



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

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**I. BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Honduras	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	P181324	
Project Name	Strengthening Honduras' National Identification Ecosystem		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Governance	Investment Project Financing	10/17/2023	12/18/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Concept Review Date	Total Project Cost
		8/16/2023	0

Proposed Development Objective

The proposed Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen Honduras's national civil registry and ID ecosystem to facilitate access of all individuals to public and private services.

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 Activities

The project will support the enhancement of civil registry coverage and automatization of registry processes to ensure timely registration at birth. Similarly, the project will enhance the coverage of the national ID system through the design and implementation of an enrollment campaign focused on children between 0-17 years which will be issued with identity cards. The project will also strengthen the capacity of the National Persons Registry to provide ID authentication services to enable the delivery of digital public and private services.

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

Honduras has an estimated population of 9.8 million. It is an ethnically diverse country, with a population that is increasingly urban, with widening development gaps between access to services, particularly in rural and remote areas. In a sample of 20 social programs, 93% of them required beneficiaries to possess an identification document to access the offered services (CENISS, 2019). Moreover, nearly 59% of the population excluded due to a lack of ID were



children and adolescents between 0 and 18 years old. Similarly, the criteria for the delivery of benefits from conditional transfer programs, do not allow the enrollment of beneficiaries that lack an ID card, or in the case of minors, when they lack a birth certificate issued by the RNP.

There is need to extend the National Identification System (SIN) coverage to remote areas and ensure also the inclusion of indigenous peoples. According to the 2013 census, there are approximately 1.6 million indigenous people, making up around 18% of the total population. Some of the largest indigenous groups include the Lenca, Miskito, Pech, Tawahka, and Garifuna. The Afro-descendant population is referred to as Afro-honduran and make up approximately 1-2% of the country's population.

Honduras is one of the top three countries of origin for unaccompanied minors detained at the border of the United States of America (In 2018 there were 7,484 asylum cases for the Honduran population, 37% of which were minors under 18 years of age (DHS and COMAR)). The presence of unaccompanied Honduran minors without identification documents in migrant caravans is driven by both by a lack of opportunities and the risk of forced recruitment into gangs. An adequate and reliable identification process that includes young people under 18 years of age can help reduce the attractiveness of recruitment by criminal gangs and facilitate the development of rehabilitation and reintegration projects.

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

The National Persons Register (RNP, acronym in Spanish) will implement the Project through a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) that will, amongst others, ensure compliance with WB financial management and procurement regulations; carry out E&S risk management and implement the project's E&S instruments; oversee technical inputs from entities involved in the Project, including partner institutions such as the Health and Education Secretariats that will serve as enrollment agents; liaise with the WB, monitor and report on progress. The PIU will have one (1) full-time dedicated E&S specialist in order to ensure adequate management of E&S risks, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the project's E&S instruments meeting the requirements set out in the draft Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) that will be prepared and disclosed by the Borrower prior to Appraisal.

RNP's institutional capacity will be assessed during project preparation. Initial RNP E&S capacity assessment shows limited experience implementing WB-financed projects (only TA for "Improving Service Delivery through Enhanced Identification"-P168618, completed in 2020) and has no experience with the ESF. Between 2020 and 2022, the RNP implemented successfully the Identificate program with support from the UNDP, the UE and CABEI. RNP's capacity to manage E&S risks of the proposed project will require further strengthening, considering: (a) ensuring implementation of a robust and well-functioning Grievance Mechanism (GM) adequate for the Project and accessible to all stakeholders and (b) increasing RNP ability to effectively manage engagement with multiple civil, private and public stakeholders, Indigenous People and Afro Hondurans (IPAHs) and vulnerable groups. Commitment for training in E&S risk management and E&S instruments and any other additional capacity building needs during implementation will be further identified during preparation and included in the ESCP.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS



A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The environmental risk rating for the Project is considered low at this stage. Project activities are not expected to generate adverse significant environmental risks and impacts. The Project will strengthen the country's national civil registry and ID system by improving the technical architecture for data collection, developing procedures and manuals, and carrying out capacity-building activities and communication campaigns. The Project will finance the procurement of tablets for the brigades and potentially other IT equipment to be confirmed during preparation. The Project will not finance any civil works (new infrastructure or retrofitting works). Based on available information known at this stage, key environmental risks and impacts are related to potential generation of small amounts of waste which may potentially include electronic waste (e-waste) in case old electronics are replaced and occupational health and safety hazards for the workforce. Possible negative impacts are expected to be negligible or minor, site-specific, temporary, and fully reversible.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Low

At concept stage, the social risk rating is considered low. The Project is expected to have mostly positive social impacts, in particular for groups currently excluded from registration processes and identification documentation through providing them with access to these services which are essential for their recognition as citizens and for access to basic, social programs, and other services. There is an opportunity to increase access of People with Disabilities (PwD) to the national identification ecosystem in general; this will be further assessed during project preparation. Key social risks include the limited capacity to reach certain stakeholders, such as IPAHs and rural households in remote areas, female heads of households, and migrants (including minors, internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, refugees); municipalities play a role in pre-identifying undocumented people, however, their capacity to operate is often low, especially in certain areas, such as the Mosquitia where an important part of IPAH population reside. Even though an omnichannel service model for civil registry and identification services is foreseen, it will need to be further adapted to the specific requirements of vulnerable groups and IPAHs. The Project will finance mobile brigades, these and municipal, RNP and partner institutions staff at the Health and Education Secretariats serving as enrollment agents, will directly engage with stakeholders. Though currently the RNP has limited capacity to protect sensitive personal data during data (including biometric information) collection, storage and transmission across the ecosystem, the risk is considered low as the Project will finance the implementation of operational measures and technological infrastructure to enhance the RNP's cyber resilience capabilities and strengthening the security and data privacy protocols to handle personal data, as well as mechanisms to obtain the users' consent for operations involving personal data.

B. RELEVANCE OF STANDARDS AND POLICIES AT CONCEPT STAGE

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

The project will not finance nor support any type of civil works (new infrastructure or retrofitting works) so it is not expected to result in negative E&S impacts. If it is confirmed during preparation that the Project may result in e-waste, the Borrower will implement project level waste management measures as detailed in the ESCP. The ToRs and other



documents defining TA scope and outputs, will be prepared so that advice and support is consistent with relevant ESSs. RNP activities after completion of the project not financed by the WB, or activities not directly related to project TA, are not subject to the WB ESSs. Vulnerable groups include remote communities, female heads of households, PwD, school-aged children, and migrants. During project preparation, the Borrower's stakeholder engagement strategy will be assessed, if specific circumstances of vulnerable groups and ESS10 requirements are not sufficiently addressed, mitigation measures will be included in the ESCP.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

Project activities involve direct and contracted workers, primarily RNP and partner institutions' civil servants and staff and consultants. The participation of community workers as auxiliary registrars in communities will be assessed during project preparation. There is no risk of forced or child labor. ESS2 requirements will be addressed in the ESCP and POM instead of an LMP. OHS considerations in line with the WBG EHS Guidelines, ESS2 and national legislation will be addressed in the ESCP and POM. The POM will include a code of conduct to mitigate SEA/SH risks, misconduct in the workplace or when engaging with communities, project beneficiaries, and other stakeholders. Separate GMs for work-related grievances will be available to all project workers and will be described in the POM. Training for project workers, including on codes of conduct, workers GMs, and SEA/SH will be included in the ESCP.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

The Project will finance the procurement of tablets & potentially other IT equipment. As this information becomes available during preparation, though not expected, the Project will assess if the IT equipment will replace obsolete electronic equipment, generating e-waste. If so, appropriate management measures for general & electronic waste will be developed following the WB's EHS Guidelines & national legislation & set out in the ESCP. These measures will be adopted & implemented throughout Project implementation as needed. Issues relating to e-waste generation may warrant an upgrading of the Project's E&S risk classification to Moderate at the appraisal stage. For all the equipment procured for the Project, the procurement bidding documents will specify the need to meet certified energy standards, and this will also be outlined in the POM. The specific energy standard to meet will be based on the availability, cost, and utility of the item to be procured.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

Relevant

Labor influx risks related to community health and safety, hiring of security forces are not issues in the project. The project will ensure that measures and criteria are in place to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)/sexual harassment (SH) as a part of project activities that imply community engagement (e.g., collection of biometric information, in particular of school-aged children).

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

Not currently relevant. There are no activities that might cause the need for land acquisition, involuntary resettlement, and/or economic displacement.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not Currently Relevant

Not currently relevant.



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

Relevant

There are approximately 1.6 million indigenous people and Afro Hondurans (IPAHS) in the country (census 2013), each with their own unique culture, language, and traditions: Lenca, Miskito, Pech, Tawahka, and Garifuna, amongst others; they do comply with the four criteria as mentioned in ESS7. There are no activities under the Project that would require Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) per ESS7. In IPAHS communities, the Borrower will establish “auxiliar registrators” who play an important role in pre-identifying undocumented and unregistered people who would benefit from the project. These community based auxiliar registrators would work on a voluntary basis and would receive the required training; their role and labor-related conditions as per ESS2, will be assessed during project preparation. As mentioned under ESS10, the Borrower will prepare a Consultation Plan and carry out significant consultations during preparation that that will be culturally adapted to IPAHS.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

Not currently relevant.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

Not currently relevant.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

The Borrower will prepare and disclose a Consultation Plan: (i) map stakeholders (including vulnerable groups: remote communities, female heads of households, PwD, school-aged children, and different types of migrants), (ii) the consultation strategy for entire project life cycle, (iii) how consultations will be adapted to specific conditions of IPAHS and vulnerable groups, and (iv) present results of consultations carried out during preparation. In accordance with ESF para. 13 and footnote 3 of ESS10, considering the nature and scale of the project’s risks and impacts, elements of a SEP will be integrated into the ESCP; the preparation of a SEP is not necessary. The RNP’s community engagement strategy will be further assessed during project preparation; if required, mitigation measures are included in the ESCP to align strategies with ESS10. The project will strengthen and then use the existing GM; any adaptations to align it with ESS10 will be assessed during project preparation.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

No



None

Use of Common Approach

No

Not applicable

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by Appraisal?

The staffing of the PIU will include one (1) full-time dedicated Environmental and Social specialist in order to ensure adequate management of E&S risks. The Borrower will prepare and disclose a draft ESCP prior to Appraisal. The ESCP will include commitments related to the (i) Relevant elements of SEP, (ii) Strengthening, maintaining and monitoring a project grievance mechanism during project implementation, (iii) Developing, maintaining and monitoring a separate grievance mechanism for project workers, (iv) Presentation of reports on stakeholder consultation and engagement activities in each bi-annual report on E&S management and ESCP implementation, (v) Provision of ESF-related training to project workers and stakeholders as relevant, including on SEA/SH, workers' codes of conduct and grievance mechanisms, (vi) OSH requirements, and (vii) Waste management requirements. Additionally, relevant ESSs requirements will be addressed in the POM. Furthermore, the Borrower will prepare and disclose a Consultation Plan with required adaptations for IPAHS, including a Report on consultations carried out during preparation. The Bank will carry out implementation support missions biannually to monitor progress, assess E&S performance of the Project, evaluate results, and resolve challenges.

III. CONTACT POINTS

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