



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 02/25/2021 | Report No: ESRSC01893



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Sudan	AFRICA EAST	P176302	
Project Name	Sudan Household Budget and Poverty Survey		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Poverty and Equity	Investment Project Financing		3/19/2021
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of Sudan	Central Bureau of Statistics		

Proposed Development Objective

To support the Government of Sudan to collect quality data on key socio-economic indicators and produce provisional national-level poverty estimates to inform policy planning and monitoring.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	2.20

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]

Proposed Development Objective: To support the Government of Sudan to collect quality data on key socio-economic indicators and produce provisional national-level poverty estimates to inform policy planning and monitoring.

The Government has estimated the cost of US\$5.9 million for the survey, of which US\$2.2 has been secured so far and will be used under the current project to implement the first phase of the survey. The project is designed in order to maximize the value of the information produced under each potential outcome. If no more funds are secured while the first phase is being implemented, the project would produce provisional poverty statistics at the national and rural/urban levels that could be used to provide an overall indication of the poverty incidence in the country. The two main limitations under this scenario include the inability to produce state-level poverty statistics, which are critical for



state-level policy planning and monitoring, as well as the inability to properly account for seasonality effect on consumption and poverty. Regarding the seasonality point, data from the latest household survey will be used to indicate the expected level of potential under- or over-estimation of poverty rates due to seasonality. If more funds are secured on time, data collection would continue throughout the year through an Additional Financing restructuring, and official poverty statistics with state-level representation would be produced. The remainder of the project description is based on the current budget envelope.

The project is structured around the following components:

Component 1. Preparation and design phase This component includes confirming a few remaining methodological decisions on the survey design and finalizing the survey instruments. This includes the update of the sampling frame, the sampling design, the field-work design, the questionnaire design, and the interviewing method, together with the initial pretesting of the instruments. A number of consultants will be hired to support the various activities. This phase is expected to last until July 2021.

A. Component 2. Survey Implementation phase

Training and pilot. The training is organized in stages, with a central training of principal trainers in Khartoum, followed by 18 state-level trainings. State-level trainings will be followed by a 5-day field pilot to test survey instruments, field logistics, and quality monitoring protocols. The pilot will also serve to identify and correct poor performance of interviewers and to reinforce the material covered in the training. The training is targeted to take place in July 2021.

Fieldwork. The first phase of the field work funded under this project is estimated to take approximately 3.5 months and carried out by one team per state. This time includes the segmenting and listing activities that teams will do before interviewing selected households in each location. Upon arrival to the specified location, teams are going to contact local authorities of the neighborhood or village to introduce themselves, introduce the survey, and ask for collaboration. The first round is currently scheduled around August-November.

Component 3. Analysis phase / data processing and dissemination

The project will support basic data processing (cleaning and preparing the data for analysis), including the anonymization process before making it publicly available. The entire survey process will also be properly documented and archived. The team will look to secure additional funding to further support the data analysis and dissemination phase. This includes sampling weights and attrition corrections, the production of a statistical abstract and a report and dissemination workshops. Additional support will also be sought to support the development of a new poverty methodology and the estimation of transitory poverty numbers based on this data.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

Sudan is situated in north-east Africa with a coastline bordering the Red Sea. It is the third largest country in Africa with a population of about 39 million. Sudan has witnessed profound environmental problems because of deforestation, land degradation and desertification. These environmental problems are further aggravated by climate change.



Sudan has been characterized by high prevalence of poverty and inequality with marked spatial disparities. According to the most recent household survey from 2014/15 (HBS 2014-15), the national poverty level was 36.1%, with approximately 11.15 million Sudanese residents living in poverty. At the state level, South Kordufan, West and Central Darfur experienced the highest poverty incidence. However, since 2014/15, Sudan has gone through severe economic and social problems that likely deteriorated the living standards of the population and that have been further intensified by the pandemic. The escalating food prices that Sudan has been experiencing since 2018 contributed to the shortages of food and fuel. Early in 2021, the country has also been experiencing high increases in health and transport prices. All of these developments have likely impacted populations differently by region and socioeconomic status. The lack of recent data limits the government’s ability to direct resources to those most at need.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The project implementing agency is the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS), which is the governmental institution entrusted with running the censuses and official surveys in the country and to produce official poverty estimates. CBS is a semi-autonomous institution, with HQ in Khartoum and branch offices in all states of Sudan. The survey design and implementation will be overseen by two committees. A steering committee composed of 8 members from various ministries and CBS which will meet at least 3 times during survey preparation and implementation, to: (a) provide overall coordination and supervision of the survey, and (b) endorse the work plan, budget, and final results. Additionally, a Technical working group, headed by the Director General of CBS, will meet more regularly to guide the technical details of the survey. The Technical working group consists of 15 members from the statistical divisions of various ministries and different departments within CBS. The project team within the CBS, which will be headed by a project manager, will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the survey.

The main issue with the proposed project is privacy on personal data of survey respondents who should be informed about the purpose and agree/provide their consent. In general, CBS has experience with implementing Bank supported projects overall, including the Sudan Statistical Capacity Building Project (P152016) and Improving Household Surveys and Administrative Data in Sudan: Statistical Capacity Building (P167988). However, in both projects no environmental and social safeguards operational policies were triggered, neither the ESF applied, and as such the institution has no experience with applying E&S management requirements. Thus, the human and infrastructure capacity of CBS is on environmental and social risk management is limited, and it lack experience in implementing World Bank-supported projects. Therefore, the proposed project will support CBS, in building environmental and social risk management capacity (in addition to technical and FM/procurement expertise) to undertake the basic functions of the project. The implementation experience and lessons from earlier projects will inform the capacity building approach to this project. This includes helping in the training and awareness creation on social and environment risk management including GRM, basic OHS including road safety measures, and consultations. The Bank also offers training of relevant staff in these areas, in addition to providing implementation support throughout the launch and roll-out of the project.

Public Disclosure

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating Low



The proposed project finances only capacity building and household survey without any on-the-ground activity with potential negative environmental risks or impacts. Under the World Bank’s Environmental & Social Framework (ESF) the environmental risk of the Project is low. Given that the environmental risk of the Project is low, the client is not expected to develop an environmental risk management instrument.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The social risk of the project is considered moderate; mainly due to the activities related to the survey in remote areas. The risks could be due to: (i) OHS and security-concerns for project workers and participating community members; (ii) insufficient community engagement, including on data privacy and consent; (iii) operational concerns due to remoteness and security, including monitoring and supervising as well as grievance redress; and (iv) weak implementation capacity with limited prior experience on environmental and social risk management in Bank-supported projects.

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:

This standard is relevant to the proposed project as it involves wider communities who will take part in the survey. The issues among others include, security due to active conflicts and post conflict situations in different parts of Sudan, inadequate awareness of communities regarding the purpose of the survey and data privacy. Further, the seasonal survey undertaking should take in to account the mobility of pastoralists in different parts of Sudan. The client will prepare a simple ESMF proportionate to the potential risks and impacts identified re ESS1, ESS2, ESS4 and ESS10. The assessment will include potential environmental and social risks and outline proportional risk management commitments and actions in the ESMF, ESCP, LMP and SEP.

Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:

None.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Overview of application of ESS10. This standard is relevant, as it involves various stakeholders at national, state and locality levels. The project will ensure adequate stakeholder consultation at different levels to (i) create awareness about the purpose and implementation modality of the survey, (ii) explain on the use of the survey data including data privacy and consent, (iii) train various stakeholders who will undertake and participate in the survey. The CBS and its state level bureaus will establish/strengthen a grievance mechanism that will enable communities and other stakeholders to seek for information, provide feedback and lodge their complaints, if any.

Identification of Key Stakeholders. Central Statistics Bureau, State CBS, Popular Administrative Unit (PAU), local authorities of the neighborhood or village authorities and communities, consultants and staff who work for the CBS and State CBS are the preliminary identified stakeholders.



Summary of the proposed plans for community stakeholders during project preparation. During project preparation the Borrower will develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including simplified procedures for grievance redress which will form part of the ESCP, in accordance with the provisions of ESS10.

Stakeholders Engagement Platforms at national and state levels. Stakeholder engagement at different levels will be coordinated through CBS with technical and steering committees at national and state levels. The survey design and implementation will be overseen by two committees. A steering committee composed of eight members from various ministries and CBS will meet at least three times during survey preparation and implementation, to 1) provide overall oversight and supervision of the survey, and 2) endorse the work plan, budget, and results. A Technical Working Group, headed by the Director General of CBS, will meet more regularly to discuss and agree on the technical details of the survey. This committee is comprised of 15 members from the statistical divisions of various ministries and different departments from CBS.

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

Overview of the relevance of ESS2 for the project. The project implementation will engage CBS staff at national and state levels, consultants, survey administrators at community and PAU. The CBS staff at state and national level will be working for the project as civil servants maintaining their terms and conditions of employment at national and state levels. The project will prepare a labor management procedure proportionate to the level of risks involved as per the country legal frameworks and the requirements of ESS2. The LMP among others will cover issues related to, (i) promote the fair treatment, nondiscrimination, equal opportunity of project workers, (ii) protect project workers, including vulnerable workers such as women, persons with disabilities, children (of working age, in accordance with this ESS) and migrant workers, contracted workers, community workers and primary supply workers, as appropriate, (iii) prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor, (iv) support the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining of project workers in a manner consistent with national law; (v) provide project workers with accessible means to raise workplace concerns. There are ongoing discussions to determine the number and type of workers who will be involved in the survey including enumeration of the estimated 14,000 sample respondents. It is not possible at this stage to determine the type and number of workers. The LMP will provide (i) estimated number of different types of workers required for the project, (ii) on diversity/non-discrimination/participation of women as workers, (iii) provisions on child labor/minimum age and on forced labor, as well as on OHS, (iv) information on security and/or GBV risks of project workers (assessment, mitigation measures. The LMP outlines how these provisions will be operationalized in the context of the proposed project.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Not relevant.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety



The undertaking of the survey at community and household level reaching to up to 14,000 respondents leads to interaction with communities in 18 states across Sudan. The survey is segmented to a manageable unit at locality, Popular Administrative Unit (PAU) and village levels. The interaction with communities could pose a potential risk for communities and households in terms of (i) security-concerns for project workers (see above) and participating community members; (ii) sexual exploitation and gender-based violence; (iii) interviewees data protection. These risks derive from the interlinkage of context and project activities due to remoteness and conflict/post-conflict situations in the target areas in different parts of the country.

Indirect risks result from interviews being conducted in open spaces and the congregation of people and thus an easy target in case of violent activities in the area. This also is a potential risk for the transmission communicable diseases (incl. COVID19). Accordingly, the project will ensure to limit interaction to small groups in more secure areas (e.g. within compound/community walls).

More direct risks result from local communities or leaders opposing the arrival of outsiders, i.e. the enumerators, and/or the interview process overall. Accordingly it will be important that the project ensures the acceptance of the interview process in each targeted community and afterwards ensures the confidentiality of answers provided to prevent any form of retaliation towards interviewees and their families.

Non-security related risks noted above refer to the relation between communities and enumerators, including GBV/SEA. In this regard it is important that project personnel follows strict professional rules of conduct during the interview process but also outside the interview process when being within communities.

As part of the project ESMF and the SEP, the client shall outline measures that will be in place to address the noted security issues that would emanate due to the conflict and post conflict challenges during the survey, and develop a simple occupational health and safety, including road safety measures as part of the ESMF. The ESMF will also include a succinct GBV action plan with a code of conduct for Project workers and appropriate awareness raising to link survivors to referral services in case of incidents.

Despite the decentralized CBS arrangement for undertaking the survey using the eighteen states, the duration of the survey indicates, the planned mobility from state level to locality which involve vehicular movements. The drivers should be trained on basic road safety to survey administrators safety and communities, including speed limits and being aware of the road environment.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not relevant at this stage.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not relevant at this stage.

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



Given the survey covers all states in Sudan, it should pay attention to pastoralists who are on the move (the seasonal planning of the survey may help to include pastoralists), and communities who have unique sociocultural institutions. Further, the survey should work on identification of the mobility of pastoralists and align the survey where they will be able to meet pastoralists.

Given their unique socio-cultural institutions, they need to be included in a manner and through a process that is adapted to their circumstances and ensure that their situation and needs are captured in the survey results. The ESMF will include specific provisions to outreach to these groups and other vulnerable groups and their organizations to align with them the process and protocol to survey these groups in a culturally appropriate manner so that their socio-economic situation is properly captured in the survey. Based on piloting activities and assessments, this may require a module and methodology designed specifically for these groups. Details will be provided in the ESMF.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Not relevant at this stage.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Not relevant at this stage.

Public Disclosure

B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks

None.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered?

No

Financing Partners

None.

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:



An succinct Environmental and Social Management Framework will be prepared and disclosed in package form to the satisfaction of the Bank, including Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

- o Provisions for vulnerable groups
- o Measures to address risks of GBV/SEA
- o Labour Management Procedures (LMP)
- o Security Management Plan

In addition, an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will be prepared and agreed on with the Bank.

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

The ESRM instruments noted above will need to be implemented accordingly.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Republic of Sudan

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Central Bureau of Statistics

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

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Public Disclosure