



# Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

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Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 14-May-2022 | Report No: PIDC262207



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Project Name
P178824		Moderate	Iraq Social Safety Net Enhancement Project
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	Iraq	14-May-2022	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	
Investment Project Financing	Republic of Iraq	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA)-Social Protection Commission	

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**PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**

**SUMMARY**

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	4.20
<b>Total Financing</b>	4.20
<b>Financing Gap</b>	0.00

**DETAILS**

**Non-World Bank Group Financing**

Trust Funds	4.20
Iraq Reconstruction Trust Fund	4.20

**B. Introduction and Context**

Country Context

**Poverty and vulnerability in Iraq are compounded by the lack of effective and efficient social protection systems.** Existing Social Safety Nets (SSN) in Iraq include (i) a universal Public Distribution System (PDS) led by the Ministry of Trade (MOT); (ii) a poverty-targeted Cash Transfer Program (CTP) led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA); and (iii) other social protection programs that provide assistance to specific



categories of vulnerable populations (i.e., disabled and unemployed), but which are relatively of small scale and limited outreach. In fact, the building blocks of social protection systems (i.e.: social registry, grievance redress, case management, and monitoring and evaluation systems) are underdeveloped and deficient, which constraints and limits the capacity of the government to reach and protect those in need and deliver quality services across its programs.

**Establishing and strengthening social protection systems is critical to improve effectiveness and efficiency, but also strengthen the government’s preparedness for future shocks.** While the social programs pursue a cycle that is based on integrated systems to support the different functions like registration, eligibility assessment, enrollment, implementation, and monitoring, a social registry is arguably the most important building block of resilient SSNs. The social registry has the potential to consolidate the demand for public services, thereby constituting the gateway for all government’s social programs, consolidating potential enrolment applications, and unifying administrative processes.

#### Sectoral and Institutional Context

The establishment of systems, particularly the Social Registry, was a key reform action in the recently adopted Government of Iraq (GOI) White Paper. The White Paper, which incorporates several important reforms and initiatives linked to social protection, mentions the social registry as a priority: “Standardize the databases of the beneficiary groups, define the key priorities for the support, and identify the main gaps in the support systems that are currently adopted to ensure their effectiveness” 1. Besides the social registry, the White Paper calls for the reform of the PDS, as it entails large costs and inefficiencies associated with its universality, diverting resources away from the poor. The White Paper also proposes improvements to the CTP, particularly its coverage and outreach to the poor.

In the past decade, the World Bank has been supporting the GOI to strengthen its SSN. The Bank has played a key role in the articulation of a strategic roadmap for social protection reform in 2013, and the passing of the Social Protection Law 11/ 2014 which governs the current system. This law shifted social assistance targeting from categorical to poverty-based and established the Social Protection Commission (SPC) within the MOLSA to be in charge of managing the CTP. The Bank has also supported advancing the systems building agenda, with emphasis on MOLSA’s social registry as a key constituent of a national unified registry, as well as important delivery systems and functions such as case management, GRM and M&E. Over the past two years, and with financing from the I3RF (Iraq Social Protection Support Program – SPSP), the team worked with MOLSA and the SPC on assessing existing ICT systems and infrastructure, cleaning the existing databases, as well as building the capacity of IT team in enhancing the cyber security and installation of servers. This milestone allowed the Ministry to secure its databases and manage its programs.

The GOI has also benefited from the support of development agencies in social protection and employment. The World Food Program (WFP) has worked with the MOT on the PDS reform that focuses on the digitization of the card and review of the delivery chain, including targeting. In 2021, WFP started technical work around the establishment of a national single registry based on the PDS database. The single registry is expected to



integrate relevant government databases, including MOLSA’s Social Registry in progress. Relatedly, UNICEF has been working with the MOLSA, and particularly the Commission of the Care of Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs, on improving the existing Management Information System (MIS). UNICEF is also supporting the ministry with activities related to incentivized cash transfer, including case management and referrals, grievance redress mechanisms, and services. Finally, the International Labor Organization (ILO) is supporting the General Directorate of Labor and Vocational Training at MOLSA to build an employment platform and improve current services and infrastructure.

Complementing the above-described work and building on the progress made towards the achievement of intended social protection reforms, the World Bank is seeking additional resources to further advance the strengthening of the government's social safety net system by contributing to the Single Registry establishment, and developing the CTP systems, at the center of which is the social registry, which constitutes an integral part of the national single registry.

#### Relationship to CPF

The project is directly linked to the social safety net reform projects in the government’s White Paper, which focuses on the consolidation of systems, particularly registration systems and beneficiaries’ databases, as well as improvement of service delivery. The proposed project is a continuation of the work under the I3RF-funded SPSP and includes financing of needed investments. SPSP was used to start this effort and this whole work was identified during the assessments and capacity building activities that were implemented under the SPSP.

### **C. Project Development Objective(s)**

#### Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project will seek to: (i) strengthen the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs’ (MOLSA) capacity to deliver effective and efficient SSN programs; and (ii) support the ministry to further develop its social registry as an integral component of the national single registry.

#### Key Results

Adaptive social safety supported by an advanced Social Registry that plays a key role in building resilience and scaling up the SSN system.

### **D. Preliminary Description**

#### Activities/Components

In line with the vision articulated in the White Paper, and consistent with the budgeted implementation plan prepared by MOLSA, the World Bank is proposing a \$US4.2 million to be implemented over three years. The



project will seek to (i) strengthen MOLSA’s capacity to deliver effective and efficient SSN programs; and (ii) support the MOLSA to further develop its social registry as an integral component of the national single registry. The project will have the following components:

**Component 1- Support strengthening the building blocks of MOLSA’s programs with a focus on the CTP (\$4 million)**

This component will support investments to (i) further develop MOLSA’s Social Registry; and (ii) strengthen the key functions across the delivery chain of the CTP, to improve effectiveness and efficiency. Regarding (i), the component will finance key improvements identified in the earlier assessment, including data quality and cybersecurity enforcement, as well as required software and hardware, based on the system’s design to be finalized through the Bank-Executed TF which will be implemented together with this project. With respect to (ii), the component will seek to upgrade the existing CTP system and capacity, to strengthen the functions of registration, assessment of eligibility (data cross-checking and automation of data collection), and case management and support to social workers.

**Component 2- Project Management and Technical Assistance (\$200,000)**

This component will support the establishment of a Project Management Unit to be in charge of implementing its activities and will finance the purchase of needed equipment (laptops, printers, etc.). This component will also support the institutional development at MOLSA, particularly related to the implementation of the Social Protection Law, in coordination with UNICEF. This will also complemented by Bank-executed activities to support MOLSA to revise the legal framework regulating the SPC in a way that better reflects the roles, accountability lines, and delivery chain under the developed system of SSN. The component will also support technical capacity building for the different ministry teams in the areas of systems building and social work.

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**Environmental and Social Standards Relevance**

**E. Relevant Standards**

ESS Standards		Relevance
ESS 1	Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant
ESS 10	Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
ESS 2	Labor and Working Conditions	Relevant
ESS 3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Relevant
ESS 4	Community Health and Safety	Relevant
ESS 5	Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary	Not Currently Relevant



	Resettlement	
ESS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 7	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 8	Cultural Heritage	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 9	Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant

Legal Operational Policies

Safeguard Policies	Triggered	Explanation (Optional)
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No	

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Physical activities under the project are associated mainly under component 1 which will provide investments to further develop MOLSA’s Social Registry; and strengthen the key functions across the delivery chain of the CTP, with a view to improving effectiveness and efficiency, data quality and cybersecurity enforcement, as well as required software and hardware. With respect to component 2, it will contribute to the development of the structural architecture of the system according to the international practices and will finance investments in ICT capacity necessary to ensure interoperability of MOLSA’s social registry with other relevant registries. The Environmental risks are low, issues relate to the handling/disposal of (i) obsolete electronic equipment from upgrading computers and other hardware and (ii) project-financed equipment at the end of its useful life. Dismantled electronic equipment may cause risks to human health and the environment if not disposed of in an environmentally sound and safe manner. As the country lacks electronic waste recycling/disposal facilities, obsolete equipment shall be safely stored until the licensed facilities are established in the country or before exporting abroad. The potential issues related to the project components such as water consumption, energy efficiency, and waste management will be mitigated through a detailed section in the POM. From the social perspective, Given that the limited number of project workers and labor risks, labor management procedures will be incorporated into POM (rather than a stand-alone document) and will entail provisions to ensure labor aspects, including child labor and labor influx, are properly addressed in the documents. Amongst the social risks identified the risk of exclusion of vulnerable groups including women, Person with Disability (PWD) and other poor communities, the perception of inadequate prioritization or delays in addressing stakeholders’ needs. The SEP will ensure proper consultation with project beneficiaries and other vulnerable groups. SEA/SH screening assessment tool was used, and the outcome indicated that various aspects of the program bring the GBV risk to ‘Low’ risk rating and as such the implementing agency will need to adapt needed measures in line with the World Bank’s Good Practice Note (GPN) and follow the recommended actions for a low GBV risk rating in the GPN. The project will prepare, disclose and implement appropriate mitigation measures, including the management and monitoring of mitigation measures to ensure the inclusion of disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups. The borrower will establish a grievance mechanism (GM) for the project to ensure that citizens have

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an accessible mechanism to raise any questions, feedback, or complaints on project-related activities. The grievance mechanism will incorporate multiple intake channels and be widely communicated so that all interested parties and the general public can be informed on its existence and use. The details of the grievance mechanism ? intake channels, advertisement, processing of feedback and complaints, recording of grievances, response to complainants, monitoring and reporting on the GM, etc. will be described in the SEP.

## CONTACT POINT

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### Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower : Republic of Iraq

### Implementing Agencies

Implementing Agency : Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA)-Social Protection Commission  
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## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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