

Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary Concept Stage (ESRS Concept Stage)

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BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Timor-Leste	EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC	P175401	
Project Name	JSDF Timor-leste COVID-19 and Health Systems Strengthening Support Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Health, Nutrition & Population	Investment Project Financing		12/4/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		

Proposed Development Objective

To strengthen the capacities of communities, including the most vulnerable populations and frontline workers, in their preparedness for and response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	3.00

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

The focus of the project is to ensure targeted communities are prepared and ready to respond to COVID-19 and any future pandemics.

The project will focus on:

1. With the Government, supporting suco disaster management committees to ensure they are prepared in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak. This includes identifying risks, preparing contingency and mitigation plans, access to small grants fund to enable preparedness and ready to respond following participation in simulation exercises.



2. Strengthening targeted communities' water access, by working with existing or re-establishing Water Management Groups (GMFs) to access a small maintenance fund to ensure key facilities (i.e health posts) have sufficient water for on-going handwashing.

3. Strengthening community knowledge, awareness and practice for health, hygiene and nutrition through behaviour change communications. This includes training, interactive and engaging messaging in the nationally distributed Lafaek magazine, and other mass media communications that could include radio and community events.

In recognition of the diversity of contexts across Timor-Leste, and in order to ensure a participatory project design and community buy-in to the project, the first phase of project implementation (up to 6 months) will be dedicated to undertaking systematic, inclusive and participatory assessment and design process with targeted communities and key stakeholders, to select locally appropriate activities from the proposed menu that meet their specific needs and respond to the localized gaps in the COVID-19 response. This participatory process will make use of CARE's participatory tools that could include Social Analysis and Action (SAA), Community Score Card (CSC) and participatory community risk assessment tools to surface and explore issues around power dynamics, gender norms and relations, inclusion of persons of all genders, ages and disability, and how services are provided and experienced by both service users and service providers, among other issues. A Gender and Power Analysis may also be conducted. Following this participatory analysis, a localized action plan will be developed together with targeted communities to respond to localized gaps in the COVID-19 response in a gender responsive and participatory manner. A non-exhaustive but indicative range of possible programmatic and activity options (menu) is included below following project component 3, showing integrated activity options which may address components 1, 2 and 3.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

The project will work in three municipalities i.e. Covalima, Viqueque, and Ermera-Atsabe in Timor-Leste (TL), where CARE is already implementing COVID-19 programming. As per the 2015 census, these geographical areas comprise approximately 7,628 Households (Hhs)/37,573 individuals (Covalima: 1,527 Hhs/7,416 populations; Viqueque: 5, 344 Hhs/25,828 individuals; Ermera – Atsabe: 757 Hhs/4,329 individuals). Specific sites and communities within these geographical areas will be confirmed following the needs assessment stage.

Covalima is a municipality in the Southwest part of the country. The capital city is Suai, which lies 136 Kms from Dili, the national capital. There are seven sub districts in this municipality that are Fatululic, Fatumean, Fohorem, Zumalai, Maucatar, Suai and Tilomar. Viqueque is a city in the South East of TL, 183 Km from Dili. Viqueque has five subdistricts under its control that they are Uatu-Lari, Uatu-Carbau, Viqueque, Lacluta and Ossu. Ermera municipality located in the West-central part of the country. It has five sub districts viz. Atsabe, Ermera, Hatulia, Letefoho and Railaku. Most income of community in Cova Lima and Viqueque municipalities are agricultures and fisheries, while in Ermera municipality most of the population lives from agriculture and Ermera municipality has biggest coffee plantation in TL. In addition, people from Atsabe sub district specialized in production of Tais/traditional woven clothes.

Although vegetation is abundant in TL, the remaining primary forest vegetation is minimal and frequently in a mixed regime with the secondary forest, after being destroyed through the ages for the necessities of agricultural demand.



Soil depletion also occur in agricultural areas due to the widespread practice of 'slash and burn' farming methods. Large-scale deforestation due to the growing demand for fuelwood and the absence of alternative sources of energy have caused the continued decline of forest cover.

TL is a country that is rich having local language. Each sub district has their own language. Covalima municipality has 3 languages i.e. Tetum Terik, Kemak and Bunak. Most people in this municipality are using Bunak and Tetum Terik including in urban area/Suai subdistrict. Only two sub districts in Cova Lima are using Kemak language mix with Bunak like Maucatar and Zumalai. Viqueque has 3 languages using in this Municipality such as Tetum Terik, Makasae and Nauweti. Most People in urban area (Viqueque subdistric/Viqueque town) using Tetum Terik. For other sub districts like Uatu-Lari and Uatu-Carbau, people use both Makasae and Nauweti Languages. Mambae and Kemak are languages used by the population in Ermera municipality. Majority people use Mambae language including people in urban area/sub districts of Ermera, except people from Atsabe which majority using Kemak language.

Initial screening confirmed that no community groups who meet the ESS7 criteria for Indigenous Peoples (IPs) presents in Covalima, Viqueque, and Ermera-Atsabe. No ethnic minorities nor traditional distinct groups or with collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the municipalities participating in the project. The country has Indigenous community, such as group name it as Suku Ilimanu (Ilimanu tribe) which is groups of peoples living together in an area with a special or different institutions and culture and is located in Laclo sub-district and Manatuto Municipality. This municipality is not part of the project location.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

CARE International (CARE) will be the lead the project implementation agency. As such, it will be responsible for overall project coordination and management, project preparation and implementation. CARE has been working in TL since 1994 and established a CARE office after the country gained independence in 1999, with programs focused solely on the new nation. This has made as an institution with an extensive experience on community development works. CARE current programs focus on families in disadvantaged areas and aim to achieve better education for children and adults, more babies being born safely, improved skills of health workers, and greater resilience of communities in the face of natural disasters and the effects of climate change. CARE is part of Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) Consortium and other four Australian NGOs, is working on a partnership approach in coordination with Government of TL (GoTL) in various department at national, municipality, and village level to deliver the COVID-19 response across the country. The AHP Consortium will ensure that the most vulnerable people are reached through the implementation activity and ensure that woman groups' and people with disability are included in the planning process and ensure that protection of woman and children is paramount in all the response effort and activities. CARE runs a long-term program with the impact groups pf women and girls in disadvantaged rural communities. Hamoris Mortalidade no Risku ba Inan Sira (HAMORIS) Project is a community-based health project implemented in rural communities with the overall goal is to contribute to lasting reductions in maternal mortality and disability by increasing the number of women in targeted communities utilize appropriate and quality maternal health services. Another project is funded by the European Union (EU) to improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable families (female headed households, pregnant and lactating women, persons with disabilities, elderly) at risk of being negatively affected by COVID-19 in TL and to support GoTL to provide humanitarian assistance in response to the ongoing COVID-19 response.

CARE Safeguarding Policy and code of conduct have included protection from sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse, and child abuse with zero-tolerance approach for such issues. In their policy statement CARE commits to the

welfare of children and their protection from abuse and exploitation and seeks to create and maintain an organizational environmental that is free of harassment and exploitation and to ensure the same in all of their work with the communities that they work with. CARE does not have specific policy or code of conduct related to environmental safeguard; however, they have demonstrated to include environmental consideration when delivering HAFORSA project, a rural livelihood improvement project in Ermera District, by incorporating the aspect of sustainable use of water resources as part of their activities. CARE familiarity with the World Bank ESF is likely limited since they yet have previous engagement with Bank operations. This lack of familiarity with Bank's ESSs can be easily enhanced with capacity building activities. Additionally, CARE has sufficient knowledge on WHO guidelines in particular for COVID-19 prevention and control based on their recent involvement in EU COVID-19 response project. Currently CARE has dedicated water, sanitation, and hygiene specialist(s) who is responsible for environmental aspect of project implementation. Furthermore, the project design will incorporate environmental safeguard aspect and will have strong inclusion and stakeholder aspects, the project locations are areas where CARE is already implementing COVID-19 programming along with other projects, as well as there will be no adverse social issues beyond CARE capacity and experience, such condition should not be an issue.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Environmental Risk Rating

The environmental risk rating is Low. The project's main long-term impacts are likely to be positive, as the project aims to strengthen community preparedness for and response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies. Nevertheless, in the short-term, the project's environmental risk is considered to be minimal. The potential environmental risks include: 1) environmental and community health and safety risk related to the handling, transportation and disposal of waste from the usage of PPE (masks, face shields, gloves) and health commodities/consumables (hand sanitizer and soap) that are distributed to support the operation of DMCs, and 2) occupational health and safety (OHS) and community health and safety issue related to possible COVID-19 exposure during project activities. The risks are considered to be low in magnitude with low probability of adverse effects to human and/or environment. Considering the current measures in place as part of COVID-19 response in the country, the risks can be mitigated in a predictable manner.

The environmental and community health and safety risk related to improper disposal of used PPE and health consumables is minimal as the wastes generated are small in scale and to be used in public setting (not in healthcare facility setting nor for diagnostics and treatment of COVID-19 suspected/confirmed patients). The risk will be managed by developing a procedure for safe disposal of used PPE and health consumables in accordance to national regulations and WHO technical guidelines. The project will also include this procedure as part of the capacity building effort to the DMCs (component 1) and as part of community outreach activities (component 2).

The risk related to COVID-19 exposure to workers and community will follow existing measures, including relevant existing regulations, guidelines related to infections prevention and control (IPC) in the National Contingency Plan as well as in the technical guideline for surveillance and case management which is developed referring to WHO

Moderate

Low



guidelines. Emergency preparedness and responses to deal with cases where COVID-19 is detected or suspected will also follow procedures specified in the National Contingency Plan. A procedure for COVID-19 prevention and control will be developed in accordance to WHO technical guidelines and the National Contigency Plan.

The above-mentioned risks are deemed not significant, temporary and predictable, will not likely located at sensitive environmental areas that lead to increased pressure on natural habitats and biodiversity, and can be mitigated with existing measures in place. Although the borrower's capacity on environmental risk management and the World Bank's ESS are limited, they have sufficient knowledge on WHO guidelines for COVID-19 prevention and control. Thus, the combined environmental risk rating is assessed to be low considering the scale of the project, as well as the nature of the risks.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The social risk rating is Moderate. The project type and nature contain low social risk associated with the activities of local institution development, capacity building, awareness and outreach activities, as well as simulation and piloting. However, as the project requires effectiveness of inclusion processes, the need to reach out to multiple linguistic groups, and strong social dimension under-pinning the acceptability of COVID-19 management measures, the social risk rating is proposed to be moderate. The overall social impact is expected to be positive with no adverse social impacts. The project will not finance any construction works so that issues relating land acquisition, resettlement or that affect to livelihood are not envisaged.

The project has a strong aspect in inclusion and stakeholder engagement. The grassroot level capacity development will engage and coordinate all local stakeholders. Selection process of DMCs and GMF's members will ensure equitable women's participation. Social exclusion is not envisaged as the respective project beneficiaries have been described in the project's design with the poorest and most vulnerable populations as main beneficiaries. Component 2 included identifying vulnerable populations and populations disproportionately affected. The project recognizes the diversity of contexts across TL, and in order to ensure a participatory project design and community buy-in to the project, the first phase of project implementation will be dedicated to undertaking detailed needs assessment with targeted communities, including with vulnerable groups to meet their specific needs regarding COVID-19 response. Project Operation Manual (POM) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will outline inclusion and stakeholder engagement aspects, which are part of the project design. No IPs presents in the project areas. However, as the community in the three municipalities speaks different languages, project will ensure effective engagement strategy to use relevant local languages.

Project activities will just involve meetings for activities such as workshops for reactivating DMCs, developing community-level emergency preparedness plans and information materials, campaigns & trainings (handwashing, use of masks, etc.). Such activities may have potential risk of exposure to COVID-19. The project will engage CARE staff (direct workers) and identify community members as part of DMCs and GMFs (community workers). Some potential OHS risks related to the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 among direct workers, community workers, and community itself, including risks to the most vulnerable groups. This also includes risk of social stigmatization against people perceived to have been in contact with the virus. However, considering TL has not seen many COVID-19 cases, no local transmission yet, no COVID19 case in municipalities participating in the project, the risk is considered insignificant. As part of the project design provisions will be put in place to avoid such cases. SEP, Labor Management Procedure (LMP) and POM will include a guideline on conducting meetings under COVID-19 constraints.



Addressing social stigma will be included as part of the community awareness activities along with awareness about mental consequences of COVID19-pandemic itself and the mitigating measures. Issue on GBV and labor influx are not foreseen as the project does not involve any physical construction. Technology access may be an issue. The project considers the use of digital materials or social media platforms. However, alternative approaches will also be included in the project design outlined in POM such as in-person activities, health talks, and health demonstrations to avoid vulnerable groups lack behind to the project benefits due to lack of IT-connections issues. ES focal point at CARE and at field level to oversee E&S risk management of the project as well as adequate training for community workers will be specified in the ESCP.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

ESS1 is relevant as it applies to all projects supported through Investment Project Financing. Although the project does not involve physical construction of infrastructure in the selected municipalities, to which environmental and social impacts would be negligible, the project entails specific environmental and social risks with respect to the current and post COVID-19 pandemic situation. The primary risks identified include: 1) environmental and community health and safety risk related to the handling, transportation and disposal of waste from the usage of PPE (masks, face shields, gloves) and health commodities/consumables (hand sanitizer and soap) that are distributed for the DMCs; and 2) occupational health and safety (OHS) and community health and safety issue related to possible COVID-19 exposure during project activities. The project also requires effectiveness of inclusion processes, the need to reach out to multiple linguistic groups, and strong social dimension under-pinning the acceptability of COVID-19 management measures.

The project will provide funding for purchase of small number of limited essential health commodities/consumables or stockpiling PPE as part of the effort to enhance DMCs' capacity to implement Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness plans. It is expected that the project will not significantly contribute to medical waste volume in the country, considering the scale of procurement under this component. The potential land and water contamination risks related to improper handling and disposal of waste generated from used PPE and other health commodities/consumables will be mitigated as part of project design, by introduction of procedure for safe disposal of used PPE and other health commodities/consumable as part of capacity building effort to the DMCs, which will be developed in accordance to WHO technical guidelines and World Bank EHS Guidelines. The procedure will outline the proper handling, collection and disposal of used PPE and other health commodities/consumables. This procedure will also be included as part of the ESCP and SEP.

Additionally, the project will involve meetings with respective stakeholders are required to be adequately assessed, managed, and monitored for risks of exposure and infection to the COVID-19. Public meetings and/or stakeholder gatherings pose the risk of infection and transmission. A guideline on conducting meetings under COVID-19 constraints will be prepared by the project as part of the Labor Management Procedure (LMP) and included in the



POM, and in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). Stigma and discrimination may occur when people associate a disease, such as COVID-19 or perceived to have been in contact with the virus. Community awareness activities will include this issue and provisions will be included in the POM to prevent and address social stigma associated with COVID-19 in accordance with WHO guideline.

The POM, beside outlines the project design, will also outline the various OHS measures and risk management for CARE staffs and community workers to protect their health and safety as well as waste management measures. The proposed POM will include information, among others: i) an effective inclusion process for identifying and engaging local actors, including vulnerable groups; ii) health protocols to protect and avoid transmission and infection of COVID-19, including selection and wearing of appropriate PPE, social and physical distancing measures, and provision of proper working conditions in the field as well as prevention measures to address social stigma associated with COVID-19; iii) waste management procedure that will detail the proper handling, collection and disposal of used PPE and other health commodities/consumables; iv) guidelines to conduct meetings and emphasizing requirement for small and restricted assemblies under COVID-19 constraints; v) alternative approaches of communication channels ensuring no vulnerable groups lack behind due to lack of IT-connection issues; and vi) guideline to conduct meetings with communities who speak different languages.

Areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered:

Not Applicable

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

ESS10 is relevant. The project components have a strong aspect in stakeholder engagement through reactivating the existing DMCs or establishing community COVID-19 task force under component 1 that will engage and coordinate all local stakeholders, including local government, health and non-health sectors, private sectors, community organizations and community members. The stakeholder engagement will become an essential part of the project design that the specific interventions will be designed and implemented in a participatory manner, including identifying vulnerable populations to understand the local situation and ownership over the activities. The project design will be benefited from ESS10 requirements that will be included in the SEP. Stakeholder identification and analysis will be conducted during project preparation, including those who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable; and a plan will be prepared proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts.

The SEP will also provide guidance on conducting public meetings during and/or post COVID-19 pandemic. A tailormade guideline for conducting public meetings under COVID-19 constraints for the purposes of the project will be prepared by referring to World Bank Technical note on Public Meetings and Stakeholder Engagement in WBsupported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings and/or refer to WHO guideline. The specific requirements for conducting meetings under COVID-19 constraints will also be included in the POM. As the three municipalities have their own local languages, effective engagement strategy will be promoted by communicating in relevant local languages that are understandable to the community in a manner and time frame acceptable to them.



A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), as part of the SEP, will be provided by the project that will be proportionate to the potential risks and impacts of the project and will be accessible and inclusive. The GRM will be operational by project effectiveness. The implementation of the SEP, including the GRM will be outlined in the ESCP. Draft SEP and ESCP will be disclossed on the CARE website as early as possibe before project appraisal.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

ESS2 is relevant for this project in terms of the potential risk of exposure of direct workers/CARE staffs and community workers to SARS-CoV-2 in performing their duties. As part of the project design provisions will be put in place to prevent COVID-19 exposure to personnel involved in the project. SEP, Labor Management Procedure (LMP) and POM will include health protocols to protect and avoid transmission and infection of COVID-19 and a guideline on conducting meetings under COVID-19 constraints based on GoTL, WHO and WB guideline. A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for project workers to raise grievances in relation to the project will be included in the LMP.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

ESS3 is relevant for this project considering waste that will be generated from the usage of PPE and other health consumeables financed under this project. The waste generated from the project is not expected to contribute significantly to the volume of waste in the country, considering the scale of procurement in the project. A simple procedure to manage the waste will be developed in accordance to national regulations and WHO technical guidelines as part of the ESCP and SEP to ensure the proper handling, collection and disposal of waste generated from the project. This procedure will also be part of capacity building materials for the DMCs to enhance their capacity in responding to COVID-19 pandemic as well as other future outbreaks (component 1) and as part of community outreach activities (component 2).

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

ESS4 is relevant for the project. Building a resilient health system at grassroots level in facing the current COVID-19 pandemic and future public health emergencies is a central part of this project. However, implementation of project activities will expose the local communities to health issues therefore is relevant and the project activities are designed to mitigate these risks, primarily by strengthen the capacities of communities, including the most vulnerable populations and frotline workers, in their preparedness for response to the COVID-19 and other health emergencies. This risk will be mitigated by preparation of health protocols to health protocols to protect and avoid transmission and infection of COVID-19 for project personnel as well as communities participating in the project and guidelines to conduct meetings and emphasizing requirement for small and restricted assemblies under COVID-19 constraints. Issue on GBV is not foreseen as the project does not involve any physical construction. Moreover, CARE Safeguarding Policy and code of conduct have included protection from sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse, and child abuse



with zero-tolerance approach for such issues. CARE recognizes the importance of organizational culture and accountability in creating a safe and supportive organization for their staff, their partners, and the communities with whom they work. CARE recognizes to have a responsibility continuously strive to prevent sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse and child abuse from happening.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This standard is currently considered not relevant. The project will not include any activities which require land acquisition, physical and/or economic displacement.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources ESS6 is currently not relevant as the project does not involve construction or other physical activities.

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

ESS7 is not relevant for this project as there is no community groups who meet the criteria under the ESS7 on IPs. However, as the project locations are rich with local languages, effective engagement strategy will be promoted where in each project activities communication will be conducted by using a relevant local language(s) that is understandable to the community groups in a manner and time frame acceptable to them. SEP will include such provisions.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This standard is currently considered not relevant. The project will not support any construction or rehabilitation activities that would involve earth works (thereby potentially having an impact on tangible cultural heritage), or other activities that could have an impact on tangible and / or intangible cultural heritage.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard is considered not relevant since the planned project interventions will not involve any financial intermediaries.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No



OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered?

Financing Partners

The project is not engaging other financing partners.

B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower's commitments)

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Labor Management Procedure (LMP) Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):

i) Preparation of an effective inclusion process for identifying and engaging local actors, including vulnerable groups;
ii) Preparation of fit-for-purpose infection prevention protocols to protect and avoid transmission and infection of COVID-19, including selection and wearing of appropriate PPE, social and physical distancing measures, and provision of proper working conditions in the field as well as prevention measures to address social stigma associated with COVID-19;

iii) Preparation of waste management procedure that will detail the proper handling, collection and disposal of used PPE and other health commodities/consumables;

iv) Preparation of guidelines to conduct meetings and emphasizing requirement for small and restricted assemblies under COVID-19 constraints;

v) Alternative approaches of communication channels ensuring no vulnerable groups lack behind due to lack of ITconnection issues; and

vi) Preparation of guideline to conduct meetings with communities who speak different languages.

The above measures will also be included as part of the Project Operations Manual (POM).

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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No

No



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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Implementing Agency(ies)

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Eko Setyo Pambudi, Hui Sin Teo
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Janamejay Singh Recommended on 07-Dec-2020 at 12:57:4 GMT-05:00