

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC9324

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 08-Aug-2014

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 19-Aug-2014

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Iraq	Project ID:	P149803
Project Name:	Irrigation and Drainage Improvement Project (P149803)		
Task Team Leader:	Amal Talbi		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	20-Jan-2015	Estimated Board Date:	19-Mar-2015
Managing Unit:	GWADR	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Sector(s):	Irrigation and drainage (70%), Agricultural extension and research (20%), Sub-national government administration (10%)		
Theme(s):	Water resource management (40%), Rural services and infrastructure (40%), Rural policies and institutions (10%), Decentralization (10%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	140.00	Total Bank Financing:	140.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.00
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development			140.00
Total			140.00
Environmental Category:	A - Full Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

The proposed project development objective (PDO) is to “increase access to irrigation and drainage services in targeted areas” . This increase will be accomplished by rehabilitating and improving the irrigation and drainage schemes.

C. Project Description

Irrigation and drainage plays a major role in Iraq by reducing poverty and creating shared prosperity, and the proposed project therefore helps the Bank achieve its twin goals. About 30 percent of the rural poor depend on agriculture for employment and livelihoods. In addition, by improving the irrigation and drainage, the farmers at the end of the canal, which are the poorest ones, will get access to water and increase their production capacity. Improving the performance of irrigated agriculture (in terms of productivity, farm income and employment generation) will contribute to improving the livelihoods and incomes of farming households and, in turn, will contribute to reducing poverty in the project areas. Second, poor farming households tend to have the least capacity to cope with the adverse consequences of a reduced or intermittent access to water (due to upstream increased use, climate variability, and climate change). Investments to improve irrigation and drainage services will provide more reliable access to irrigation water and thus would improve the resilience of farming households, especially the poor.

The design of this proposed project is based on a balanced approach to continue to build on the still needed emergency rehabilitation of the irrigation and drainage systems to benefit communities and create jobs (component (A)), while at the same time developing the strategic discussion on broader water resources management and the sustainability of water (and irrigation) infrastructure investments (component (B)). This balanced approach has been requested by the client and is in line with the Iraq CPS and with lessons learned in water infrastructure projects in other fragile countries. Indeed, there is a need to have tangible results for communities on the ground while supporting sustainable management and development of the limited water resources.

Hence, the proposed Project contains the following two components:

- Component (A): “Rehabilitation and improvement of approximately ten irrigation and drainage systems and on-farm land reclamation” (the estimated cost MUS\$105). This component will improve irrigation and drainage schemes; including canal lining, improvement of open drainage systems, pilot areas on land reclamation with land leveling. This component is also expected to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry in monitoring and evaluation of projects (including this proposed project) and will also support the operating costs of the project management team (PMT).
- Component (B): “Strengthening Water Resources Management” (the estimated cost is MUS \$35). This component will include studies and pilots in the areas of: (i) water resources monitoring; (ii) re-use of the drainage water in the main outfall drain (MOD); and (iii) assessment and evaluation of dams and reservoirs safety.

D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The project would be located in different governorates in Iraq namely Anbar, Babil, Basrah, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Maysan, Salahudine, Sulaymaniya, and Wasit.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The proposed project is designed to have beneficial impacts on the local communities in terms of enabling farmers in targeted irrigated areas to increase their agricultural productivity in selected areas and to improve the sustainable management of water resources.

The project is categorized “A” because component (B) includes activities that can be associated with Category A type of project, most notably, the assessment and evaluation of dams and reservoirs safety.

The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) will be responsible for the overall implementation and coordination of the project. A preliminary capacity assessment has been conducted during the identification mission held in April 2014 and revealed that the existing Project Management Team (PMT) does not have staffing for undertaking the monitoring and reporting of environmental and social safeguards issues. In essence, the Borrower's institutional capacity for safeguard policies is weak and will be strengthened during project preparation and implementation. This strengthening will be in form of extensive training on Bank's environmental and social processes including how to implement ESMP. In addition, there will be recruitment of part-time environment and social experts to work in the PMT and who will also receive continuous support and guidance from the Bank's environmental and social specialists.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Nina Bhatt (GURDR)

Africa Eshogba Olojoba (GENDR)

Amer Abdulwahab Ali Al-Ghorbany (GENDR)

Ibrahim Ismail Mohammed Basalamah (GURDR)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	OP 4.01 is triggered as the project could have impacts on the environment due to the rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage systems and land reclamation as well as potential pilots on water resources management. To identify and manage potential adverse impacts on the environment from project funded interventions –such as those mentioned above- the borrower will prepare an, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)/ Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for site-specific schemes/activities. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be prepared for other schemes/activities to be financed under components (A) and (B) for which specific sites are not yet known. All the proposed environmental assessment instruments will be prepared, reviewed, approved and disclosed in-country and at the Infoshop prior to appraisal. Under component (A), a list of irrigation schemes are being discussed with the Ministry of Water. Those schemes that already have detailed design, will be subject to ESIA/ ESMP prior to appraisal and for those for which only participating Governorates have been identified, will be subject to the ESMF. Where ESMF is applied, the ESIA will need to be

		prepared, approved, and disclose before any construction works would start on the ground.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	TBD	OP 4.04 might be triggered for schemes under component (A) for sites which are to be identified. If a natural habitat to be impacted by project activities, the client needs to provide a management plan appropriate to the nature of the habitat.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	This policy is not triggered.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	OP 4.09 is triggered as the rehabilitation of irrigation systems and land reclamation will result in expanding agricultural land and may lead to increase the use of pesticides. The client will develop a separate Pest Management Plan (PMP) and following the Bank approval of the PMP, the plan shall be disclosed in-country and at the Infoshop prior to appraisal.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11	TBD	OP 4.11 might be triggered. During preparation the team will assert wither or not the policy applies. However, chance find provision will be incorporated in all works' contracts.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	This policy is not triggered.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	The OP 4.12 is triggered as the project involves activities that might have temporary land acquisition during the rehabilitation and reclamation of piloting areas under component (A). Land reclamation may restrict access during works (for example during activities such as leveling) and may result to temporary land acquisition during that period. For schemes for which activities are known, the borrower –if required– will prepare site specific Resettlement Action Plan (RAP). Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared for other schemes for which specific sites are not yet known. The proposed instruments will be prepared, reviewed, approved and disclosed in-country and at the Infoshop prior to appraisal. Those schemes that already have detailed design, will be subject to RAP - if required- prior to appraisal and for those for which only participating Governorates have been identified, will be subject to the RPF. Where RPF is applied, the RAP -if required- will need to be

		prepared, approved, and disclose before any construction works would start on the ground.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	Yes	OP 4.37 is triggered as component B may include subcomponent on the assessment and evaluation of dams and reservoirs safety along with preparation of required dam safety instruments. With regard to component (A) if an irrigation schemes drawn water from a dam (i. e., associated with a dam) then the specific requirement for ensuring the safety of the existing dams will be covered as per OP4.37. Further details will be studied during project preparation.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	OP/BP 7.50 is triggered given the location of the irrigation and drainage schemes along the Tigris and Euphrates or their tributaries. However, an exception to notification will be requested as the project will only finance the rehabilitation of existing irrigation and drainage schemes and hence is likely to falls under the exception set forth in paragraph 7 (a) of OP 7.50. Taking the nature and scale of the proposed investments into account, the project will: (i) not adversely affect the quality or quantity of water flows to the other riparians; and (ii) not be adversely affected by other riparians' water use.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	This policy is not triggered.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 08-Dec-2014

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed.
The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:

The required safeguard instruments for the project are: (i) ESMF; (ii) ESIA/ESMP; (iii) RPF (and RAP if required), and (iv) PMP.

All the safeguards instruments will need to be approved by the Bank and disclose in-country and at the Infoshop prior to appraisal.

The final reports of required studies may be completed and disclosed by January 7, 2015.

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Amal Talbi
Approved By:	

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.

Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Maged Mahmoud Hamed (RSA)	Date: 11-Aug-2014
Practice Manager/Manager:	Name: Steven N. Schonberger (PMGR)	Date: 19-Aug-2014