



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(**ESRS Concept Stage**)

Date Prepared/Updated: 03/20/2024 | Report No: ESRSC04191



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P180905	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	Productive Economic Inclusion in Lebanon	2024
Operation Name	Productive Economic Inclusion in Lebanon		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Lebanon	Lebanon	MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	Social Protection & Jobs
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
René Moawad Foundation (RMF)	René Moawad Foundation (RMF)		28-Jun-2024
Estimated Concept Review Date	Total Project Cost		
20-Mar-2024	2,707,000.00		

For Official Use Only

Proposed Development Objective

The objective of the proposed project is to improve the welfare of low-income Lebanese households through productive economic inclusion.

B. Is the operation 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 Activities

[Description imported from the Concept Data Sheet in the Portal providing information about the key aspects and components/sub-components of the project]

The objective of the pilot is to improve livelihood opportunities for 1,500 households that are current beneficiaries of the ESSNP. Therefore, the PEIL Project complements the ESSNP by improving household welfare and resilience through productive economic inclusion. It strengthens sustainable pathways out of poverty by reducing household dependence on government assistance. To achieve the intended objectives of the pilot, it will be composed of the following three



components, based on well-evaluated programs around the world : (1) designing a data-driven economic inclusion program for Lebanon; (2) implementing the pilot program; and (3) monitoring and evaluation to quantify the impact and cost-effectiveness of the pilot. Through these activities, the project aims to inform the scale up of an economic inclusion program across Lebanon.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

[Description of key features relevant to the operation’s environmental and social risks and opportunities (e.g., whether the project is nationwide or regional in scope, urban/rural, in an FCV context, presence of Indigenous Peoples or other minorities, involves associated facilities, high-biodiversity settings, etc.) – Max. character limit 2,000]

The Productive Economic Inclusion in Lebanon project (PEIL) is a small grant project (\$2.71 million). The pilot does not involve any infrastructure or civil works. It is comprised of three components as mentioned above, and will select 1,500 beneficiaries that are current beneficiaries of the Emergency Social Safety Net Project (ESSN), and that meet specific criteria based on poverty and vulnerability levels, education qualifications and past work experience. The pilot aims to improve the household welfare and resilience of the selected beneficiaries through productive economic inclusion. . The beneficiaries may most likely be selected from Mount Lebanon and Akkar geographic regions of Lebanon based on the high concentration of social safety net beneficiaries in those regions.

Lebanon is divided into four distinct physiographic regions: the coastal plain in the west, the Lebanon mountain range in the middle, the Beqaa valley in the east, and the Anti-Lebanon mountains in far east near the borders with Syria. Large socio-economic disparities exist in the country, with the North and Bekaa governorates having the poorest populations and lowest socioeconomic indicators. According to the multi-dimensional poverty index of Lebanon (World Bank, May 2022), across the eight governorates, Akkar and Bekaa are the poorest, with approximately a third of Lebanon’s MPI-poor residing in Mount Lebanon where about 41% of the population of Lebanon reside. The economic crisis has increased the poverty rate, which reached 82% in 2021, up from 45% in 2019, 30% in 2018, and 27.4% in 2011–2012. Vulnerable Lebanese households face challenges accessing food, healthcare, education, and other basic services. Unemployment rate reached 30% in 2022 up from 11% in 2019 (ACAPS, 2022) and as a result demand for employment opportunities across the country is high. About 1.5 million Syrian refugees put strains on already fragile services in Bekaa and Baalback regions and increase vulnerability.

D.2 Overview of Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

[Description of Borrower’s capacity (i.e., prior performance under the Safeguard Policies or ESF, experience applying E&S policies of IFIs, Environmental and social unit/staff already in place) and willingness to manage risks and impacts and of provisions planned or required to have capabilities in place, along with the needs for enhanced support to the Borrower – Max. character limit 2,000]

The project is proposed to be implemented by Rene Mouawad Foundation (RMF), through a grant provided by the World Bank Group. The Rene Mouawad Foundation (RMF) is a national Lebanese NGO that has been working since 1991 across Lebanon with the mission to promote social, economic, and rural development in Lebanon and the MENA region. This is RMF’s first WB financing project and the first project under the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The RMF team has a safeguards and gender specialist who has limited knowledge and experience on the WB ESF and safeguards requirements and will need support to follow up on the preparation of the ESF instruments



and the implementation thereafter of the ESF requirements. The WB team will provide continuous support as needed and throughout the project life-cycle.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Low

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 2,000]

The environmental risk rating is rated low. The project will not have any civil or construction works or operation of machinery that would generate waste, cause environmental nuisance or pose risks to the environment. The project interventions are soft in nature, such as conducting surveys, providing training, mental health support, and child care support that are associated with no or low/negligible impacts on the environment.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Moderate

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 2,000]

The social risk is rated moderate. The project pilot will select 1,500 beneficiaries from the current Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) (P173367) beneficiary households to provide self employment opportunities to one working-age member of 1,500 selected households in Mount Lebanon and Akkar regions, based on the high concentration of social safety net beneficiaries in those regions. The current ESSN is focused predominantly on 160,000 beneficiary Lebanese HHs (further to the recent 2ND AF where the coverage was expanded from 105,000 to 160,000 beneficiary households.) and regardless of ethnic/religious sects. All beneficiary HHs under ESSN belong to at least one of four vulnerable categories: (1) female-headed HHs; (2) HH has an elderly (aged 65 or more); (3) HH has a disabled member; and (4) HH has a child (aged under 18). ESSN targets poor Lebanese HH that meet specified criteria and does not include refugee communities. Additional details on the ESSN beneficiaries can be found in the relevant E&S instruments under the 2ND AF which have been cleared and disclosed (April, 2023). The criteria for selection of beneficiaries under this pilot will be based on poverty and vulnerability levels, education qualifications, skills and past work experience. Therefore, PEIL complements the ESSN by improving households welfare and resilience through productive economic inclusion thus having predominantly positive social impacts. In addition, the project will ensure that at least 50 percent of program participants are female. Some adverse risks include the perception of exclusion of certain vulnerable groups from the project benefits, the risk of insufficient communication of project specificities and risk of a weak functioning grievance mechanism. These risks will be mitigated through effective communication campaigns, focus group discussions and consultation with project stakeholders including vulnerable groups, and the establishment of a robust grievance mechanism.

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating. This attribute is only for the internal version of the download document and not a part of the disclosable version – Max. character limit 2,000]

B. Relevance of Standards and Policies at Concept Stage

For Official Use Only



B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

The project will not have any civil or construction works or operation of machinery that would generate waste, or cause environmental nuisances or risks. It is mainly associated with positive social impacts as it will help improve the economic conditions of the selected beneficiaries further segmented from the current pool of beneficiaries under the ESSN, will contribute to a decrease in the number of HHs living under the extreme poverty line, will increase and build HH resilience, and will provide access to social care services including mental health support, and childcare support. The RMF PMU will add an addendum to the ESSN SIA to outline the project description of this pilot and will acknowledge the mitigation measures of the ESSN SIA and will commit to it as part of the ESCP. The social risks related to possible perception of exclusion of vulnerable groups and miscommunication of the project will be managed through the SEP which will be prepared before appraisal.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

Stakeholder include beneficiaries of the project who will be selected from the current ESSN cash transfer beneficiary HHs, other interested parties like NGOs representing the poor Lebanese HHs, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (PCM) which is the implementing agency for the ESSN , child care support service providers and mental health support service providers, and vulnerable groups which include those potential beneficiaries who do not know how to read or write, the elderly, those who have no access to the internet or other social media networks, female-headed HHs, and poor Lebanese HHs from the DAEM registry. The SEP will be prepared before appraisal and will identify all stakeholders, and will outline the modalities for engagement in a continuous and constructive manner . The RMF social safeguards specialist will also coordinate with the social safeguards specialist of the ESSN PMU throughout the project life cycle.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

The project will include (i) direct workers who will be comprised of the members of the Rene Mouawad Foundation (RMF) which is the project implementing agency, and (ii) contracted workers in coaching and life-skills trainings, financial literacy trainings and social care services such as mental health support, childcare support for children less than 5 years of age. The precise number of direct workers and contracted workers is not determined at this time. The RMF will prepare a stand-alone Labour Management Procedures (LMP) which will be cleared and disclosed by the project appraisal. A grievance mechanism will be established specifically for the project workers, and this will be outlined in the LMP.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

For Official Use Only



This ESS is not currently relevant.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This ESS4 is relevant. While the project activities are not associated with infrastructure or civil works that may have an impact on community health and safety, the nature of the project activities may result in a risk of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) due to male and female project workers working in close proximity and with low-level potential of limited supervision. The RMF will prepare minimum mitigation measures and actions to manage the risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) such as awareness raising, signing of codes of conduct by all project workers as identified in ESS2 and a GM sensitive to SEA/SH. The project will not include any security forces. These requirements will be incorporated as part of the LMP and in line with the provisions of the ESCP.

ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This ESS is not currently relevant as this project does not require land acquisition, does not impact negatively on assets, or cause loss of assets.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This ESS is currently not relevant.

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

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

ESS7 is not currently relevant for this project because there are no indigenous peoples in Lebanon.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

No risks/impacts on tangible or nontangible cultural resources, as there are no physical interventions by the project.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

No FIs will be used to disburse the funds.

For Official Use Only



B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

No

[Optional explanation – Max. character limit 1,000]

The Borrower Framework will not be considered

Use of Common Approach

No

[Optional Explanation including list of possible financing partners – Max. character limit 1,000]

The common approach is not being considered

B.4 Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

[Description provided will not be disclosed but will flow as a one time flow to the Concept Stage PID – Max. character limit 5,000]

The project will not have any civil or construction works or operation of machinery that would generate waste, cause environmental nuisance or pose risks to the environment thus the environmental risk is rated low. The project is associated predominantly with positive social impacts as it will help improve the economic conditions of the selected beneficiaries further segmented from the current pool of beneficiaries under the ESSN project, will contribute to a decrease in the number of households living under the extreme poverty line in the country, will increase and build household resilience, and will provide access to social care services including mental health support, and childcare support.

The social risk is rated moderate as the project activities may be associated with some adverse social risks such as the perception of exclusion of certain vulnerable groups from the project benefits, the risk of miscommunication or insufficient communication of the project specificities and the risk of a weak functioning grievance mechanism which has not been adequately and widely disseminated to reach all beneficiaries. These risks can be effectively mitigated through effective and inclusive consultations with stakeholders including the most vulnerable identified groups to communicate the project details and components to enhance transparency on project related information and selection criteria for job creation opportunities, ensure that a robust GM with multiple uptake channels is established and fully functional and which is widely disseminated to reach all identified stakeholders to ensure a two-way communication.

For Official Use Only



C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by Appraisal?

[Description of expectations in terms of documents to be prepared to assess and manage the project’s environmental and social risks and by when (i.e., prior to Effectiveness, or during implementation), highlighted features of ESA documents, other project documents where environmental and social measures are to be included, and the related due diligence process planned to be carried out by the World Bank, including sources of information for the due diligence - Max. character limit 3,000]

The selected implementing agency will prepare the following instruments prior to appraisal:

- The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
- The Labour Management Procedures (LMP)
- The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
- Annex to the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) project to describe the project description of this proposed pilot and to acknowledge mitigation measures under the ESSN SIA. All instruments will be cleared and disclosed prior to the appraisal stage.

The ESCP will include provisions that the implementing agency will ensure that the mitigation measures for SEA/SH are included in the stand-alone LMP. The implementing agency’s safeguards and gender specialist will monitor satisfactory implementation of the cleared and disclosed instruments and will prepare progress reports in line with the provisions of the ESCP. The safeguards and gender specialist will attend relevant trainings, workshops and capacity building on the World Bank’s ESF requirements and the WB team will provide continuous and close support throughout the project life-cycle.

For Official Use Only

III. CONTACT POINT

Contact Point

Task Team Leader: Angela Elzir Title: Social Protection Specialist

Email: aelzir@worldbank.org

TTL Contact: Fahmina Rahman Job Title: Social Protection Specialist

Email: frahman1@worldbank.org

IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT



The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

V. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Angela Elzir, Fahmina Rahman
ADM Environmental Specialist:	Linda Khalil
ADM Social Specialist:	Noushig Chahe Kaloustian

For Official Use Only