



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)
Honduras	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	P176724	
Project Name	Jobs For Urban Youth Through Public Works Pilot		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Protection & Jobs	Investment Project Financing		11/29/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), CARE		

Proposed Development Objective

16. The PDO is to provide training and short-term employment to improve the livelihoods of at-risk youth and increase the availability of climate resilient infrastructure in urban settlements in Choloma and Villanueva.

17. This Project will provide technical- and soft-skills training to 750 youth (of which half are women) and provide short-term employment to 120 youth through the public works scheme for urban infrastructure upgrading. The project will finance the upgrading of climate-shock resilient infrastructure through the public works scheme in selected localities aiming to benefit around 3,600 inhabitants of urban settlements in Choloma and Villanueva.[29] Therefore, the total number of beneficiaries is 4,500 people.

[29] The project will focus on urban and community infrastructure to increase resilience to severe weather associated with climate change in urban poor settlements.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	2.75

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 project will implement a pilot comprised of a public works scheme for urban infrastructure upgrading and technical and soft skills training in informal urban settlements in Choloma and Villanueva. The project will include three components:

Component 1. Technical and soft skills training and certification: This component aims to provide technical training on construction work and soft skills training to urban youth and female (18-30 years old) beneficiaries of Choloma and Villanueva to facilitate their livelihoods improvement and to support their future labor market entry. The component will support the youth who are not studying in the traditional formal education or training systems during working hours (except studying in an alternative modality), and youth who are not formal workers. This Component 1 will provide a package of combined short-term technical training on construction tasks and soft skills training before a short-term employment opportunity can be provided in the rehabilitation works under Component 2. By better integrating the youth in community activities, supporting their development of soft skills, and creating income generating opportunities to improve their livelihoods, this package can potentially reduce youth participation in organized crime and violence, improve public safety, and strengthen social capital among community members. The literature demonstrates evidence on the importance of interventions targeting “soft” skills among young adults, which reduced criminality and antisocial behavior in developing countries. Moreover, access to legal labor market opportunities can potentially serve as a protective factor against antisocial behavior through an income effect.

Component 2. A public works scheme for urban infrastructure upgrading: This component will finance urban infrastructure upgrading works in selected underserved localities, impacted by the tropical cyclones, of Choloma and Villanueva, through competitive bidding processes to hire local work contractors. The infrastructure contracts will include a key clause for the need to provide employment opportunities to selected at-risk youth as apprentices after they are certified in the technical training related to the construction sector and in the soft-skills training provided under Component 1. A community approach will be introduced where the communities will be engaged in the participatory planning and implementation of the infrastructure upgrading projects. At-risk-youth will improve their livelihoods through participation in short-term employment in the apprenticeship program and through the application of the knowledge learned via training. This will help not only build physical infrastructure resilience to climate shocks but also strengthen social capital at the community level.

Component 3. Project management and administration, monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge dissemination: This component will provide technical support for project management and administration, monitoring and evaluation, and knowledge dissemination.

The projects’ relevant infrastructure needs were informed based on participatory consultations with local municipalities, community beneficiaries, and the Secretariat of Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS, Secretaría de Desarrollo e Inclusión Social – now SEDESOL)[1]. The project will be implemented by CARE, an NGO, with the support of SEDESOL, which is responsible for implementing the CCT Program. The project implementation period is four years. Once evaluated, this model could be expanded through the CCT Program as a transition strategy from social assistance to productive inclusion programs.



D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

The Project will be implemented in informal settlements of Choloma and Villanueva municipalities. The project aims to improve resilience in the face of shocks through piloting small-scale investments in informal urban settlements in both cities. Testing out this modality of public works (i.e. upgrading and repairing of public infrastructure such as roads, drainages, or public spaces, affected by the hurricanes), will provide work experience and training opportunities for at-risk youth. Public works can also help repair and upgrade urban infrastructure damaged by the tropical cyclones, thus strengthening resilience to climate change in the long run. The Project is designed based on community-driven development approaches and the communities will play a crucial role at all stages of project implementation and decision making. Final targeted neighborhoods within Choloma and Villanueva will be selected based on consultation with local municipalities and the implementing agency, with prior Bank approval. Eligibility criteria will be developed during Project preparation and prior to appraisal/approval. The implementation agency will hold a workshop with the mayors to introduce the project and consult them of the eligible investments for urban infrastructure upgrading. The specific neighborhoods will be selected, based on the proposals submitted by neighborhood associations and following the eligibility criteria.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and impacts from hurricanes Eta and Iota, the labor market in Honduras has suffered significantly, with 13 percent of adults projected to have lost employment in 2020, primarily women, youth, and low skilled workers in the industry and services sectors. In 2019, youth labor force participation was 54 percent versus adults at 72 percent. Seventy-three (73) percent of unemployed Youth are in urban areas. Gender gaps in job losses in Honduras are also among the highest in LAC. Young women in particular face specific challenges to enter the labor market, with 87 percent of the NEET population being female.

With 38.9 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants in 2018, Honduras is still among the most violent (not at war) countries in the world. The drivers of violence, fragility and conflict are diverse and linked to multi-dimensional and compounding risks of systemic social, economic, and political exclusion, rooted in weak governance and institutions, and connected with some of Honduras' most persistent development challenges. Urban slums have, for decades, been risky areas because of organized crime, often involving marginalized, at-risk Youth. Violence against women is widespread and systematic in Honduras, and it affects women and girls in numerous ways. Individual GBV victimization is largely normalized and disregarded, notwithstanding a collective recognition of the pervasiveness of GBV in all its forms. According to a USAID survey, 40 percent of women surveyed admitting to having suffered some form of GBV, thought this is likely to be understated. Evidence shows that the individuals that are most affected by violence are young women aged between 15 and 24 years and girls aged between 0 and 19 years.

Based on the self-identification, the Census shows that 8.6 percent of the population self-identified as pertaining to one of the 9 Indigenous Peoples or Afro-Honduran groups (IPAH). The vast majority of IPAHs live in rural areas while only 18 percent in urban settings. In general, IPAHs exhibit higher rates of poverty and extreme poverty relative to the non-IP population, as well as poorer access to basic services and opportunities. The average monthly income of IPAHs amounts to 36.8 percent of the national average, with much lower income levels in specific peoples such as the



Tolupán, Chortí, Pech and Lenca. IPAHs also have lower labor force participation and are overrepresented in the informal sector, with indigenous women and youth being worst off when accessing the labor market.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The Project selected CARE Honduras (a non-governmental organization with experience in implementing World Bank Projects) as the implementing agency based on their strong profile, qualification, relevance and their interest in implementing this project. CARE has presence in both Choloma and Villanueva with extensive experience in implementing projects in the past years and knowledge of the local context as well as a solid relationship with communities and local governments. This project will be jointly designed with SEDESOL, which is the main recipient of World Bank's investment and technical assistance portfolio in Honduras for the social protection sector. CARE will be responsible for coordinating field activities with SEDESOL, for example: selection of subprojects, beneficiary outreach and profiling, and monitoring and evaluation to expand the linkages of this project to the national CCT program. CARE will be responsible for the overall implementation, which includes procurement, financial management, environmental and social (E&S) management, communication and knowledge management, selection and oversight of local contractors to perform civil works, selection and oversight of training providers, and monitoring and evaluation of the Project.

CARE began operations in Honduras in 1954 and their current programs include health and nutrition, small business development, including promotion of economic opportunities for women and youth, agroforestry, irrigation, micro-watershed protection and environmental education. During the initial assessment, it was found that CARE has previous experience working on similar projects with WB funds and multilateral lenders following safeguard policies and other applicable donor requirements. CARE has proven experience of E&S management issues and routinely hires E&S specialists to support preparation and implementation of its projects. CARE currently act as the implementing agency for INVEST-H in the implementation of Cluster 1 of the WB-financed Corredor Seco Food Security Project (P148737) where they are responsible for implementation of safeguards and have dedicated gender and E&S specialists in charge of E&S risk management.

Nonetheless, their capacity to effectively manage E&S risks of the proposed Project, particularly considering the challenges of overseeing multiple simultaneous sub-projects and other donor financed Projects, and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, will require further strengthening. A dedicated PIU within CARE is envisaged which will include appropriate environmental and social expertise; the specific arrangements will be further scoped and agreed with the counterparts during project preparation. The team has some familiarity with the World Bank procedures and processes. The E&S specialists have not received training on the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), except for an initial workshop during the rollout of the ESF. During Project preparation and implementation, CARE will receive continued support from the Bank to ensure ESF standards are met, and instruments are prepared in a manner satisfactory to the Bank. CARE will be responsible for the development of ESF instruments during preparation, and finalization and implementation of ESF instruments once the Project is effective, in accordance with the ESCP. During preparation, CARE will designate specialists already within their staff with knowledge and experience and in areas such as gender, environmental management, social management and participation, and labor for the preparation of ESF instruments and consultation processes. Once the designated E&S personnel within CARE is hired for the implementation of this Project, the Bank team will conduct a capacity assessment to identify necessary training and other strengthening measures to ensure it can effectively manage project's E&S risks.

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



A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The Environmental Risk Rating is Moderate because the scope and scale of the Project's environmental impacts will be (i) predictable and expected to be temporary and/or reversible; (ii) low in magnitude; (iii) site-specific, without likelihood of impacts beyond the actual footprint of the Project; and (iv) low probability of serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment. This is a JSDF funded activity, with a focus to improve resilience in the face of economic and natural shocks, through small scale investments in informal urban settlements. The public works interventions generate work and training opportunities for youth in informal settlements, which could establish a model that would be replicable at scale when the country faces future shocks. From an environmental perspective, risks will stem from: (i) upgrading and repairing of public infrastructure such as roads, drainages, or public spaces, affected by the hurricanes; (ii) improving sanitation conditions through disinfecting streets and sanitizing public spaces; and (iii) providing work experience and skill training for youth (Covid-19 measures). The anticipated key concerns are (i) generation of construction related wastes; (ii) nuisance related to dust generation, vibration, and noise; and (iii) occupational health and safety hazards for the workforce. Such impacts are expected to be site-specific (once geographically determined), limited in scope and duration, and easily mitigated with proven technologies and measures.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The Social Risk Rating for the Project is considered Moderate. Social risks and impacts to potential beneficiaries and surrounding communities are expected to be temporary, predictable, and reversible. The project is expected to generate mainly positive impacts by providing work experience and training opportunities for at-risk youth, while at the same time improving small local infrastructure by piloting small-scale investments in informal urban settlements. Social risks for the Project are considered moderate and include: (i) potential exclusion of vulnerable youth from benefiting from apprenticeships and training activities, including Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Honduran (IPAH) youth, youth with disabilities, young women, and LGBTI youth; (ii) potential health and safety risks to youth performing works if appropriate safe and secure work conditions are not met, which includes ensuring youth is not employed in hazardous occupations and that they've concluded necessary training modules prior to starting work; (iii) risks related to project activities being implemented in a context of high crime and violence in the selected municipalities; and, (iv) risks of GBV, including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH), in work sites if proper training and monitoring mechanisms are not established, particularly for young women working in work sites along men and under limited supervision. Risks of child labor are expected to be low as contractors are expected to follow strict age verification mechanisms when hiring youth trainees to ensure no person under 18 years of age is hired. CARE-Honduras has demonstrated experience implementing safeguards policies under WB-funded projects as well as capacity beyond these policies and in line with requirements within the ESF, including experience mainstreaming participatory processes within their projects, addressing barriers to ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups among project beneficiaries, designing gender strategies and implementing internal policies to address SEA/SH risks. Although CARE's capacity has been assessed during the Implementing Agency selection process, capacity to manage environmental and social risks by contractors is not yet known. The Bank will ensure effective monitoring mechanisms are included in all ESF instruments and that CARE hires sufficient capacity to adequately monitor contractors and project sites. Given the potential social risks regarding the potential exclusion of vulnerable youth, including IPAHs, youth with disabilities, young women, and LGBTI youth, and the contextual risks regarding crime and violence, and potential GBV or SEA/SH risks, the Bank will re-assess the social risks at appraisal/approval stage to



confirm the social risk classification. During project preparation and as Project design is finalized, CARE's capacity as well as Project E&S risks will be further assessed, as part of the preparation of draft EFS instruments, and, if necessary, the risk rating may change. Overall, social risks are expected to be mitigated by: (i) incorporating into Project design specific criteria and strategies to ensure the participation of vulnerable groups as Project beneficiaries; (ii) designing and applying age verification mechanisms, ensuring works are age-appropriate and defining an exclusion list of hazardous occupations; (iii) defining mechanisms to mitigate risks related to contexts of high crime and violence; and, (iv) mapping of institutions in charge of GBV prevention and response, as well as training for key stakeholders and specific GBV-related provisions within contracts. These mechanisms to mitigate social risks will be reinforced in the Project's ESF instruments, including specific participation and engagement strategies within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMF) and a Labor Management Procedures (LMP).

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

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

This Standard is relevant. The main objective of the Project is to improve labor market outcomes among selected at-risk youth and increase community resilience to climate shocks in informal settlements in Choloma and Villanueva. CARE, SEDESOL and the Bank have agreed on pre-selection criteria for the urban infrastructure upgrading works. Potential projects include improvements in school facilities (concrete channel for internal storm drainage of the facilities; reconstruction of off-site discharge channel; cleaning of ditches); reconstruction of water systems; reconstruction of the community center; sewerage system expansion: construction of rainwater drainage; improvement of recreation areas; construction of a multipurpose court; dam runoff channel improvement; and reconstruction of the provincial bridge.

The Project will finance and support physical interventions that could have limited and localized low impact on the environment. In this sense, potential adverse risks to and impacts on human populations and/or the environment are likely to be minimal or negligible. In addition, by supporting employability opportunities for the youth to mitigate the prolonged effects of shocks, including those that are climate change induced, and referring beneficiaries to active labor market programs, this project will largely benefit the poor and those vulnerable to climate change impacts. The recipient will develop, consult, and disclose an advanced draft of the Project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prior to Project appraisal/approval that assesses the risks associated with the proposed activities, incorporates mitigation measures and propose actions to improve its design or implementation. The ESMF will be finalized after effectiveness and before implementation of Project activities.

The ESMF will identify any potential barriers faced by vulnerable groups, including IPAHs, persons with disabilities, persons within the LGBTI community, women and migrants, among others, to have access to the activities financed by the Project. Some of the potential barriers faced by vulnerable youth might include: (i) cultural and language barriers to enter the labor market, ethnic-based discrimination and limited labor opportunities close to their communities for Indigenous and Afro-Honduran youth; (ii) persons with disabilities are likely to face discrimination when entering the workforce as a result of their disabilities and are likely to have special arrangements in the



workplace to accommodate to their disability; (iii) youth within the LGBT community are also likely to face sexual and gender discrimination when entering the workforce and potential harassment in the work environment; and (iv) returnee migrant youth are also likely to face social exclusion or lack a support network, which might pose additional challenges when entering the workforce. The ESMF will identify mechanisms to ensure that: (i) these groups are given opportunities to participate in planning and/or implementation of activities that affect them; and (ii) opportunities to provide such groups with access and culturally appropriate benefits are considered. The Project has incorporated prioritization criteria for the selection of youth beneficiaries which includes: youth with women heads of household, households with a returned migrant or internally displaced households (due to violence or natural disaster), households with a single mother or head of mono-parental household, youth from Indigenous or Afro-Honduran households and youth with disabilities. These criteria will be included in the ESMF. To encourage applications from women who have care responsibilities, stipends for mothers will be higher than for regular trainees to cover access to childcare during the program. Given the specific challenges faced by young women to enter the work force and vulnerabilities young women experience once in the labor force, particularly within the construction sector, the ESMF will include a specific Gender Strategy that will identify specific risks to young women and define mitigation mechanisms. These range from strategies to address barriers faced by women to enter the work force, such as traditional gender roles, additional care-taking burdens which have disproportionately affected women during the pandemic, teen pregnancy, to SEA/SH, GBV, domestic, and intrafamily violence prevention measures and integration of gender sensitive and violence prevention messages in project materials and activities with participants. SEA/SH risk is low. (see SEA/SH section for description of mitigation measures).

The ESMF will consider measures to avoid and minimize COVID-related risks. These measures will be based on national protocols produced by SINAGER, which are consistent with WHO guidelines, as well as on the Bank's guidelines, including "Covid-19 considerations in construction/civils works projects" (April 2020), and "Public consultations and stakeholder engagement in World Bank-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings."

Selection criteria for the hiring of contractors to perform infrastructure upgrading projects will be detailed in the Project's OM and TORs and will include experience implementing trainee programs and a track record of effective social and environmental risk management, including occupational, health and safety risks. CARE will also provide training and will supervise contractors in all the implementation stages. The ESMF will include a list of potential eligible works for youth participating as trainees to ensure they are not assigned to any occupation that is deemed to be hazardous. The ESMF's exclusion list will detail potentially hazardous occupations, which will be included within contract clauses, as well as monitoring and reporting mechanisms of activities assigned to youth.

Given the context of crime and violence in selected municipalities and considering the Project will work with at-risk youth, the ESMF will identify risk mitigation mechanisms to ensure these risks are managed. The Project is not expected to engage security forces during implementation. If during Project preparation the need to use private security forces is identified, the ESMF will include guidance on elements such as a clear description of the activities to be carried out by security forces in the context of the project, vetting of security personnel, a code of conduct for security personnel, and ensuring that the GRM can receive and process related grievances, in line with the Bank's Good Practice Note on Use of Security Forces.



Site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) will be prepared and include mitigation measures with more specificity as applicable depending on the specific works to be carried out and conditions at site. The ESMF will include generic guidance on the structure of the ESMPs.

The recipient will develop, consult, and disclose an advanced draft of the Project's ESMF prior to Project appraisal/approval. This advanced draft of the ESMF will include initial assessment on labor-related risks and potential mitigation measures, and labor requirements and labor parameters, which will later inform the development of the LMP. This initial ESMF will also include the approach used to identify IPAHS in accordance with ESS7, and assess risks and mitigation measures to ensure the inclusion of IPAHS in the project. The preparation of the ESMF will be informed through consultations. The ESCP will include any additional measures that may be necessary to address risks identified in the ESMF. A draft ESCP will be finalized and disclosed by Project appraisal/approval. Other instruments, including ESMPs, LMP and the IPPF, and related IPPs, will be developed within a timeframe (after Project effectiveness and before starting implementation of activities) agreed with the client and reflected in the ESCP, in a manner satisfactory to Bank.

Areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered:

None.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

CARE-Honduras will prepare, consult and disclose a draft SEP prior to appraisal/approval. An updated and finalized SEP will be re-disclosed within a timeframe agreed with the client after Project effectiveness. The SEP will be informed by the findings of the draft ESMF and will include the mapping of relevant stakeholders, and a plan for consultations with them, including potential Project beneficiaries, relevant government institutions at the central and local levels, skills and labor training providers and vulnerable groups, including, but not limited to, civil society organizations that represent identified vulnerable groups. Based on a preliminary assessment, consultations during preparation should include, inter alia, potential beneficiary youth, potential contractors for civil works that will hire youth, potential contractors that will implement training activities, people temporarily affected by civil works, potential beneficiaries of rehabilitation works, local civil society organizations and vulnerable groups among these stakeholders. Based on these consultations, the SEP will include measures to address any gaps or challenges faced by the vulnerable groups, such as those described under ESS1, or other people belonging to the target population to access to the project benefits.

The SEP will also include a stakeholder engagement strategy to be conducted throughout the project preparation and implementation. This strategy will consider relevant channels and mechanisms to ensure an effective disclosure of information, and other actions to promote beneficiary feedback as surveys, periodic regional and local participatory workshops, the promotion of virtual spaces to stimulate information exchange on job searching and targeted communication actions using social, local and mass media.

If IPAHS that meet ESS7 criteria are identified in the Project's area of intervention, the SEP, together with the IPPF will be consulted with IPAHS in a manner consistent with the ESS7, including meaningful consultations with IPAHS representative bodies and organizations. During Project implementation, the SEP and IPPF will develop a culturally appropriate engagement processes, providing sufficient time for decision-making processes and allowing Indigenous



Peoples and Afro-Honduran's effective participation in the design of project activities or mitigation measures to address specific access barriers to Project benefits.

The SEP will also ensure that a Grievance Mechanism (GM) is in place for addressing project-related concerns and grievances during the project preparation and implementation. The GM will establish the mechanisms to submit grievances and receive responses, timeframes to address grievances received, and will identify different levels of conflict resolution, for example when a grievance needs to be escalated as well as the appeal process in the case a complainant is not satisfied with the response provided. The GM will be developed by assessing and consolidating different existing mechanisms of the different employment programs of SEDESOL and CARE, to define common protocols of reception, registration, processing, resolution and reporting of grievances in line with ESS 10. This assessment and consolidation work will also seek to ensure that grievances from vulnerable groups will be received and processed in a culturally appropriate manner. In line with ESS7, the GM will seek to be culturally appropriate and accessible for IPs, considering their customary dispute settlement mechanisms. Finally, the project GM will include specific considerations for addressing GBV or SEA/SH complaints, which include measures to ensure confidentiality and development of a database of service providers for case referrals.

Taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic, all social communication and consultation processes associated with the Project will follow the guidelines stated in the Bank's Technical Note on "Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings, March 20, 2020". Consultations during preparation will be adapted to digital formats, including but not limited to electronic correspondence, written questionnaires to identified stakeholders, video-conference sessions, telephone surveys, among others. Social media and other traditional communication channels can also be used to provide project-related information. As containment and social distancing measures relax, the recipient will assess the level of risk and propose additional means of consultations such as limited gatherings or meetings with small focus groups.

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

This Standard is relevant. The Project will be implemented by the selected implementing agency: CARE-Honduras. The potential type(s) of Project's workers, include direct workers, contracted workers, and community workers. All types of Project's workers will be described in Labor-Management Procedures (LMP). Direct workers will include hired directly by CARE to ensure Project implementation and supervision. The two types of contractors include those performing infrastructure upgrading projects rehabilitation works, and training providers under Component 2.

The Project will cover: i) stipends to participating youth during the training workshops offered by the project under Component 2; and, ii) their salaries during the execution of the contracts for the infrastructure upgrading projects. To ensure effective self-targeting, stipends for trainees will be set below the local minimum wage. Although CARE will select and train youth trainees, provide contractors with a pull of candidates for them to hire, and set wages which will be included under the Project's budget, youth trainees will be hired by contracts (third parties) to perform activities under Component 1. Youth hired by contractors for apprenticeships will be considered "contracted



workers". The LMP will include amount and method of payment, consistent with national law, as well as times of work for youth hired for the infrastructure upgrading projects.

Some of the Project activities are administrative-related tasks in an indoor environment, such as trainings, and others will be performed in work sites, such as the infrastructure upgrading projects. In both cases, appropriate occupational health and safety (OHS) measures will be applied and will be reflected in the Project's LMP. OHS measures for workers will include all COVID-19 related mandatory protocols as per applicable regulations and the latest guidance on the matter issued by relevant organizations; in particular, training will be held according with Government restrictions on COVID-19, and, depending on the context of the pandemic situation, probably with preference for virtual activities, in the case of trainings.

The LMP will identify and assess the key risks and impacts associated with the proposed project, including Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) related risks such as those associated with risks to youth performing works considered hazardous, risks of Covid-19 outbreak in worksites, offices or as a result of training related activities, potential risks of SEA/SH, particularly given that women will be encouraged to participate in male-dominated sectors and might be working alongside men in worksites. The LMP will recommend mitigation measures for identified labor risks. The LMP will also describe policies and procedures applicable to consultants' contracts in line with the national legal framework and the requirements of ESS2.

Although the Project will promote the insertion of youth into the labor force, all youth must be 18 years or older to participate as trainees under Component 1 of the Project. Age verification mechanisms will be established in the LMP for all project activities and CARE will be responsible for monitoring that contractors implement such mechanisms. Thus, risks of child labor are expected to be low as contractors will follow strict age verification mechanisms to ensure no person under 18 years of age is hired as a trainee.

The LMP will describe a specific Grievance Mechanism (GM) to receive and manage workers complaints. A code of conduct for project workers will be also developed and included in the LMP. This code of conduct as well as the GM will take into consideration SEA/SH issues and actions to mitigate associated risks under all activities financed by the Project. The LMP will also describe applicable legislation and include policies to ensure non-discrimination and equal opportunity in the recruitment of Project Workers.

The Project's LMP will be prepared, consulted, and disclose within a timeframe (after Project effectiveness and before starting implementation of Project activities) agreed with the client and reflected in the ESCP, in a manner satisfactory to the Bank.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The standard is relevant as there are potential sources of pollution from construction activities under Component 1. Generic mitigation measures will be included in the ESMF following the mitigation hierarchy. All site-specific ESMFs will include these mitigation measures with more specificity as applicable depending on the specific works to be carried out and conditions at site. Benchmark standards for pollution prevention and control will follow the Bank's General EHS Guidelines as well as sectoral EHS Guidelines for Water and Sanitation, as well as national standards, whichever are more stringent in any specific context. Some possible mitigation measures will include the following:



Vegetation and soil loss: Localized soil removal and clearance of vegetation may occur particularly in the case of roads and sewage maintenance or upgrade. The ESMF will include generic measures covering these types of impacts, to be confirmed and detailed as required in subproject ESMPs.

Waste Management: Construction waste will include mostly excavated soils and debris. It will also include old water and sewer pipes and other decommissioned infrastructure being removed/replaced, which may also involve potential needs for site remediation (including of soils, if applicable). All waste generated by construction activities will be disposed according to national regulations and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) as specified in the Bank's Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines. The ESMF will include generic measures for the management of hazardous materials as a result of the potential decommissioning activities, site remediation (if applicable), as well as for all the rehabilitation of all civil works sites.

Air emissions and noise: These may be generated during the construction phase from the use of heavy vehicles, machinery, and construction activities. However, based on the proposed project activities, these are expected to be minimal. Nonetheless, the ESMF will consider generic mitigation measures, which may include dust suppression and vehicle maintenance, to minimize the impact of air emissions and to minimize and manage the noise levels, such as applying standard restrictions to hours of site work. These will be confirmed and detailed further as required in subproject ESMPs during implementation. The project is not expected to generate significant GHG emissions, and therefore a detailed GHG accounting as per this standard is not expected to be required.

Efficiency measures: The core objective of the project is to enhance efficiency and rehabilitation plans and works under the project will aim largely at improving systems efficiency. The ESMF will specify that the potential to promote energy efficiency through the Project should be explored as part of subproject ESMPs and reflected within infrastructure plans and designs, wherever technically and financially feasible.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

This standard is relevant given that various project activities, particularly those under Component 1 of the Project, may expose communities to health and safety risks, especially if there are communities that are immediately close to the construction sites and activities. The presence of nearby communities will be confirmed during project implementation, as part of ESMF and the ESMPs once the exact locations of the infrastructure upgrading projects are confirmed. When applicable, sub-projects under Component 1 will also consider applying principles of universal access when implementing rehabilitation works, consistent with the guidelines stated in the Bank's Technical Note on Accessibility.

Examples of potential types of infrastructure upgrading projects to be financed under Component 1 include improvements in school facilities (concrete channel for internal storm drainage of the facilities; reconstruction of off-site discharge channel; cleaning of ditches); reconstruction of drinking water systems; reconstruction of community centers; sewerage system expansion; construction of rainwater drainage; improvement of recreation areas; construction of a multipurpose court; reconstruction of bridges; and dam runoff channel improvement. Some impacts from civil works that may cause inconvenience to local communities may include air emissions and odors, hazardous materials, closure of roads, traffic disruptions, and others. The ESMF will identify and lay out generic measures to



minimize community risks to these and other issues, while site-specific planning will confirm relevant issues and include more detailed management measures in the site-specific ESMPs.

During preparation the recipient will assess, at a general level, the security risks of potential areas of intervention and the potential need for security workers to protect personnel or property. If the need to use security forces is identified, the ESMF will include guidance on elements such as a clear description of the activities to be carried out by security forces in the context of the project, vetting of security personnel, the application of a code of conduct for security personnel, and ensuring that the GRM can receive and process grievances related to the use of security forces, in line with the Bank's Good Practice Note on Use of Security Forces. The need for security personnel will be confirmed at the subproject planning level and will be considered in the selection of subproject sites and project staging areas (camps, construction materials and equipment storage areas, etc.).

Fences and security systems around the project sites, as well as placement of the construction equipment in secured storages during the construction period, will also be assessed and considered in the ESMF and any necessary sub-project ESMPs. Site-specific ESMPs will include traffic management plans and measures for local communities to ensure pedestrian safety, as well as requirements for the adoption of signage and safety barriers in or near construction zones and safe storage arrangements for construction machinery and equipment, measures to avoid the spreading of COVID-19 and other potential infectious diseases, and GBV/SEA risk management procedures.

Given the project will finance interventions in public spaces such as schools, community centers, etc., the ESMF will also include Life & Fire Safety considerations consistent with the guidelines stated in the Bank's Tip Sheet on "Implementations of the Bank's Life and Fire Safety Requirements for Building Accessible to the Public".

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This Standard is not currently relevant to the Project. The outcome of E&S screening did not identify the need for land acquisition, restrictions of access on land use or involuntary resettlement.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This Standard is not currently relevant to the Project. The outcome of E&S screening did not identify any potential risks and/or impacts relevant to ESS6.

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

With information available at Concept Stage, this standard is relevant to the Project. Although specific neighborhoods where Project activities will take place have not yet been identified, it is likely that Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Hondurans (IPAHs) who meet ESS7 criteria are present in the Project's area of intervention, mainly Garifuna Peoples who reside in the northern neighborhoods of Choloma and other indigenous peoples in the municipality of Villanueva. Although the Project focuses mainly on urban areas, it is likely that one or more of the targeted neighborhoods meet the criteria for Indigenous Peoples established under the ESS7. During preparation and once Project investments are selected and targeted neighborhoods identified, the Bank will conduct an assessment to



identify any other potential beneficiary communities with presence of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples in Choloma and Villanueva municipalities.

In Honduras, Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Hondurans exhibit higher rates of poverty and extreme poverty relative to the non-IP population, as well as poorer access to basic services and opportunities. IPAHS also have lower labor force participation and are overrepresented in the informal sector, with indigenous women and youth being worst when it comes to access to the labor market. The Project is expected to benefit IPAHS by implementing small rehabilitation works in IPAHS communities in urban and peri-urban areas within the municipalities of Villanueva and Choloma, as well as by engaging IPAHS youth as beneficiaries of cash-for-work activities.

During preparation and before appraisal/approval, the recipient will prepare, consult and disclose an advanced draft an ESMF. This initial ESMF will include the approach used to identify IPAHS in accordance to ESS7, and assess risks and mitigation measures to ensure the inclusion of IPAHS in the project design. An IPPF will later be developed within a timeframe (after Project effectiveness and before starting implementation of Project activities) agreed with the client and reflected in the ESCP, in a manner satisfactory to the Bank. The IPPF will include: i) the description of the Project; ii) the applicable national relevant to IPAHS as well as a gap analysis between the national legal framework and the requirements of ESS7; iii) description of implementation arrangements, including a clear identification of the roles and responsibilities capacity building needs for screening project-supported activities, evaluating their effects on Indigenous Peoples, preparing corresponding documents and addressing any grievances; iv) preliminary identification and social assessment of indigenous peoples present in the Project's area of intervention; v) the scope of activities to be financed and their potential impacts and risks for IPAHS and the related mitigating mechanisms, including the intersectionality with SEA/SH risks and any disproportionate impact on IPAHS, as well as referral pathways that are attentive to the needs of the IPAHS in the project area; vii) guidelines for the development of Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs) and guidance to ensure culturally appropriate and meaningful consultations with IPAHS, in line with ESS7, during project implementation; viii) monitoring and reporting mechanisms, and; ix) specific adaptations to the Project-level GM to ensure they are culturally appropriate and accessible for IPAHS and takes into account customary dispute settlement mechanisms.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Even though the outcome of E&S screening did not identify any potential risks and/or impacts relevant to ESS8, this Standard is relevant since some of the construction activities may involve soil excavations (construction/rehabilitation of roads and footpaths, land stabilization, rainwater, and sanitary drainage rehabilitation). Adverse impacts on cultural heritage, whether tangible or intangible, could arise as a result of construction activities, as well as from the siting and operation of ancillary facilities (quarries or borrow pits, laydown areas, workers camps, etc.). The ESMF will include provisions for screening and assessment of any known sites of cultural or historic importance which may be impacted locally, as well as identification of any sites of cultural/social importance for local communities. Screening procedures and Chance Finds Procedures will be included in the ESMF and will be incorporated into the site specific ESMPs as deemed necessary. All construction contracts will also include a Chance Finds clause which will require contractors to take protective measures in case cultural heritage sites are discovered during construction.



ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This Standard is not relevant. The Project will not involve Financial Intermediaries.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

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:

Prior to Project appraisal/approval, the borrower will prepare advance draft versions of the following documents that provide the necessary level of detail to inform stakeholder engagement and Bank decision-making, and are key for understanding the project's most relevant environmental and social risks and impacts:

- Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
- Advanced draft of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including project-level GRM
- Advanced draft of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

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

It is expected that the Grant Agreement with CARE will be signed after CD approval of the grant. Therefore, once CARE is hired and able to hire full-time capacity within the PIU, all instruments should be finalized prior to starting implementation of activities. The ESCP will include details and timeframes for the finalization and implementation of the ESMF, preparation and implementation of site-specific ESMPs as needed, the implementation of the SEP with its GRM, the preparation and implementation of the LMP, with its GRM, and IPPF, with corresponding IPPs.

For all project activities that will be designed and executed during project implementation, the ESCP will specify that detailed site-specific planning shall include ESMPs consulted with relevant stakeholders, disclosed, and approved by the Bank prior to the initiation of civil works.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS 22-Sep-2023



IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: CARE

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE)

Implementing Agency: CARE

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Miriam Matilde Montenegro Lazo, Maho Hatayama

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Maria Gonzalez de Asis Recommended on 09-Mar-2023 at 17:08:50 EST