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# President's report

Proposed Ioan and grant to the Kingdom of Tonga for the Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II (TRIP II)

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For: Approval

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# Abbreviations and acronyms

AWP/B annual workplan and budget

CADP community agricultural development plan

CDP community development plan
DSF Debt Sustainability Framework
EIRR economic internal rate of return

M&E monitoring and evaluation

MAFFF Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries

MFNP Ministry of Finance and National Planning

MIA Ministry of Internal Affairs

MORDI TT Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation Tonga Trust

PAC project advisory committee PMU project management unit

RIMS Results and Impact Management System

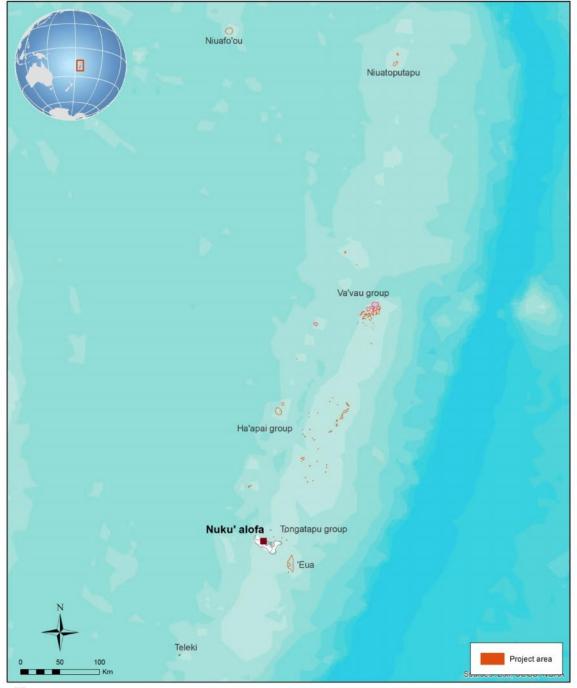
TRIP Tonga Rural Innovation Project

TSDF Tonga Strategic Development Framework

# Map of the project area

**Tonga**Tonga Rural Innovation Project - Phase II

President's report



JI IFAD

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.

Map compiled by IFAD | 20-02-2017

# Kingdom of Tonga

# Tonga Rural Innovation Project - Phase II (TRIP II)

# Financing summary

Initiating institution: IFAD

**Borrower/recipient:** The Kingdom of Tonga

Lead implementing agency:

Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation Tonga

Trust (MORDI TT)

Total project cost: US\$10.91 million

Amount of IFAD loan: SDR 1,09 million (equivalent to approximately

US\$1.5 million)

Amount of IFAD grant: SDR 1,09 million (equivalent to approximately

US\$1.5 million)

Highly concessional: Maturity period of 40 years, including a grace period of 10 years, with a service

including a grace period of 10 years, with a service

charge of 0.75 per cent per annum

Financing gap: US\$3.76 million

Contribution of borrower: US\$2.7 million

Contribution of beneficiaries: US\$1.4 million

Appraising institution: IFAD

Cooperating institution: Directly supervised by IFAD

# Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for the proposed financing to the Kingdom of Tonga for the Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II, as contained in paragraph 50.

# Proposed Ioan and grant to the Kingdom of Tonga for the Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II (TRIP II)

# I. Strategic context and rationale

# A. Country and rural development and poverty context

- 1. The Kingdom of Tonga is a small Pacific Island country with a population of 103,036. It covers a land area of 718 km<sup>2</sup> comprising 170 islands spread over 700 km<sup>2</sup> of ocean. Both the severity and depth of poverty have increased significantly in the last decade. The outer islands have experienced the sharpest increase in hardship. About half of Tonga's poor live in the rural areas of Tongatapu, the main island.
- 2. Some 85 per cent of the population resides in rural areas, with agriculture and fisheries being the main livelihood activities. Rural communities rely on traditional subsistence production systems of root crops for food security, employment and income generation. Despite underlying resilience, there are a number of factors seriously increasing rural peoples' vulnerability, such as climate change and endemic non-communicable disease from poor nutrition and diets. Rural populations are declining. Outmigration and a lack of incentives for young people to remain in rural areas are leading to farm labour shortages, an aging farmer population and vacant land tax allotments. This has implications for staple food self-sufficiency in the longer term and an imbalance in favour of imports.
- 3. Agriculture accounts for 18 per cent of GDP, 90 per cent of total exports (fisheries and agriculture) and about 35 per cent of employment. In 2015, 86 per cent of households were engaged in agriculture and about 70 per cent in fishing. Yet both sectors have been stagnant since 2011. Much of Tonga's productive agricultural land is left uncultivated owing to limited interest in investing in the more isolated areas due to low profitability. The formal private sector is dominated by services largely determined by remittance levels, with limited growth potential and purchasing power. Consequently, the underlying structural constraints on Tonga's economic performance, as well as recent global economic developments, have resulted in a decline in real incomes for many households.
- 4. The country is heavily reliant on external finance (primarily development assistance) and is one of the most remittance-dependent countries in the world. Remittance inflows were equivalent to US\$114 million in 2014 (World Bank 2014) and were sent by about 30,000 migrants living abroad (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [UN DESA] 2015). Almost all Tongan households rely on remittances from overseas members for a significant proportion of their incomes.
- 5. Tonga has the world's third highest level of risk from disasters, with the effects of climate change increasing their frequency and intensity. Successive economic shocks and continued outward migration, along with growing urbanization, continue to place pressure on traditional and informal social protection systems and to increase the vulnerability of poor people. Although remittances have reduced poverty, they have also increased dependency and raised expectations for living standards that are now difficult to satisfy within traditional Tongan communities.

# B. Rationale and alignment with government priorities and RB-COSOP

- 6. The Tonga Rural Innovation Project II (TRIP II) builds on the success of a first-phase investment implemented from 2012 to 2017. TRIP I achieved significant results and policy impact by improving the livelihoods of remote outer island communities through enhanced community planning and delivery of improved public and private goods and services. The second phase will scale up this approach nationally and focus on building resilience to the effects of climate change and extreme weather events.
- 7. TRIP II is aligned with the 2015-2025 Tonga Strategic Development Framework (TSDF), the current Climate Change Policy, and the Tonga Agriculture-Sector Plan (TASP). The project supports the TSDF's outcome B "a more inclusive, sustainable and balanced urban and rural development across island groups." The TSDF recognizes that: (i) population dispersion across small islands presents challenges for inclusive development through access to infrastructure and services; and (ii) there is a need for an improved balance, and thus resource allocation, between urban and rural development across the island groups. TRIP II will contribute to the TASP's goal of maximizing agriculture's contribution to Tonga's economic growth and to food security and nutrition in the face of a changing global economy, climate change and increased natural disasters.
- 8. TRIP II is fully aligned with the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025, the Fund's strategy for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and its Pacific Partnership Approach, which aims to enable rural people on Pacific Islands to achieve food security and sustainable, resilient livelihoods. TRIP II is also aligned with IFAD's country strategy note for Tonga.

# II. Project description

- A. Project area and target group
- 9. Project area. While TRIP I focused on the outer islands, TRIP II will have a national focus, excluding only large urban communities and those with very few households.
- 10. Target group. The project targets poor women, men and youth living in rural communities. TRIP II's targeting strategy combines self-targeting with specific operational measures that ensure inclusive and equitable processes. It has an estimated target of 28,650 people in 5,190 households in 122 communities.
- B. Project development objective
- 11. TRIP II aims to contribute to improved and resilient livelihoods for Tonga's rural population. Its development objective is to enable communities to plan and manage resilient infrastructure and livelihood activities (including addressing food security and nutrition).
- C. Components/outcomes
- 12. Component 1. Community development aims to increase the resilience of community infrastructure built to required standards. This is a continuation of TRIP I's component 1 (also community development), with the objective of covering the whole country by the end of TRIP II. Subcomponent 1.1 will support preparation of community development plans (CDPs) in target communities as the basis for subcomponent 1.2. This second subcomponent will support development of resilient community infrastructure based on CDPs, with activities focused on the construction, operation and maintenance of priority small-scale economic infrastructure.
- 13. Component 2. Sustainable economic livelihoods aims to increase the resilience of economic livelihoods through climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive agricultural production systems. Subcomponent 2.1 will support the development of community agricultural development plans (CADPs), which will include activities to address

climate change and the expressed wish of communities for support in improving their economic livelihoods. Subcomponent 2.2 will support farmers engaged in sustainable economic livelihoods through improved climate-resilient practices to: (i) improve agroforestry-based food production systems on tax allotments<sup>1</sup> and demonstration farms; (ii) manage more productive homestead gardens; (iii) support agroforestry production of raw materials for crafts; and (iv) construct weaving halls for women.

14. Component 3. Project management and coordination aims to enhance project management capacity for implementation and monitoring of project activities, with the component's key output being effective project management.

# III. Project implementation

# A. Approach

- 15. The TRIP II theory of change is that enhanced community capacity for sustainable infrastructure planning and development, when linked with investment in resilient agricultural production systems, will contribute to improved, sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable households. Building resilience to the effects of climate change and improving household nutrition are implicit in this approach. The project pursues a community development approach to expand economic livelihood opportunities through a combination of empowerment and technical inputs, such as sustainable resource management and targeted technical services. Project activities are complementary and, when implemented by target communities, are sequenced to create synergies for improved, sustainable and climate-smart economic livelihoods. Building cohesive and united rural communities through component 1 activities (planning and constructing resilient community infrastructure) will form a platform on which to design and implement component 2 (sustainable economic livelihoods).
- 16. TRIP II builds on lessons learned during TRIP I, including: (i) avoiding complexity by focusing on a few core constraints on agriculture and rural development; (ii) enhancing component complementarity by focusing on common incomegenerating activities combined with the use of targeting mechanisms; (iii) strengthening and empowering rural communities for a greater influence on policy, and for engagement with government planning and sector support processes conducive to sustained community livelihood development; (iv) ensuring that addressing vulnerability to climate change and to over- and undernutrition is mainstreamed in all project activities; and (v) minimizing risk by adopting well proven approaches.

## B. Organizational framework

- 17. The project will adopt the same implementation arrangements that functioned effectively under TRIP I, with some adjustments in targeting and approach based on learning. The Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MFNP) will be the representative of the borrower/recipient. The Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation Tonga Trust (MORDI TT), a locally registered NGO that has been implementing TRIP I through a memorandum of understanding with MFNP, will be the lead project agency. It will report to MFNP, and a project advisory committee (PAC) will be established to guide project implementation in areas of governance, policy, networking with other organizations and the strategic project overview. MORDI TT will establish a dedicated project management unit (PMU) to support project implementation.
- 18. This arrangement is based on an assessment of MORDI TT's implementation capacity and an institutional review done in the design phase. The Trust's implementation of TRIP I has: (i) been cost-effective and cost-efficient; (ii) developed a credible reputation with non-governmental and government agencies (mainstreaming of the

<sup>1</sup> Defined as an eight-acre plot of farmland officially registered with the Government and inheritable from father to son.

CDP planning process in national government planning processes) – evidenced by the interest expressed by development partners in funding the priorities identified in the CDPs; (iii) been instrumental in introducing the concept of CDPs;

- (iv) spearheaded the use of town officers as local development agents; and
- (v) demonstrated strong results after introducing a systematic process for community-level planning and development implementation.

# C. Planning, monitoring and evaluation, and learning and knowledge management

- 19. Planning. Planning processes within TRIP II will be harmonized with the government planning process and guided by the CDPs and CADPs developed at the community level. The project manager, in consultation with town officers, will prepare a draft annual workplan and budget (AWP/B), submit it to the MORDI TT board for review and endorsement, and to the PAC for review. Draft AWP/Bs will then be shared with MFNP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forests and Fisheries (MAFFF), and finally submitted to IFAD for "no objection".
- 20. Monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The M&E system will monitor physical and financial progress, as well as progress towards project objectives, and will serve as a key management tool. Inputs, outputs, process and outcomes will be monitored in accordance with logical framework indicators based on the financial management system, staff reports and surveys. Special studies will complement this information through in-depth analysis of topics such as: (i) success factors in mobilizing and motivating youth; and (ii) strategies for investing remittances in productive local business opportunities. The PMU will collect baseline data in each targeted community, in accordance with the guidelines of IFAD's Results and Impact Management System (RIMS). All data will be disaggregated by sex and age.
- 21. Knowledge management. Knowledge management includes: (i) ensuring engagement with target communities and implementation partners; (ii) establishing an M&E framework that provides information and analysis for management decision-making against logical framework indicators and AWP/Bs; (iii) ensuring that knowledge and results are documented and shared with all stakeholders; and (iv) continuing the close relationship between MORDI TT and IFAD on a broad range of knowledge management activities. An addition to TRIP II is the focus on building partnerships with the objective of providing complete and timely information to key stakeholders and partners.

## D. Financial management, procurement and governance

- 22. Financial management. MFNP will be the representative of the borrower/recipient, with responsibility for approving the AWP/B after endorsement by the PAC, and will have overall accountability for the project, including fiduciary aspects. MORDI TT will be responsible for day-to-day financial management activities, including accounting, reporting and coordinating audit processes.
- 23. The inherent fiduciary risk is considered medium in Tonga. Project fiduciary risk was also assessed as medium during design. Financial management performance was judged to be moderately satisfactory by the latest supervision mission to TRIP I, suggesting room for improvement. Financial audits during TRIP I implementation have been consistently unqualified. However, some weaknesses were observed during supervision regarding staff turnover, adherence to IFAD's requirements for disbursement requests and procurement processes.
- 24. Measures to mitigate fiduciary risk in TRIP II will include: (i) retention of TRIP I finance staff, subject to performance assessment; (ii) hiring of additional dedicated finance and procurement staff; (iii) improvement of the existing TRIP I finance and administration manual, with detailed accounting, procurement and documentation management processes; (iv) an automated accounting system and associated training (the current software used for TRIP I will be retained, subject to IFAD

assessment; alternatively, a new system may be procured at start-up); (v) interim financial reporting submitted to MFNP and IFAD; (vi) periodic compliance audits by the Office of the Auditor General, reported to MFNP and IFAD, and focused on reviews of internal controls and procurement documentation; (vii) audit reports provided to MFNP and IFAD; and (viii) quarterly internal audits by the Internal Audit Office of MFNP.

- 25. The financial statements for TRIP II will be prepared by MORDI TT on a cash accounting basis, supplemented as necessary by additional data so as to provide minimum disclosures under international accounting standards.
- 26. Audit. Independent annual audits will be conducted by the Office of the Auditor General or a private auditor in line with international auditing standards. The choice of auditor will be determined within six months of effectiveness. IFAD's prior experience regarding the quality and timeliness of audits by private auditors during the implementation of TRIP I has been satisfactory.
- 27. Flow of funds. A designated account in United States dollars will be opened by MFNP to receive the loan and grant funding from IFAD. A project account in local currency will also be opened by MORDI TT to cover day-to-day transactions.
- 28. Procurement will be undertaken in accordance with national procurement rules and regulations to the extent that these are consistent with IFAD's Project Procurement Guidelines. The Government of Tonga updated its public procurement regulations in 2015. As procurement capacity has been identified as a risk, additional specialist human resources will be allocated to support efficient and effective procurement execution.
- 29. Governance. Tonga has taken steps to improve the qualities of good governance, accountability, transparency, anticorruption, security and rule of law. As a sign of commitment, the Government is continuing with reform efforts made under the Economic Public-Sector Reform Programme to improve the effective provision of government services by focusing on three areas of public-sector management public administration, financial management and enterprise reform. To ensure effective governance, the project will incorporate the following measures, to be monitored through a good governance framework: (i) information transparency; (ii) training and capacity-building; (iii) a complaint mechanism for community members; (iv) enhanced supervision and monitoring; and (v) zero tolerance towards fraud and corruption.

#### E. Supervision

30. TRIP II will be supervised by IFAD on a biannual basis to coincide with the preparation of AWP/Bs and approval of withdrawal applications. A midterm review will be undertaken at the end of the third project year. IFAD has strengthened its presence in the Pacific Islands with a subregional coordinator based at UNDP in Suva, Fiji. In addition, an IFAD country office has been established in Jakarta, Indonesia, managed by an outposted country director with responsibility for the Pacific Islands, allowing for more continuous follow-up and support.

# IV. Project costs, financing and benefits

31. The financing gap of US\$3.76 million may be sourced by subsequent performance-based allocation system (PBAS) cycles (under financing terms to be determined and subject to internal procedures and subsequent Executive Board approval) or through cofinancing identified during implementation.

## A. Project costs

32. The total project cost is estimated at US\$10.91 million over a five-year implementation period. Indicative component costs are detailed in table 1. Indicative project costs by expenditure category and financier are provided in table 2. The total

- cost includes physical and price contingencies, which amount to 4 per cent and 3 per cent of base costs, respectively.
- 33. Project costs have been calculated in prices current in Tonga as of June 2016. The allowance for price contingencies (3 per cent) is related to projected international and domestic inflation rates over the implementation period. It is based on projected inflation for Tonga (Asian Development Bank, mid-2016) and internationally (World Bank, Manufactures Unit Index (MUI) for G5 countries). Costs have been calculated in Tongan pa'anga (T\$) and United States dollars at an exchange rate of US\$1.0 = T\$2.2.
- 34. Approximately 21 per cent of the total base cost has been allocated to component 1, community development. Most of this is dedicated to CDPs and resilient community infrastructure. Component 2, sustainable economic livelihoods, has been allocated 36 per cent of base costs, with most being allocated to supporting economic livelihoods in the form of grants. Component 3, project management and coordination, is estimated at 43 per cent of base costs and includes provision for technical and policy support, monitoring, evaluation and knowledge activities, and project staffing, with a significant government contribution for local government staff assigned to the project. The IFAD loan and grant will collectively finance 25.2 per cent of component 3. To expedite early implementation, IFAD will finance eligible start-up costs up to a limit of US\$125,000.

Table 1 **Project costs by component and financier**(Thousands of United States dollars)

·							Borrower/					
	IFAD loan		IFAD grant		Financing gap		Beneficiaries		counterpart		Total	
Component	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	%	Amount	
1. Community development	279	12.2	279	12.2	997	43.6	424	18.5	309	13.5	2 288	
2. Sustainable economic livelihoods	627	16.0	627	16.0	1 156	29.5	1 004	25.6	506	12.9	3 920	
3. Project management and coordination	592	12.6	592	12.6	1 605	34.1			1 914	40.7	4 703	
Total	1 498	13.7	1 498	13.7	3 758	34.4	1 428	13.1	2 730	25.0	10 911	

#### B. Project financing

35. Tonga is classified as "yellow" under the Debt Sustainability Framework (DSF). Accordingly, IFAD funding will be provided at 50 per cent in the form of a loan and 50 per cent in the form of a DSF grant. The total project cost of about US\$10.91 million will be financed by: IFAD, for a total amount of some US\$3 million (27.5 per cent of total cost), beneficiary contributions of US\$1.43 million (13 per cent of total cost) and a government contribution of US\$2.73 million (25 per cent of total cost). A financing gap of US\$3.76 million may be funded by subsequent PBAS cycles (under financing terms to be determined and subject to internal procedures and subsequent Executive Board approval) or through cofinancing identified during implementation.

Table 2 **Project costs by expenditure category and financier**(Thousands of United States dollars)

	IFAD I	AD Ioan IF		IFAD grant		Financing gap		ries	Borrower/ counterpart		Total
Expenditure category	Amt	%	Amt	%	Amt	%	Amt	%	Amt	%	Amt
Investment costs											
1. Works	573	11.3	573	11.3	1 836	36.3	1 428	28.3	643	12.7	5 053
<ol><li>Equipment and materials</li></ol>	31	42.5	31	42.5					11	15.0	73
3. Vehicles	20	42.5	20	42.5					7	15.0	47
4. Goods, services and inputs	123	26.5	123	26.5	148	31.9			69	15.0	463
5. Training	163	29.6	163	29.6	142	25.9			82	15.0	550
6. Workshops	30	24.4	30	24.4	45	36.2			19	15.0	124
7. Consultancies	124	22.3	124	22.3	225	40.5			83	15.0	556
Recurrent costs											
Salaries and allowances	357	10.0	357	10.0	1 121	31.3			1 746	48.7	3 581
2. Operating costs	77	16.6	77	16.6	240	51.8			70	15.0	463
Total	1 498	13.7	1 498	13.7	3 757	34.4	1 428	13.1	2 730	25.0	10 911

# C. Summary benefit and economic analysis

- 36. Benefits will derive from: (i) reduced loss of life, repair costs, and transport and communication costs associated with new and improved climate-resilient infrastructure; (ii) increased household incomes from agricultural (annual and perennial crops) and craft production; (iii) improved community organization, empowerment and quality of life in remote communities; and (iv) improved food security and nutrition. The project benefits a total of 6,349 households or 35,538 beneficiaries.
- 37. The economic internal rate of return (EIRR) for the project is 20 per cent and the net present value at a discount rate of 12 per cent is US\$8 million. Sensitivity analyses were completed based on changes in costs and benefits (marginal change and accrual of benefits over time). An increase in costs of up to 30 per cent decreases the EIRR to 16 per cent the same impact as delaying benefits by two years. An increase in benefits of 20 per cent changes the EIRR to 22 per cent, while a decrease in benefits of 20 per cent changes the EIRR to 17 per cent.

## D. Sustainability

- 38. Sustainability of project benefits for TRIP I households was high. TRIP II will further scale up improved and sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable rural communities by: (i) assisting beneficiaries in community and household planning and prioritization processes; (ii) involving beneficiaries in development, financing, operation and maintenance of community economic infrastructure, and sustainable livelihood investments; (iii) linking beneficiaries with markets, microfinance services and improved farmer field schools and agricultural extension services; and (iv) embedding participating and learning methods in CDPs, CADPs and government processes and systems.
- 39. MORDI TT is an independent NGO that has acquired significant experience and recognition through successful implementation of the first phase of the TRIP. The fact that the Government has agreed to partner with civil society (and vice versa) to deliver TRIP II remains innovative in the Tongan context. The project will ensure that this relationship is developed further, so that, by completion, the capacity to further support and develop Tonga's rural sector is enhanced and embedded in national systems.

# E. Risk identification and mitigation

40. TRIP II is considered a relatively low-risk investment, as the design scales up a proven approach to supporting the development of remote rural communities. Main risks include: (i) remoteness, and transport and communication obstacles; (ii) lack of finance for community economic infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods; (iii) a declining population and migration of youth and able-bodied people; (iv) nonconducive land tenure systems under which land and tax allotments are allocated to elder male heirs and are often abandoned and unproductive; (v) climate change impact, including extreme weather events; (vi) MORDI TT staff retention; (vii) fiduciary risk relating to adherence to financial management and procurement processes; and (viii) inability of MAFFF to fulfil its role of providing extension officers for farmer field schools and related extension activities. Mitigation strategies have been developed during the design and include: (i) realistically designed activities and targets; (ii) specific targeting of income-generating activities; (iii) capacity-building and awareness-raising; (iv) strengthened project management and collaboration with relevant government agencies; and (v) financial management and procurement arrangements to mitigate fiduciary risk.

# V. Corporate considerations

# A. Compliance with IFAD policies

41. TRIP is fully aligned with the goals and objectives of the IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025, IFAD's strategy for SIDS, and other relevant policies and strategies, including those for targeting, gender equality and women's empowerment, the environment and natural resource management, and climate change. In addition, TRIP II has developed an explicit scaling up pathway – an area of strategic importance to IFAD.

# B. Alignment and harmonization

- 42. The project is aligned with a number of key policies and contributes to Government priorities. Strategic partnerships between MORDI TT and various partners and external service providers were integral to the success of TRIP I and will thus form an integral part of TRIP II implementation, for example with: (i) the Pacific Risk Resilience Programme, for support to introducing climate change and disaster risk concepts into infrastructure planning; (ii) the private sector, for development and testing of extension approaches; and (iii) the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to increase awareness of the impacts of climate change and natural disasters on farming practices.
- 43. MORDI TT has also built strategic partnerships with a number of agencies and organizations in Tonga, particularly with MFNP, which is responsible for development planning, coordination and financing. TRIP II will promote partnerships with: (i) MAFFF and the Ministries of Education and Women's Affairs; Labour, Commerce, Trade and Industries; and Training, Sports, Youth and Employment; (ii) representatives of development partners (e.g. the Asian Development Bank and World Bank; Australia and the New Zealand Aid Programme); and (iii) representatives of the private sector (e.g. commercial vanilla and vegetable growers and exporters) that work in rural development in Tonga. A feature of TRIP II will be a strengthened and more formal partnership with MAFFF for the provision of farmer extension services and tree seedlings, with the objective of developing extension packages and good practice modules for national adoption and use by MAFFF and others beyond the project. A close and ongoing partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which employs cooperating town and district officers, will be essential. These strategic partnerships, particularly those with the Ministries of Education and Women's Affairs and of Training, Sports, Youth and Employment will ensure that TRIP II receives continuous strategic support and monitoring to further social, economic and gender inclusion objectives.

# C. Innovations and scaling up

- 44. The design of TRIP II promotes innovation in rural empowerment and livelihood development, including: (i) impact on policy and local governance through collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs; (ii) identifying and implementing strategic partnerships with, for example: (a) NGOs (Live & Learn Environmental Education), the Pacific Risk Resilience Programme and the Tonga Business Enterprise Centre; (iii) the negotiated partnership between the Government, IFAD and MORDI TT, which has proven to be one of the most effective in the country; and (iv) responding to challenges encountered in TRIP I's component 2 with an innovative smallholder package of: (a) farmer field schools for training and learning; (b) short value-chain analysis to define local and import replacement markets; (c) appropriately timed microfinance support from South Pacific Business Development; (d) provision of farming inputs; and, importantly, (e) ensuring that the designs of community infrastructure and livelihood development activities contain interventions and responses that address the looming impact of climate change and increased natural disasters.
- 45. Once TRIP II is completed, it is expected that 122 rural communities in Tonga will be empowered with CDPs, which will be the basis of community development across all island groups. In addition, about 60 rural communities will develop CADPs. These powerful and community-embedded plans should thus form the basis for a further scaling up of the TRIP II economic livelihoods initiative. A scaling up pathway has been developed as part of project design.

# D. Policy engagement

46. TRIP I achieved significant policy impact. TRIP II will continue to promote an enabling environment for rural communities by addressing procedural and policy issues that affect inclusive development, including through: (i) working with public partners to integrate the development planning process into formal government processes; (ii) establishing partnerships that support inclusion objectives (e.g. for rural finance, nurseries and materials); (iii) piloting approaches tailored to the specific constraints and resources of the Tongan community (e.g. using social media, digital extension services and capture of remittance investment); and (iv) seeking practical solutions to policy constraints, such as land legislation that reduces the access of both women and younger siblings.

# VI. Legal instruments and authority

- 47. A project financing agreement between the Kingdom of Tonga and IFAD will constitute the legal instrument for extending the proposed financing to the borrower/recipient. A copy of the negotiated financing agreement is attached as appendix I.
- 48. The Kingdom of Tonga is empowered under its laws to receive financing from IFAD.
- 49. I am satisfied that the proposed financing will comply with the Agreement Establishing IFAD and the Policies and Criteria for IFAD Financing.

## VII. Recommendation

50. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed financing in terms of the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: that the Fund shall provide a loan on highly concessional terms to the Kingdom of Tonga in an amount equivalent to one million ninety thousand special drawing rights (SDR 1,090,000), and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.

RESOLVED FURTHER: that the Fund shall provide a DSF grant to the Kingdom of Tonga in an amount equivalent to one million ninety thousand special drawing rights (SDR 1,090,000), and upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented herein.

Gilbert F. Houngbo President

# Negotiated financing agreement: "Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II (TRIP II)"

Loan Number: Grant Number:
Project Title: Tonga Rural Innovation Project – Phase II (TRIP II) ("the Project")
The Kingdom of Tonga (the "Borrower/Recipient")
and
The International Fund for Agricultural Development (the "Fund" or "IFAD")
(each a "Party" and both of them collectively the "Parties")
hereby agree as follows:

#### Section A

- 1. The following documents collectively form this Agreement: this document, the Project Description and Implementation Arrangements (Schedule 1), the Allocation Table (Schedule 2), and the Special Covenants (Schedule 3).
- 2. The Fund's General Conditions for Agricultural Development Financing dated 29 April 2009, amended as of April 2014, and as may be amended hereafter from time to time (the "General Conditions") are annexed to this Agreement, and all provisions thereof shall apply to this Agreement. For the purposes of this Agreement the terms defined in the General Conditions shall have the meanings set forth therein.
- 3. The Fund shall provide a Loan and a Grant to the Borrower/Recipient (the "Financing"), which the Borrower/Recipient shall use to implement the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

#### Section B

- 1. (a) The amount of the Loan is one million ninety thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 1 090 000).
  - (b) The amount of the Grant is one million ninety thousand Special Drawing Rights (SDR 1 090 000).
- 2. The Loan is granted on highly concessional terms and shall be free of interest but bear a service charge of three fourths of one per cent (0.75 per cent) per annum and have a maturity period of forty (40) years, including a grace period of ten (10) years.
- 3. The Loan Service Payment Currency shall be the United States dollar (USD).
- 4. The first day of the applicable Fiscal Year shall be 1 July.
- 5. Payments of principal and service charge shall be payable on each 01 February and 01 August

6. There shall be one Designated Account denominated in US dollars opened by the Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MFNP) at a commercial bank, through which the proceeds of the Loan and the Grant will be channelled. A project account in local currency will be opened at a commercial bank by MORDI TT to finance project activities.

7. The Borrower/Recipient shall provide counterpart financing for the Project in an approximate amount of two million seven hundred thousand United States dollars (USD 2 700 000) to cover participating government staff salaries, duties and taxes.

#### Section C

- 1. The MFNP will formally represent the Borrower/Recipient.
- 2. The Lead Project Agency shall be the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovation Tonga Trust (MORDI TT).
- 3. The Project Completion Date shall be the fifth anniversary of the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

#### Section D

The Loan will be administered and the Project supervised by the Fund.

#### Section E

- 1. The following are designated as additional grounds for suspension of this Agreement:
  - (a) MORDI TT is not appointed by the MFNP as the Lead Project Agency (LPA);
  - (b) MORDI TT is wound up:
  - (c) The Project Implementation Manual (PIM), or any provision thereof, has been waived, suspended, terminated, amended or modified without the prior consent of the Fund, and the Fund has determined that such waiver, suspension, termination, amendment or modification has had, or is likely to have, a material adverse effect on the Project; and
  - (d) Key managerial staff as described in Schedule 1 paragraph 9.1 are appointed transferred or moved from the Project Management Unit (PMU) without the prior concurrence of the Fund.
- 2. The following are designated as additional conditions precedent to withdrawal:
  - (a) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between MFNP and MORDI TT in order to appoint MORDI TT as the LPA for the implementation of the project;
  - (b) MFNP has duly opened a Designated Account and MORDI TT has opened a Project Account as specified in Section B, paragraph 6 above;
  - (c) PMU within MORDI TT shall have been established and key Project staff, as defined in Schedule 1, shall have been appointed to the satisfaction of IFAD;
  - (d) MORDI TT has prepared a draft PIM as described in section II of Schedule 1, in form and substance satisfactory to the Fund.

The following are the designated representatives and addresses to be used for any communication related to this Agreement: For the Borrower/Recipient: Minister Ministry of Finance and National Planning Taufa'ahau Road, Tungi Colonade Building, Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga For the Fund: The President International Fund for Agricultural development Via Paolo di Dono 44 00142 Rome, Italy This Agreement, dated \_\_\_\_\_, has been prepared in the English language in two (2) original copies, one (1) for the Fund and one (1) for the Borrower/Recipient. THE KINGDOM OF TONGA (Authorised Representative) Minister of Finance and National Planning INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT Gilbert F. Houngbo President

#### Schedule 1

#### Project Description and Implementation Arrangements

## I. Project Description

- 1. Project area. The Project will have a national geographic focus with only large urban communities and those with very few households excluded and shall benefit 122 rural communities (the "Project Area").
- 2. Target population. The project shall focus on poor women, men and youth living in rural communities with an estimated target of 28,650 people.
- 3. Goal. The goal of the Project is to contribute to improved and resilient livelihoods for Tonga's rural population.
- 4. Objectives. The development objective of the Project is to enable communities to plan and manage resilient infrastructure and livelihood activities.
- 5. Components. The Project shall consist of the following Components:
- <u>Component 1. Community Development</u>. This component will aim at increasing community capacity to manage resilient infrastructure built to required standards. This will be achieved through the following sub-components:
  - (a) Sub-component 1.1. Community Development Plans (CDPs). Activities under this sub-component will support development of CDPs in target communities; and from which target communities select and develop (with Project support) priority economic infrastructure.
  - (b) Sub-component 1.2. Development of resilient community infrastructure based on CDPs. Activities under this sub-component will focus on the construction, operation and maintenance of priority small-scale economic infrastructure.

<u>Component 2. Sustainable economic livelihoods</u>. This component will aim at increasing the resilience of economic livelihoods based on climate smart agriculture production systems, and agro-forestry based handicrafts. This will be achieved through the following subcomponents:

- (a) Sub-component 2.1. Support to Community Agricultural Development Plans (CADPs). Activities under this sub-component will support the development of CADPs, which reflect activities to address climate change and natural disasters and communities' expressed wishes for support to improve their economic livelihoods.
- (b) Sub-component 2.2. Support to Farmers engaged in sustainable economic livelihoods. Activities under this sub-component will support farmers engaged in sustainable economic livelihoods through improved and climate resilient practices to: (i) improve agro-forestry based food production systems on tax allotments and demonstration farms; (ii) manage more productive homestead gardens; (iii) support agro-forestry production for handicraft raw material production; and (iv) construction of multipurpose weaving halls for women.

<u>Component 3. Project management.</u> This component aims at enhancing project management capacity for implementation and monitoring of project activities. MORDI TT will be appointed by MFNP on a sole source basis, through a MoU to be signed between both parties, to implement the Project. MORDI TT will establish a PMU and recruit staff as needed. The Project Manager will have overall responsibility for implementing the Project and for building and maintaining strategic partnerships, including proactively working to further institutionalize the Project approach and processes into formal Government procedures.

#### II. Implementation Arrangements

- A. Organisation and management
- 6. Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MFNP)

The MFNP will be responsible for the financing of the Project and more specifically for the receipt and disbursement of funds from IFAD and monitoring budget finance.

7. Lead Project Agency (LPA).

MORDI TT shall be the LPA and shall have overall responsibility for the implementation of the Project. MORDI TT shall report to the MFNP on all matters related to the Project implementation.

- 8. Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
- 8.1 Establishment and composition: A PAC shall be established and maintained throughout the entire Project Implementation Period. The membership of the PAC will be defined in the PIM.
- 8.2 Responsibilities. PAC will advise in areas of governance, policy, networking with other organisations and strategic project overview. Among other activities, the PAC will: (i) review the Annual Work Plan and Budgets (AWPBs) approved by MORDI TT Board Approval prior to transmittal to IFAD for no objection; (ii) oversee sixmonthly reviews in cooperation with joint supervision missions; (iii) promote cooperation and coordination between regional and national Government and non-government agencies; (iv) identify evidence based policy issues for dialogue amongst partners; and (v) ensure Project management transparency and accountability.
- 9. Project Management Unit (PMU)
- 9.1. Establishment and composition: MORDI TT shall establish a PMU headed by a Project Manager and composed of, but not limited to, the following key staff recruited according to the Borrower/Recipient applicable procedures, to the extent these are acceptable to the Fund: (i) an Administrator; (ii) a Finance and Procurement Manager; (iii) an M&E and Knowledge Management (KM) Coordinator; and (iv) two Component Coordinators. These senior staff will manage smaller teams with the specific skills and experience as required for the Project implementation.
- 9.2. Responsibilities: The PMU key functions will relate to planning, coordination, facilitation and brokerage of partnerships, and monitoring and evaluation. The PMU will also be responsible for implementing all operational-level fiduciary functions to ensure that the financial and administrative management of project resources is in line with the IFAD Financing Agreement and IFAD policies. This will include: (i)

- preparation of the AWPB and procurement plan, (ii) submission of application to withdraw funds from the Loan and Grant Account; (iii) preparation of financial reports; and (iv) coordination of audit processes.
- 10. Strategic partnerships. MORDI TT will build strategic partnerships with external service providers, and also with a number of agencies and organisations inter alia, with the (i) MFNP and, (ii) MAFFF; (iii) Ministry of Internal Affairs; (iv) Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment and Climate Change; and (v) Ministry of Revenue and Customs.
- 11. Project Review and Appraisal Committee (PRAC)
- 11.1 Establishment and Composition: Membership of the PRAC will be defined in the PIM.
- 11.2 Responsibilities: PRAC overall purpose shall be to provide an executive management function for the Community Economic Infrastructure Grant Proposals (CEIG) and the Community Economic Livelihood Grant (CELG) and will interface with MORDI TT. PRAC will screen, discuss and report results of the CEIG and CELG proposals as defined in the PIM.
- 12. MORDI TT specific tasks. MORDI TT will have specific tasks, further defined in the PIM, inter alia: (i) to train, and supervise PMU staff, in the use of participatory learning, action and planning methods, and in Project implementation practices, (ii) to lodge consolidated CDPs and CADPs, (iii) to disburse approved CEIGs and CELGs, (iv) to monitor and evaluate Project performance, including collecting impact data; and (v) to identify evidence-based policy issues for dialogue through the PAC.
- B Mid-Term Review
- 13. The LPA and the Fund shall jointly carry out a review of the Project Implementation at the end of project year three (the "MTR") based on the terms of reference prepared by the LPA and agreed to by the Borrower/Recipient and the Fund.
- C. Project Implementation Manual
- 14. Preparation. The LPA shall prepare a consolidated draft PIM acceptable to the Fund. The PIM shall include among other arrangements: (i) institutional coordination and day-to-day execution of the Project; (ii) Programme budgeting, disbursement, financial management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and related procedures; (iii) detailed description of implementation arrangements for each Project component; and (iv) such other administrative, financial, technical and organizational arrangements and procedures as shall be required for the Project.
- 15. Approval and Adoption. The LPA shall forward the draft PIM to PAC for comments and to the Fund for no objection. The LPA shall adopt the PIM, substantially in the form approved by the Fund, and the LPA shall promptly provide copies thereof to the Fund. The Borrower/Recipient shall carry out the Project in accordance with the PIM and shall not amend, abrogate, waive or permit to be amended, abrogated, or waived, the aforementioned manual, or any provision thereof, without the prior written consent of the Fund.

#### Schedule 2

#### Allocation Table

1. Allocation of Proceeds. (a) The Table below sets forth the Categories of Eligible Expenditures to be financed by the Financing and the allocation of the amounts of the Financing to each Category and the percentages of expenditures for items to be financed in each Category:

	Category	Loan Amount Allocated (expressed in SDR)	Grant Amount Allocated (expressed in SDR)	Percentage (net of tax, co-financiers and beneficiary contributions)
1.	Works	380 000	380 000	100%
П.	Equipment & materials	30 000	30 000	100%
Ш.	Training & Workshops	130 000	130 000	100%
IV.	Goods Services & Inputs	80 000	80 000	100%
٧.	Consultancies	80 000	80 000	100%
VI.	Recurrent costs	280 000	280 000	100%
	Unallocated	110 000	110 000	
TOT	AL	1 090 000	1 090 000	

<sup>(</sup>b) The terms used in the Table above are defined as follows:

<sup>&</sup>quot;Equipment & materials" under Category II, shall mean eligible expenditures also for vehicles.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Works" under Category I, shall mean eligible expenditures incurred related to community infrastructure under Sub-component 1.2.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Recurrent costs" under Category V, shall mean eligible expenditures for operating costs, salaries and allowances.

<sup>2.</sup> Start-up Costs. Withdrawals in respect of expenditures for start-up costs (in Categories II, III, IV, V and VI) incurred before the satisfaction of the general conditions precedent to withdrawal, shall not exceed an aggregate amount of USD 120 000.

#### Schedule 3

#### **Special Covenants**

In accordance with Section 12.01(a) (xxiii) of the General Conditions, the Fund may suspend, in whole or in part, the right of the Borrower/Recipient to request withdrawals from the Loan Account and the Grant Account if the Borrower/Recipient has defaulted in the performance of any covenant set forth below, and the Fund has determined that such default has had, or is likely to have, a material adverse effect on the Project:

- 1. Gender. The Borrower/Recipient shall ensure that appropriate measures will be taken in order to support women and youth inclusion.
- 2. Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures. The Borrower/Recipient shall ensure that appropriate measures for screening community and livelihood investments are built into the Project in compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment requirements of the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment and Climate Change.
- 3. Taxes. The Borrower/Recipient shall ensure that Project is granted with a tax exempt status and that the proceeds from IFAD financing are not be used to pay taxes. As mentioned in paragraph 7 above, all taxes and duties related to the Project will be considered counterpart financing.

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# Logical framework

Results Hierarchy	Key Performance Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End Target	Means of Verification	Frequency	Responsibility	Assumptions (A), Risks (R)
Goal: Contribute to improved and resilient livelihoods for Tonga's rural population	Improvement in household assets ownership index     Increased ability of people to manage environmental and climate-related risks     Number of persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project (RIMS)	Tbd	n/a	Tbd	RIMS impact surveys 2016 HIES EOP surveys Focused group discussions (FGDs) Case studies	Beginning and End of Project (EOP)	Project Mgmt. Unit (PMU); Government of Tonga (Government)	(A) No major changes in Government of Tonga's Strategic Development Framework (2015 - 2025)
Development Objective: Communities are enabled to plan and manage resilient infrastructure and livelihood activities (including addressing food security and nutrition)	Number / % persons/ HHs reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate resilient technologies and practices (RIMS)  No/ % of persons/households reporting improved access to land, forests, water or water bodies for production purposes	Tbd Tbd	n/a Tbd	Tbd Tbd	<ul> <li>Construction supervision and inspection reports</li> <li>Mid-term and EOP surveys</li> <li>FGDs</li> <li>Case studies</li> <li>FFS Project Reports</li> </ul>	EOP	PMU	(A) Communities are willing to participate in innovative forms of planning and support, and to contribute to their development - infrastructure and livelihoods     (A) MAFFF is prepared to cooperate with TRIP II at central, district and village levels
Outcome 1 Increased community capacity to manage resilient infrastructure built to required standards	% of persons/ hhs reporting improved physical access to markets, processing, and storage facilities (RIMS)	0	80%	80%	Mid-Term and EOP surveys FGDs (gender disaggregated) Case studies Gender studies on community planning. Study on youth inclusion.	Annual and Mid-term and EOP	PMU	(A) MIA and MAFFF officials and technical staff willing to support plan preparation     (A) Communities prepared to participate in planning     (A) Communities willing to make in-kind and/or cash contributions
Outputs: 1.1 Community Development Plans (CDP)	Number people trained in community management topics (RIMS) - Town and District Officers (TOs, DOs), Committee Members (CM), and Community Facilitators (CF)	0 DOs 0 TOs 0 CMs 0 CFs	15 DOs 62 TOs 300 CMs 62 CFs	15 DOs 62 TOs 620 CMs 62 CFs	<ul> <li>Project/training records</li> <li>Gender study to track women's participation.</li> <li>Survey on youth inclusion.</li> </ul>	Biannual	PMU	for development of economic infrastructure  (A) Communities willing to maintain economic infrastructure  (A) Communities willing to participate in self-monitoring and
	<ul> <li>Number of CDPs formulated</li> </ul>	0	40	62	<ul><li>Project Records</li><li>Published CDPs</li></ul>	Biannual	PMU	reporting activities
1.2 Resilient community infrastructure based on CDPs	Number of market, processing or storage facilities constructed / rehabilitated (RIMS)	0	30	62	<ul> <li>Mid-Term and EOP surveys</li> <li>CDPs</li> <li>Detailed grant applications</li> <li>Construction supervision and inspection reports</li> <li>Assessments as required by Mol</li> </ul>	Biannual	PMU	
	Number of community infrastructure management committees trained	0	30	62	Mid-Term, EOP Reports     Detailed grant applications     Construction supervision and inspection reports	Annual and Mid-term and EOP	PMU	

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Results Hierarchy	Key Performance Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End Target	Means of Verification	Frequency	Responsibility	Assumptions (A), Risks (R)
Outcome 2: Increased resilience of economic livelihoods based on climate smart and nutrition-sensitive agricultural production systems.	Number / % of persons/households reporting adoption of new/improved inputs, technologies or practices (RIMS)	0	500	1,260	Mid-Term and EOP surveys     Projects Records (FFS     Coordinator Reports)	Annual and Mid-term and EOP	PMU	(A) MIA and MAFFF officials and technical staff are willing to support CADP preparation     (A) Communities prepared to participate in planning     (A) Communities willing to make in-kind and/or cash contributions
Outputs: 2.1 Community Agricultural Development Plans (CADPs) - reflecting climate resilient agricultural systems	<ul> <li>Number of people trained in climate change risks and responses for increased resilience in agricultural systems</li> </ul>	Officials 0 FFS 0	Officials 800 FFS 600	Officials 800 FFS 1,200	<ul> <li>Annual Project Reports</li> <li>Mid-Term and EOP surveys</li> <li>Projects Records (Training Records)</li> </ul>	Biannual Periodic	PMU	for the development of economic livelihoods  (A) Communities willing to maintain their investments in economic livelihoods
	Number of revised/updated village maps including data from village surveys, and included in CADPs	Tbd, current no, not known	60	60	Projects Records     Physical count of maps	Biannual	PMU	<ul> <li>(A) Communities willing to participate in in self-monitoring and reporting activities</li> <li>(A) Farmers willing to attend and participate in structured FFS</li> </ul>
2.2 Improved practices for increased climate resilience of agroforestry systems on households' tax allotments	<ul> <li>Number of persons/ groups supported to sustainably manage natural resources and climate- related risks (RIMS)</li> </ul>	0	600	1,200	Projects/training records     Focused group discussions     Case studies     Participatory end of FFS cycle evaluations disaggregated by gender	Biannual  Periodic  Periodic  Periodic	PMU	activities  (A) MAFFF significantly increases travel allowances beyond current levels  (R) MAFFF has further reductions in operational funding
	Number of hectares of land brought under climate-resilient management (RIMS)	Model Farms: 0ha Cluster Farms: 0 ha	50 ha 900 ha	100 ha 1900 ha	Project records (village maps) Mid-Term and EOP surveys  I make the second sec	Biannual	PMU	
2.3 Improved practices for increased climate resilience of homestead gardens	<ul> <li>Number of persons trained in production practices and/or technologies (RIMS)</li> </ul>	0	400	900	Projects/training records	Biannual	PMU	
or nomostoda gardono	Agricultural production facilities with increased water availability (rainwater tanks for 60 FFS model gardens)	0	30	60	Project records (village maps, procurement records)     Mid-Term and EOP surveys	Biannual	PMU	
	<ul> <li>Number of persons/households provided with targeted support to improve their nutrition</li> </ul>	0	0	0				
2.4 Improved agro-forestry- based production and processing centres (weaving sheds) for handicrafts	Number of processing facilities constructed or rehabilitated for cyclone proof weaving sheds	0	20	60	Project records (village maps, procurement records)     Mid-Term and EOP surveys	Biannual	PMU	
	Number of women benefiting from cyclone-proof weaving sheds	0	400	900	<ul><li>Mid-Term and EOP surveys</li><li>FGDs</li></ul>	Biannual	PMU	