



# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

### ( **ESRS Concept Stage** )

Date Prepared/Updated: 09/22/2023 | Report No: ESRSC03794



**I. BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Operation Data**

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P180409	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	GIVE Project	2024
Operation Name	BiH Geospatial Infrastructure and Valuation Enhancement Project (GIVE)		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Urban, Resilience and Land
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Federal Administration for Geodetic and Real Property Affairs of the Federation of BiH	11-Dec-2023	15-Feb-2024
Estimated Concept Review Date	Total Project Cost		
19-Sep-2023	34,743,515.00		

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**Proposed Development Objective**

The development objectives are to improve geospatial information management and support the rollout of mass real estate valuation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**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**

The proposed project will support development of (i) spatial data infrastructure and (ii) mass valuation of real estate in the Federation of BiH. Should the Government of BiH request inclusion of the Republika Srpska the project will be expanded to include additional activities either as part of the preparation process or later as possible additional financing. The goal of spatial data infrastructure activities are to support the creation of the necessary preconditions for efficient collection, processing, standardization and use of spatial data in the Federation of BiH and thereby enable efficient communication and exchange of spatial data, with spatial information available to users in the most efficient



and effective ways. Coordination and cooperation between providers and users of spatial data and public and state institutions is extremely important, as are the establishment of standards related to the exchange and distribution of spatial data and data harmonization with European and international standards, The project will provide access and use of spatial data in public administration bodies, the economy, the non-profit and public sectors, academia and citizens in general. It would also support compliance with the EU INSPIRE Directive. The objective of the mass real estate valuation activities is to determine the estimated value of all real estate in the Federation of BiH based on market indicators. The project will create an integrated system for the real estate valuation for the Federation of BiH, with the prerequisite being a systematic collection of real estate data to create a new register - the building cadaster. Establishing systematic and organized data on the real estate market, as well as enhancing transparency, are critical for investors who approach investment decisions in a highly complex manner, through the preparation of various studies, conducting market checks, and analyses. The project aims to assist investors and other actors in the real estate market to make better investment decisions and ensure the security of investments by making available information and official data on real estate values based on market data. Sustainable and transparent market and utilization of real estate in accordance with EU standards will accelerate economic development and increase investment in the Federation of BiH. Accurate real estate valuation will also support response and resilience to natural and other disasters. Proposed subcomponents include: development of spatial data infrastructure (data development and storage, digitization, ICT); increasing availability of geospatial data via e-services; establishment of a building cadaster; development and roll-out of mass land valuation; and institutional development, capacity-building and project management.

## **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

### **D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is governed as two independent entities (Federation of BiH - FBiH and Republika Srpska-RS) and Brcko District. Development of spatial data infrastructure could potentially include investments in IT hardware which could entail small refurbishment works, generation of electronic waste due to equipment replacement and potentially contribute to increased carbon emissions. Waste management issues are covered by Law on waste management of FBiH and accompanying bylaws. Rulebook on electric and electronic waste management regulates the method, procedure, and rules for placing electrical and electronic products on the market, and establishment of a waste management system from electrical and electronic products.

Given that the Project is being implemented on the entire territory of FBiH, vulnerable groups need to be considered on the entity level. The preliminary identified vulnerable groups include: women, Roma people, elderly, people with limited literacy, people beneath the poverty line and people living in rural areas with limited IT/broadband access . BiH's legal framework protects women's and other vulnerable groups' rights to property ownership, prevailing discriminatory traditions and social norms undermine this and other basic rights, especially for women in rural areas. Moreover, women often lack information about their rights and the services to use for guidance and information. Even when women legally do own land, it is often regarded as family property and thus not appropriate for women to have the right to administer it. Women, therefore, face obstacles not only in using land or other property to develop a business, but also in accessing financial markets due to the absence of collateral.

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

The Federation BiH Geodetic Administration (FGA) will continue as the proposed Project's implementing agencies like it was for the Real Estate Registration Project (RERP). FGA has built significant implementation capacities for land administration projects, in particular those financed by the World Bank, over the past 20 years, and this will remain an important asset throughout project implementation. The agency's PIU will continue its role under the new project and



has competencies and experience with World Bank protocols and procedures for project implementation, including fiduciary aspects, environmental and social risk management, and M&E, the latter of which is fully overseen by FGA, with the PIU consolidating data for reporting to the World Bank. The ICT capacities of FGA are already considered very advanced , particularly with the rollout of the digital cadaster and its harmonization with the digital land registry overseen by FMOJ throughout RERP’s implementation. The environmental and social trek record of the FGA is good and they have successfully to mitigated environmental and social risks in the RERP. The task team will continue to consult with FGA about needed capacity building programs on various subjects concerning GIVE’s activities throughout preparation and implementation.

The FGA does not have a full time environmental and social staff, but they did assign these responsibilities within the PIU team. The FGA will appoint an Environmental and Social focal point for the purpose of managing environmental and social risks and impacts during the implementation of the GIVE. Given the low risk of the Project, related to environment and social, the PIU will receive training on ESF, other relevant environmental and social issues as adequate and provisions on generally screening the Project activities will be included in the POM.

## II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

### A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low

#### A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The Project, at this stage, does not include any activities that may have a physical footprint or have direct or indirect environmental impacts. The main objective is to support development of (i) spatial data infrastructure and (ii) mass valuation of real estate in the Federation of BiH. Proposed subcomponents include: development of spatial data infrastructure (data development and storage, digitization, ICT); increasing availability of geospatial data via e-services; establishment of a building cadaster; development and roll-out of mass land valuation; and institutional development, capacity-building and project management. There is a possibility of purchasing new IT hardware for software upgrading which could potentially include hazardous waste generation and small refurbishment works in case of data center expansion or construction of new one within the existing facilities. To mitigate potential carbon emission increase, the procurement of new IT hardware will take into account energy efficiency measures and end disposal measures for equipment that may be replaced. These requirements will be aligned with the procurement procedures and set out in the Project Operational Manual (POM) for the Project. The small scale refurbishment will be addressed through the development of site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan checklists, if such works were identified to be needed. The possibility of including replacement of old IT hardware and small refurbishment works will be more defined until the Appraisal stage ESRS. With no activities that would pose direct or indirect environmental implications, the associated environmental risk is assessed as low.

#### A.2 Social Risk Rating

Low

The Project's social risk is rated as low. The Project will focus on, inter alia, establishment of a building cadaster for government stakeholders. This activity will be for buildings/facilities and will not include individual houses or land, avoiding therefor private ownership issues which are more prevailing when dealing with the latter. For activities under component B and C mostly existing data will be utilized. However, some data collection in the form of aerial imagery and LiDAR surveys, will be financed. Although the acquired data will not be publicly disclosed provisions of digital data protection and security will be part of the POM as well as any systems/frameworks established under the Project. Although, no adverse risks and impacts to vulnerable groups are expected as result of the Project activities, to

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ensure these groups benefit equally from the Project, GIVE will, through activities in component D, conduct vulnerability mapping to identify land sector-specific needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups that reside in FBiH. The proposed Project will not finance any kind of major civil works but could finance some refurbishment of existing facilities. Project activities will cause neither land acquisition nor physical displacement to formal or informal occupants. Given the low risk of the Project no stand alone Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Labor Management Procedures (LMP) will be prepared . The borrower will, however, prepare an Environment and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) which outline the measures and actions required to avoid, minimize, reduce or otherwise mitigate the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the project. The prepared ESCP, satisfactory to the Bank will be disclosed and consulted on prior to Project appraisal. In addition the borrower will prepare a POM which will include provisions to ensure requirement of relevant ESSs (ESS1, ESS10 and ESS2) are met.

**B. Relevance of Standards and Policies at Concept Stage**

**B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards**

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

There are no activities under the Project that would have direct or indirect environmental impacts and therefore, the Project implementation does not require mechanisms to assess environmental impacts and apply mitigation measures, thus standalone instruments are not required. There is a possibility of purchasing new IT hardware for software upgrading which could potentially include electronic waste generation and small refurbishment works in case of data center expansion or construction of new one. To mitigate this risk ESMP checklist templates will be developed and integrated into the POM. The procurement of new IT hardware will take into account energy efficiency measures to mitigate potential carbon emission increase and end disposal measures for equipment that may be replaced, the provisions for which will be included in the POM. Small scale refurbishment will be addressed through the development of site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan Checklist.

**ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure** Relevant

Strong Citizen and stakeholder engagement (CE and SE) for the proposed activities will support successful implementation of the project and the strengthening of accountability and transparency of land management systems. To further enhance this benefit the Project will finance an awareness raising campaign (component B), as well a user satisfaction survey (component B). Given the low risk of the Project a standalone Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will not be prepared. The elements of the SEP such as (GRM, disclosure, consultation process) will be integrated in the ESCP and POM. Identification of stakeholders and vulnerable groups as well as provisions to ensure adequate planning, implementation, and monitoring of CE and SE activities, will be part of the Project Operational Manual (POM). The POM will also entail adequate provisions in regard to CE Project activities to ensure all stakeholders including vulnerable groups are adequately engaged.

**ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions** Relevant

The Project will employ (i) direct workers hired to implement the Project (PIU) and (ii) contracted workers (workers in consulting firms, surveying firms and possibly construction workers for potential minor rehabilitation works). The engagement of primary supplier for IT equipment is possible and will be further explored during Project preparation.

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The project will not engage community workers. The project will implement adequate occupational health and safety measures, which will be defined in the POM and ESCP. The applicable national legal framework is aligned with the conventions of the International labor Organization and the principles of ESS2. Considering the low risk of the Project no stand-alone LMP will be prepared. Instead relevant provisions and adequate mitigation measures including but not limited to GRM for Project workers, Code of conduct that addresses SEA/SH will be included in the ESCP and POM.

**ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management** Relevant

This Standard is not applicable for the proposed Project. Nonetheless, the procurement of IT hardware will follow procurement standards on energy efficiency and management of e-wastes as part of the procurement package, and as defined through the POM. Any mitigation measures that are relevant to resource efficiency and pollution prevention, due to potential small refurbishment works will be prescribed in Environmental and Social Management Plan Checklist.

**ESS4 - Community Health and Safety** Not Currently Relevant

**ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement** Not Currently Relevant

**ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources** Not Currently Relevant

**ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities** Not Currently Relevant

**ESS8 - Cultural Heritage** Not Currently Relevant

**ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries** Not Currently Relevant

**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

**Use of Common Approach** No

There are no possible financing partners identified at this stage.

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**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?**

The possibility of including replacement of old IT hardware and small refurbishment works will be more defined until the Appraisal stage ESRS. A draft section of the POM on E&S will be prepared by Project Effectiveness. An ESMP Checklist will be shared with the Client, and will be part of the POM as a precautionary measure, if there is a possibility of small works related to the new IT equipment.

Given the low risk of the Project no stand alone Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Labor Management Procedures will be prepared. The borrower will, however, prepare an Environment and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) which outline the measures and actions required to avoid, minimize, reduce or otherwise mitigate the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the project. The prepared ESCP, satisfactory to the Bank will be disclosed and consulted on prior to Project appraisal. In addition the borrower will, as a condition of effectiveness, prepare a Project Operation Manual which will include provisions to ensure requirement of relevant ESSs (ESS1, ESS2, ESS3 and ESS10) are met

**III. CONTACT POINT**

**World Bank**

Task Team Leader: Paul Scott Prettitore Title: Senior Land Administration Specialist

Email: pprettitore@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): Paul Scott Prettitore  
Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Sanjay Srivastava Recommended on 22-Sep-2023 at 18:45:29 EDT  
ADM Environmental Specialist: Andrea Muharemovic  
ADM Social Specialist: Selma Ljubijankic

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