of the mechanism does not place an undue burden on the farmers, underlining the importance of the well designed built-in safeguards, including the non punitive recovery measures, and the absorption of default risk at the revolving grant fund level rather than by the individual farmer.

We express our support for the project, and would like to stress the importance of GCF grant funding, especially with respect to such project designs, which generally have limited opportunities to access other sources of climate finance. The project presents us with an example and also a reminder of the GCF's strengths and purpose.