



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)
Haiti	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	P174111	
Project Name	HT Adaptive Social Protection for Increased Resilience		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Protection & Jobs	Investment Project Financing	11/11/2020	2/26/2021
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Ministry of Economy and Finance	Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Project’s Development Objective is to (i) Provide cash transfers to targeted poor and vulnerable households; (ii) promote human capital enhancing behaviors; and (iii) establish foundations of an adaptive social safety net system.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	75.00

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 Adaptive Social Protection for Increased Resilience project (ASPIRE) would provide poor and vulnerable households unconditional cash transfers linked to accompanying measures to meet their immediate consumption gaps and increase their resilience through nutrition, health, financial literacy activities. With a view towards longer term development, the project would also support the development of the foundations of the social protection system and the capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to implement adaptive social protection programs, in particular focusing on the strengthening of the social registry and the development of beneficiary management information systems, including payments, GRM, and M&E. The ASPIRE would be for a total of US\$ 75 million financed



from IDA grants, and would supports four components, to be implemented over a five-year period. The components would be: (a) Delivery of an UCT with behavior changing accompanying measures, (b) Establishing the foundations for an adaptive SSN system, (c) Project Management and Evaluation, and (d) Contingency Emergency Response Component.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

Haiti's current social protection system, including programs to provide SSN, is weak, fragmented, and fraught with numerous implementation challenges. The proposed project builds on lessons learned from numerous donor-funded engagements in the social projection sector in Haiti to design a new program to meet urgent social protection needs. Targeted acute needs include to provide a buffer to external shocks to vulnerable households affected by COVID-19. At the same time, the project aims to tackle chronic challenges such as food insecurity and the high exposure of the most vulnerable segments of the population to economic shocks from natural disasters and extreme weather events.

This new approach embodies the first effort to operationalize a social safety net program in line with the Government of Haiti's recent social protection strategy (NSPPP), while relying on – and continuing to reinforce – the national social registry (SIMAST). A central element of the proposed project will be to capitalize from the delivery of SSNs to promote socially desirable behaviors to enhance non-monetary welfare among beneficiary households.

To achieve this, the Project will be implemented throughout the country and will focus primarily on vulnerable households with small children in selected areas with high levels of food insecurity and economic vulnerability. The number of households to benefit from the cash transfer is still to be determined and will be based on the Haitian Deprivation and Vulnerability Index (HDVI) Proxy. Although the project explicitly targets poor and vulnerable households there are still a number of risks that could jeopardize the full realization of the project's objectives. The health and safety of those who are delivering the packages needs to be ensured. This includes physical safety and freedom from intimidation. Those delivering the packages in different parts of the country could be targets for intimidation and violence. Female headed or majority female households who qualify for assistance could also be potential targets, as well as potential victims of gender- based violence. People with disabilities may find it harder to access the services or indeed to access information about potential benefits. COVID-related concerns will elevate project environmental and social risk should the pandemic continue as it has developed in Haiti over the last two months and may potentially endure throughout the project lifecycle. The pandemic has a potentially larger impact on people with disabilities who are disproportionately affected by health risks and situations of high unemployment. The management of basic sanitary services and social distancing has been a challenge for Haiti during the pandemic and in many parts of the country it has been ignored. The risk of increased rates of infection due to lack of social distancing measures or use of personal protective equipment (PPE) elevates the risk profile of all investment operations, including the current project.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) will be the main institution responsible for overall project implementation. MAST will engage the UN World Food Programme (WFP) for implementation and day-to-day activities under the Project.



This will be MAST’s first time implementing a Bank-financed project. MAST has no previous experience in managing and implementing investment operations financed by the World Bank. The environmental and social (E&S) capacity of MAST will need to be assessed, with a view to identifying specific capacity building requirements to effectively meet ESF standards as applicable to this project. Identified gaps will be filled through recruitment of staff and/or consultants, training series for current and future staff, as well as capacity support to implementing partners, as necessary and identified during preparation. WFP, as delegated implementing agency, will also receive training on applicable World Bank fiduciary standards (including ESF) to ensure they can support implementation and reporting during project execution.

The PIU will ensure that a full time Gender and Social Safeguards Specialist is hired during the early implementation period of the project to lead the implementation of the ESSs relevant for the project. The Social Specialist will be responsible for implementing the Gender-based Violence (GBV) / Sexual Exploitation or Abuse (SEA) risk mitigation measures and the operation of an effective Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The environment risk rating is classified as Low (L) at this stage of project preparation. The core project activities are providing cash transfers and strengthening delivery systems. Adverse environmental risks and impacts related to these activities are likely to be minimal or negligible. The main anticipated environmental risk is likely to be around waste management, particularly the need for project workers to dispose of their PPE in a safe manner during the period when COVID-related protective measures are to be followed. Waste management, while a problem more broadly in Haiti, can be effectively managed in the context of this operation due in a large part to standard operating procedures of WFP, the main implementing partner. Based on the scope and the economic areas defined during further project preparation, this risk rating will be reviewed and revised if needed.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The social risk rating at this stage is classified as Substantial (S) at this stage of project preparation. While the overall social benefits are expected to be positive, identified social risks and impacts include: sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) and gender-based violence, project workers exposure to the COVID-19 virus, transmission of the virus to local communities and beneficiaries and the deployment of security forces for cash transport and distribution. These will be addressed through the project’s Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) including a SEA/SH Prevention and Response Plan. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed incorporating a stakeholder mapping and a communication strategy to guide the interactions with the wide range of beneficiaries (including the most vulnerable among them) and ensure that a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is in place for addressing concerns and grievances during the project execution.

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

B.1. General Assessment

Public Disclosure



ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

Based on existing information, the environmental risks associated with this project are considered low. The main potential risk is inadequate or improper use and disposal of project-procured PPE to ensure worker safety during COVID. Factors to be assessed during project preparation include the capacity of WFP to safely collect, store and dispose of used PPE and other waste materials that may be generated during project-financed activities.

Social risks are assessed as Substantial. Some of the most salient issues under the project activity is the identification of extremely poor households, and vulnerable populations, including female headed households and people with disabilities, entitled to receive cash transfers. It is critical, thus, to ensure that the measures to reach the extreme poor are effective. This will be addressed through the development of a fair and transparent Standard Operating Procedure for the targeting, registration and payment of beneficiaries and investing in robust M&E systems, under Component 3.

While the overall social benefits are expected to be positive, identified social risks and impacts include: sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) and gender-based violence, project workers exposure to the virus, transmission of the virus to local communities and beneficiaries and the deployment of security forces for cash transport and distribution.

To adequately manage the above risks, the project will prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to (i) provide general social baseline information relevant to the project; (ii) assess the anticipated E&S risks and impacts of project activities; (iii) describe how project activities will be reviewed and screened, including the type and timing of any E&S assessment instruments; and (iv) detail the institutional arrangements for E&S assessment, management, supervision and reporting. SEA/SH and security risks will be managed through measures included in the ESMF. The ESMF will take into account the WBG's Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs). The ESMF will include a social assessment covering, among other things the potential risk and impacts related to discrimination and social inclusion, including from project design or failure to receive project benefits, particularly as it pertains to any disadvantaged or vulnerable group, including women, children, the disabled, ethnic minorities, SOGI community in accordance with the Bank Directive on Addressing Risks and Impacts on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups. In particular, the Haitian Deprivation and Vulnerability Index Proxy will be assessed to determine if there are gaps in the methodology which would leave some segments excluded, to ensure inclusion and transparency and coverage of all groups covered by the Directive. The ESMF will contain a CERC-ESMF as an annex to deal with the E&S risk management provisions in the event the Emergency Response Component is triggered throughout project implementation. The CERC annex will include a) the positive list of potential activities that the CERC could finance; b) institutional arrangements in case the CERC is activated; and c) the specific E&S management procedures if the CERC is activated. A well-developed draft ESMF will be available by Appraisal, and will be consulted and finalized before project Approval.

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

None.



ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The COVID-19 pandemic poses a challenge for stakeholder engagement and disclosure of information, as stakeholder engagement and consultation processes cannot be conducted as per normal ESS10 requirements. As long as COVID-related restrictions place limitations on traditional forms of stakeholder engagement, the requirements of ESS10 will be met by following guidance set out in the World Bank’s “Technical Note: Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings” (March 20, 2020).

Stakeholder engagement is at the core of project design, with a communication and awareness raising campaign as a central element. It is important to separate this campaign from the stakeholder engagement planning process to meet the obligations of ESS10, but it is equally important to note some of the synergies between the two processes, which will be leveraged to the extent possible.

Identification of project stakeholders, the project beneficiaries, and analysis of their needs and levels of influence will be done during preparation of the draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), with the identification of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups who might be affected by the project requiring special attention as early as possible. The SEP will ensure that the engagement and consultation processes will be continuous throughout the life of the project, including design, implementation and completion. Beneficiaries and project-affected parties should have access to a GRM and a hotline to raise concerns and grievances as well as to request clarifications on various aspects of the project and its potential impacts. This GRM will be identified and described in the SEP.

The SEP will address timing and methodologies for meaningful and participatory consultations, including arrangements for information disclosure to all stakeholders. Consultation activities will be held with project affected and interested parties either virtually or in physical locations that will be identified in consultation with the communities and their representatives to ensure meaningful consultation, transparency and accountability throughout project implementation. The SEP will include measures on how to engage with vulnerable groups, who are the project’s main beneficiaries.

The SEP will also include Citizens Engagement Indicators to track the implementation of participatory approaches by the project. During implementation stage, it is envisioned that the client will carry out beneficiaries’ satisfaction surveys to evaluate public satisfaction through phone surveys and workshops. The client will regularly assess the emerging stakeholder needs during implementation of the pandemic response and will update SEP accordingly to address emerging needs of stakeholders. A well-developed draft SEP will be available by Appraisal, and will be consulted and finalized before project Approval.

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 considered relevant to this Project. The project will be conducted mainly by direct workers and contractors of the Project such as social mobilizers, employees of implementing agencies and implementing partners, although



there may be some community workers, as well from various NGOs and community-based organization involved in the delivery of accompanying measures to households (e.g. awareness campaigns).

Whilst physical works are not envisaged under the project, the nature of the pandemic requires occupational health and safety (OHS) training in line with international good practice to be considered in all contracts with workers. Training will be delivered in order to limit exposure to the virus, communicate provisions for treatment if exposed, and to avoid transmission to local communities and beneficiary households. While the number of workers cannot be estimated at the current stage, no large-scale labor influx is expected. All workers will be coming into close contact with communities and the labor management procedures will include a specific code of conduct, including GBV provisions, as well as a general code for interacting with beneficiaries, communities and partners. In line with ESS2, the use of forced labor or the use of child labor for any person under the age of 18 in hazardous work situations is prohibited. People under the age of 15 (per Haiti's Labor Code) will not be hired by the project. For any project workers aged 15 to 18 years old, there will be a prohibition on any project-related work that is likely to be hazardous or interfere with their education or health. These provisions will be more fully articulated in the Appraisal ESRS.

As mitigation measures, the Borrower will implement adequate OHS measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures) in line with the ESMF, which will include related guidelines on infection prevention during COVID-19 pandemic. Measures relating to OHS, to protect workers from injury, illness, or impacts associated with exposure to hazards encountered in the workplace or while working, will be documented in the labor management procedures (LMP) that will be included in the ESMF. The OHS measures will consider the World Bank Group's General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs) and will include the obligation to provide infection prevention and control precautions, adequate supplies of PPE, etc. The Borrower will also ensure a nondiscriminatory, decent work environment; including ensuring that all workers adhere to the World Health Organization (WHO) Code of Ethics and Professional conduct as well as Good Industry Practice and WHO guidance on COVID-19. A code of conduct will be signed by all project workers – including security personnel. The measures to ensure compliance with ESS 2 will be embeded in all project contracts and monitored by the PIU. A worker GRM will be established in line with the requirements of ESS2, and will be more fully outlined in the appraisal stage ESRS and the LMP.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This ESS is relevant to the Project, however risks and impacts related to resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management as a result of the cash transfer activities are expected to be minimal. The potential for direct and indirect environmental risks or impacts to Project workers and beneficiaries, especially regarding safe disposal of sanitary material and used PPE, will be assessed during preparation as part of the ESMF. The project is not expected to include significant use of water or impacts on water quality. In addition, the project is not expected to produce significant greenhouse gas emissions.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

ESS4 is considered relevant to the Project. One risk factor is related to COVID-19 where poor community engagement practices or unauthorized mass gatherings of people could raise exposure risk to community workers and



beneficiaries, which could lead to further spread of the disease through the project. As mitigation measures, the Borrower will design and implement provisions to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19 to the community. A second factor relates to the risk of GBV, in particular Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH). The widespread distribution of cash resources has the potential to increase GBV risk, as women who are eligible for aid may be more vulnerable to being targeted. As a mitigation measure, the Borrower will develop a SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan as part of the ESMF to mitigate risks to any project worker or project beneficiary and will more generally implement measures to ensure that vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals or groups have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project. The Project’s SEP will outline how to engage stakeholders, including the most vulnerable and disadvantages individuals and groups, to ensure they know about the Project benefits. A third factor relates to potential improper conduct by any security personnel used to support project-financed activities. Security arrangements for cash transport and distribution in the current national SSN programs are not well-understood. The precise security modalities for this project will be examined during project preparation, with risks more fully presented in the Appraisal ESRS. Any necessary security-related provisions, including mitigation measures, will be presented in the ESMF or as a stand-alone Security Management Plan, should anticipated risks be assessed to warrant this. Security related provisions will be informed by the the ESF Good Practice Note “Assessing and Managing the Risks and Impacts of the Use of Security Personnel”.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

No land will be either temporarily or permanently acquired for this project. There will be no physical or economic displacement.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This ESS is not relevant as the Project will not finance any activities that involve direct, indirect or cumulative risks and impacts related to habitats biodiversity conservation, and sustainable management of living natural resources.

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

ESS7 is not relevant to the project as there are no IP/SSAHUTLCs in Haiti as per standard definition of ESS7.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

ESS8 is not relevant to the Project for the suggested project interventions.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard is not relevant for the suggested project interventions.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No

Public Disclosure



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:

1. Preparation, consultation and disclosure of an ESMF
2. Preparation, consultation and disclosure of Labor Management Procedures
3. Preparation, consultation and disclosure of Stakeholder Engagement Plan

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

- ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT: The Government will implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).
- STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: The government will finalize and implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).
- LABOR MANAGEMENT: The government will finalize and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) consistent with ESS2.
- Maintain E&S staff at the PIU for duration of operation
- Provide E&S quarterly reports
- Preparation of ESMPs for specific activities.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

05-Oct-2020

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Ministry of Economy and Finance

Public Disclosure



Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

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Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Valerie Hickey Recommended on 30-Jun-2020 at 17:26:52 EDT
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Marco Antonio Zambrano Chavez (SAESSA) Cleared on 07-Jul-2020 at 14:17:4 EDT