

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET

APPRAISAL STAGE

Report No.: ISDSA12149

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 16-Mar-2016

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 16-Mar-2016

I. BASIC INFORMATION

1. Basic Project Data

Country:	Uzbekistan	Project ID:	P128516
Project Name:	Modernizing Higher Education Project (P128516)		
Task Team Leader(s):	Naveed Hassan Naqvi		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	23-Feb-2016	Estimated Board Date:	26-Apr-2016
Managing Unit:	GED03	Lending Instrument:	Specific Investment Loan
Sector(s):	Tertiary education (75%), Vocational training (25%)		
Theme(s):	Education for the knowledge economy (100%)		
Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery) or OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies)?			No
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	45.00	Total Bank Financing:	45.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			0.00
International Development Association (IDA)			45.00
Total			45.00
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

2. Project Development Objective(s)

The project development objectives are to strengthen the Recipient's higher education system managerial capacity, and to improve both the labor market relevance and the learning environment of selected higher education institutions.

3. Project Description

The proposed project consists of four components: (i) strengthening the higher education system; (ii)

improving learning environment in HEIs; (iii) improving the relevance of higher education; and (iv) project management

The summary description of the project components follows below.

Component One: Strengthening Higher Education Management

The project will support the enhancement of the managerial capacity of the higher education system in Uzbekistan in the following ways: (i) strengthening the capacity of the MHSSE to manage the sector; (ii) supporting the State Testing Center to develop and implement the system of external quality assurance; and (iii) supporting the Higher Education Institutions to strengthen their systems of internal quality assurance.

Component Two: Improving Learning Environment in Higher Education Institutions

Improving laboratories and associated academic and research systems in priority areas. The project will support the Government in improving laboratories and research systems, to help better prepare higher education graduates to contribute to scientific progress in an effort to increase economic growth. The proposed subcomponent will support: (i) the establishment and upgrading of modern basic teaching laboratories and advanced scientific research laboratories in Uzbek HEIs in priority areas of the economy; (ii) the development and implementation of a modern curriculum optimizing the use of the equipment provided; and (iii) training of faculty and staff for optimal use of the equipment.

Component Three: Improving the Relevance of Higher Education

Establishing a Competitive Academic Innovation Fund. The project will support the establishment of a Competitive Academic Innovation Fund (AIF) in the MHSSE with the objective of improving the relevance of higher education by encouraging innovative approaches to academic improvement, and strengthening HEI linkages with industry. In other higher education systems, well-designed competitive funds have led to innovative improvements in quality and relevance as well as indirectly promoted a culture of accountability and attitudinal change at the HEI level. The AIF will finance on a pilot basis two rounds of academic improvement grants to HEIs. Each round of grant financing will fund a total of US\$ 2 million worth of grants. Individual grants will be limited to US\$ 200,000 in funding over two years. All public HEIs, and other related institutions are eligible to apply for these grants. Each round of grants will be externally assessed on a rolling basis to see that it has been effectively implemented in line with the grant objectives.

Component Four: Project Management

The component will support incremental operating costs for the project, including a core team of consultants to coordinate the project, ensure fiduciary compliance, and monitor it. The project would also finance technical experts to support implementation, as needed, and studies/evaluations.

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

- a. The project will be implemented all over Uzbekistan. At this point no civil works are envisaged however the project is rated B to account for the possibility that some minor rehabilitation of labs and universities can be associated with the purchase of new equipment.
- b. Uzbekistan's legal and labor codes prohibit child and forced labor. The country is a signatory to the ILO Conventions on minimum age and worst forms of child labor (CO 138 and 182), and on forced labor (CO 29 and 105). The proposed project will mitigate the use of child and forced labor through participation in the Third Party Monitoring (TPM) and associated Feedback Mechanism

(FBM) led by the ILO, which will be funded through a separate multidonor trust fund, as well as training and awareness-raising activities, to be implemented as part of the project. Occurrence of child and/or forced labor in connection with project activities, as reported by the TPM and/or FBM, would entitle the World Bank to take any appropriate measures in accordance with any applicable provisions of legal agreement on the project.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Nina Kolybashkina (GSU03)

Rustam Arstanov (GEN03)

6. Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	Project Component 2 will include the establishment/ upgrading of modern scientific and research laboratories. The number and the location of laboratories will not be defined prior to appraisal. The scope of upgrading can not be defined at this stage as well. However, it is expected that this Component might require civil works (refurbishment of existing laboratories) and procurement of new equipment. The environmental issues associated with construction/ refurbishment are minor, short- lived, and primarily limited to the facility sites (except for movement of equipment and materials to/from the site). These issues are primarily: dust, noise, disposal of waste material and/or older equipment, possibly traffic disruption (depending upon specific location), worker safety etc. All these issues can be addressed with good engineering and construction practices. During operation of laboratories special consideration should be given to good house keeping and safe laboratory practices such handling of hazardous materials.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	
Indigenous Peoples OP/ BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	

Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	
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II. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:
Component 2 of the project aims at improving laboratories and associated academic and research systems in priority areas. Subcomponent 2.1 covers standard basic teaching laboratories and advanced technical and science laboratories. Purchase of necessary laboratory equipment and materials as well as laboratory operations might have localized environmental impacts related to the storage, transportation and use of hazardous substances. Should the provision of equipment be accompanied by refurbishment and reconstruction activities, these may pose additional hazards for the environment and the health and safety of personnel and visitors. Such hazards include but are not limited to construction waste, including asbestos, noise and vibration during the demolition and construction activities, air and water pollution.
2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:
Modern laboratory equipment will be provided under the Component 2 of the project. The project will ensure that the equipment suppliers provide training to labs staff on safe operations. The part-time environmental consultant will also provide basic health and safety induction to students and laboratory staff and students. Thus, positive impact is anticipated because health and safety risks related to works at laboratories will be reduced.
3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.
There are no project alternatives identified at this stage
4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.
Because of the anticipated impacts mentioned above, the Project triggers the Safeguards Policy OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment. Because the exact list of educational institutions is not known by the Appraisal, the Client has developed an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) that covers possible impacts mentioned above. The EMF gives an overview of possible environmental impacts, describes the responsibilities for environmental management, outlines a step-by-step procedure for site specific environmental assessment and provides a template for Environmental Management Plan (EMP) Checklist. The project implementation arrangements include a part-time environmental consultant under the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education (MHSSO). Their responsibilities will include the environmental review of the proposals for the laboratories refurbishment submitted by Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), provision of the basic training on health and safety in laboratories, preparation of periodic reports to the World Bank e t c.
5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.
Key stakeholders include Ministry of Higher Education, students of the higher education institutions, scientific and research community.

B. Disclosure Requirements

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other	
Date of receipt by the Bank	18-Jan-2016
Date of submission to InfoShop	08-Feb-2016
For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors	
"In country" Disclosure	
Uzbekistan	30-Jan-2016
<i>Comments:</i> The document disclosed first time at the website of the Ministry of Highre and Secondary Education (http://edu.uz/ru/news/view/299) on January 30, 2016. Public consultation meeting was conducted on Feb 8th, 2016. Minutes of consultations were disclosed at the same webpage on Feb 8th, 2016.	
If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.	
If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:	
n/a	

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment			
Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information			
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
All Safeguard Policies			
Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]

III. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Naveed Hassan Naqvi	
<i>Approved By</i>		
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Mario Cristian Aedo Inostroza (PMGR)	Date: 16-Mar-2016