

framework of the agri-food sector. As such, the action will increase awareness and understanding of the gender issues related to women's access to land; expand women's participation in water user and farm organisations and agricultural fora; promote healthy food eating habits in particular for women and children (to address the high incidence of anaemia and stunting); and support women, youth and other vulnerable groups in rural areas to develop their entrepreneurial skills. This in turn will require actions to strengthen the gender responsive provision of services to small farms and agri-businesses, while raising awareness and developing capacities of key ministries and other agencies in line with Uzbekistan's global commitments on gender equality. A prerequisite for addressing gender-based land rights inequalities will be ensuring sex-disaggregated registries with data on ownership, leasing rights, farm ownership and enterprise registration. Opportunities to promote the advantages of gender responsive budgeting within the sector will also be explored in the context of policy dialogue.

Human Rights

A number of induced outputs in the Action Document support the empowerment of women to participate in the structured private-public dialogue led by the MoA and in monitoring of the sector reforms. Actions are also intended to address the issue of access to land for women and insecurity of land tenure. Efforts will be made to engage in reforms concerning the land management, including establishment of a transparent system for land allocation, which would provide equal opportunities for women and men. Another area of concern is assurance for decent employment for both women and men in the agri-food sector, which encompasses the agriculture production, food industry and textile industry. While major progress has been achieved in the elimination of forced labour in cotton picking, there is a need for more support to a "decent work agenda", and the transition to formal employment, as around 80 per cent of agri-jobs are informal. Additionally, support to skills development and internationally-recognised certification of qualifications is needed, in partnership with the private sector and in consultation with the rights holders, to enhance the employability potential of the rural population, with a focus on youth, women and other vulnerable groups.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that the activity contributes to the development of a sustainable market oriented and inclusive agri-food system that will increase farm income, expand livelihood opportunities and enhance food security for smallholder farmers and the most vulnerable groups including people with disabilities. Efforts will be made to improve planning and implementation by engaging in a wider stakeholder consultation and dialogue including the most vulnerable beneficiaries. Capacity development activities will similarly aim at comprehensive inclusivity in particular as regards participation in sector governance, opportunities for jobs and development of skills for employment.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

| Category | Risks | Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low) | Impact (High/ Medium/ Low) | Mitigating measures |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. External environment | Risk 1. Decreasing quantities and deteriorating quality of water for irrigation due to dependence on cross-border resources (and unsustainable use). | H | H | EU assistance can be offered to 1. revise the tax/tariff system for irrigation water, which could support efficient use of limited resources; 2. support the adoption of Good Agriculture and Environmental Practices among agri-producers. |
| | Risk 2: A resurgence of new types of COVID-19 viruses and surge in infection posing significant risks. | M | M | EU budget support transfers to help in ensuring Government budget to provide additional support to the most vulnerable rural households and businesses. |
| 2.Planning, processes and systems | Risk 3. High level of corruption in general and, of a critical importance, in land management; land tenure rights are poorly protected. | H | H | Continued EU technical assistance to support: a. capacity development for internal audit in the agri-food sector; b. improved transparency in land management, including through the introduction of digital tools. |