



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 04/29/2020 | Report No: ESRSA00769



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Gabon	AFRICA	P173927	
Project Name	GABON COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Project (SPRP)		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Health, Nutrition & Population	Investment Project Financing	4/27/2020	5/12/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of Gabon	COMMISSION NATIONALE DES TRAVAUX D'INTERÊT PUBLIC POUR LA PROMOTION DE L'ENTREPRENEURIAT ET DE L'EMP		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness in Gabon.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	9.00

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

The Project is organized in three components responding directly to the response Plan: 1) component 1- Emergency COVID-19 Response focuses on case detection, confirmation, contact Tracing, recording, reporting as well as health system strengthening. It also will support Gabon’s response by financing the procurement of medical ambulances with the necessary equipment to provide safe care for COVID19 patients; 2) Supporting National and Sub-national,



Prevention and Preparedness, finances the required laboratory equipment to set up three new COVID19 diagnostic facilities in Gabon and strengthening the currently existing two. It also allows to procure for COVID19 diagnostic tests, reagents and other related commodities to ensure adequate laboratory case confirmation for COVID19 throughout the five designated laboratories in the country; 3) Project Implementation and Monitoring.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Project location(s) and salient characteristics relevant to the ES assessment [geographic, environmental, social] Located along the Atlantic coast in Central Africa, the Gabonese Republic is bordered by the Republic of Congo, Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. The country is relatively small with a total area of 270,000 k2 and an estimated population of 2.1 million. At 8 inhabitants per km2, the country is one of the least dense in the world. In general, the majority of the population is urban (86%) and resources are concentrated in urban areas and wealthier regions, but the inequalities observed in Gabon go beyond the constraints of geography and demographics. The distribution of health resources reflect existing hospital locations rather than the health needs and this will also be the case for the COVID project sub-components; they will cover both urban as well as remote areas in existing health facilities. There are no civil works envisioned and all activities will take place in existing health facilities. An ESMF will be prepared that will integrate international protocols for infectious disease control and updated provisions regarding medical waste management. The Project is not expected to impact natural habitats or cultural sites.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

In close coordination with the National COVID-19 Response Steering Committee, the National Commission of Work of Public Interest for the Promotion of Entrepreneurship and Employment (Commission Nationale des Travaux d’Interet Public pour la Promotion de l’Entrepreneuriat et de l’Emploi or CNTIPPEE in French) will be the PIU for this Project. As the main implementing agency for other World Bank financed projects in Gabon, the CNTIPPEE will be responsible for procurement, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and Environmental and Social (E&S) risk management. They have demonstrated their capacity to screen, implement, monitor and report on environmental and social commitments. While CNTIPPEE has two qualified E&S specialists who successfully completed the Borrower training on the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) in 2018, they have limited health or medical waste management experience and are already supporting four other projects. In addition to these specialists, an additional environment specialist and one more social specialist will be hired. Other capacity building and training needs for CNTIPPEE will be identified and reflected in the ESCP. Capacity building interventions will also target hazardous waste management firms, owners of isolation sites to be identified and contracted for quarantine interventions, etc. Given the need for a comprehensive stakeholder engagement and communications strategy, specialists in the field of public health awareness and communication will need to be assigned from other projects to provide guidance for the implementation of the community engagement and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) activities.

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II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

Although the main long-term impacts are likely to be positive, there are a number of short-term risks that need to be considered. The key environmental risks and impacts include: (i) environmental and community health related risks



from inadequate storage, transportation and disposal of infected medical waste; (ii) occupational health and safety (OHS) issues related to the availability and supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for surveillance teams, Rapid Response Team, laboratory personnel and healthcare workers; (iii) community health and safety risks given close social contact; and (iv) occupational risks from inadequate transfer of cases from the various entry points (land, rail and airport) and from the communities.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The social risk rating is Substantial. Key social risks and impacts are related to: (i) marginalized and vulnerable social groups (including poor, disabled, elderly, isolated communities) being unable to access facilities and services designed to combat the disease, in a way that could undermine the central objectives of the project; (ii) social conflicts resulting from false rumors and misinformation; (iii) issues resulting from people being kept in quarantine, including stigma faced by those admitted to treatment or isolation facilities; and (iv) risks of SEA/SH to project workers and beneficiaries.

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 operation is being processed as an emergency response using condensed procedures under the Fast Track COVID-19 Facility.

This Standard is relevant. The Project will have overall positive environmental and social impacts and will contribute to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 as well as strengthen national systems for public health preparedness. Nonetheless there are wide-ranging environmental and social risks and impacts that will need to be assessed and managed through a risk-based approach. The primary risks identified include: (i) environmental and community health related risks from inadequate storage, transportation and disposal of infected medical waste; (ii) OHS issues related to the availability and supply of PPE for surveillance teams, rapid response teams, laboratory personnel and healthcare workers; (iii) community health and safety risks given close social contact; (iv) marginalized and vulnerable social groups (including poor, disabled, elderly, isolated communities) being unable to access facilities and services; (v) social conflicts resulting from false rumors and misinformation; (vi) issues resulting from people being kept in quarantine, including stigma faced by those admitted to treatment or isolation facilities; and (vii) risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) to project workers and beneficiaries. To mitigate these risks, the PIU will hire one more environment specialist and one more social specialist to prepare and implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and update the SEP. The ESMF will include: (i) provisions for storing, transporting, and disposing of contaminated medical waste and outline guidance in line with international good practice and WHO standards on COVID-19 response on limiting viral contagion in healthcare facilities; and (ii) measures for an Infection Control and Medical Waste Management Plan (ICWMP) for implementation by facilities supported under the project, including primary health care facilities, hospitals, and laboratories. The relevant sections of the WHO COVID-19 quarantine guidelines, COVID-19 biosafety guidelines and OHS protocols will be reviewed and incorporated in the ESMF so that all relevant occupational and community health and safety risks and mitigation measures will be covered. The relevant part of COVID-19 Quarantine Guideline and WHO COVID-19 biosafety guidelines will be included in an ICWMP to be annexed in the ESMF so that all relevant risks and mitigation

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measures are adequately identified and addressed. To mitigate impacts related to OHS, the Ministry of Health - CNTIPPEE will work with relevant partners to identify and leverage all existing supply chain options and open new ones where possible to ensure that PPE and other relevant equipment, kits and material can be procured and dispatched nationwide in a timely manner, subject to the existing health PPE constraints in the global supply chain.

The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) includes commitments and timelines to undertake the required assessments and prepare the necessary instruments as required. Mitigation measures for site-specific impacts will be managed through the implementation of required environmental and social instruments to be prepared as per the ESMF. Relevant capacity building measures are included in the ESCP.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

This Standard is relevant. A draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been prepared and disclosed. The draft SEP outlines the main characteristics and interests of the relevant stakeholder groups, timing and methods of engagement throughout the project cycle as well as an outline for the establishment of a project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). Adaptations to ensure physical distancing requirements, bans on public gatherings, lockdowns and mobility restrictions are reflected in the draft SEP. These activities are financed under Component 3.

The SEP will be updated no later than 30 days from the project Effective date, with more details on the environmental and social risks associated with the Project activities and refined consultation strategies and modalities with due consideration of measures in place at such time. The approach to stakeholder engagement shall guide all project activities including the process of updating the ESMF.

The final version of the SEP will be shared with relevant stakeholders via culturally appropriate means (and having regard to language, logistical and technological constraints). A dedicated hotline and email will be established for grievances and feedback.

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. Many activities supported by the project will be conducted by health care and laboratory workers and will include the treatment of patients as well as the assessment of patient samples and therefore COVID-19 infection is a key risk for these workers. The PIU will ensure the application of OHS measures as outlined in WHO guidelines which will be reflected in an Infection Control Medical Waste Management Plan (ICMWMP) and a Labor Management Procedure (LMP) as annexes to the ESMF. These measures include: procedures for monitored entry into health care facilities, including minimizing visitors and undergoing strict checks before entering; procedures for protection of workers in relation to infection control precautions; provision of immediate and ongoing training on the procedures to all categories of workers, and post signage in all public spaces mandating hand hygiene and PPE; ensuring adequate supplies of PPE (particularly face masks, gowns, gloves, handwashing soap and sanitizer); and generally ensuring adequate OHS protections in accordance with the general and industry specific EHSGs and



consistent with the evolving international best practice in relation to COVID-19 protection. Also, the PIU will be constantly integrating the latest COVID-19 guidance by WHO. The LMP will provide guidance regarding the policies and procedures that will govern health care workers, project staff and other direct workers hired under the project. The LMP will also provide details regarding the establishment of a labor GRM to allow workers to quickly inform management of labor issues, such as a lack of PPE and unreasonable overtime via the PIU.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This Standard is relevant. Pollution prevention and management – specifically medical waste management – will be a particularly important activity under the Project. Medical waste, including chemicals, contaminated PPE and equipment, and lab testing kits from healthcare facilities will need to be safely stored, transported and disposed. Hazardous waste management in general is a binding constraint in Gabon due to a limited number of authorized disposal sites and contaminated medical waste is of special concern. A number of healthcare facilities operate their own incinerators to ensure safe disposal, although these are unevenly dispersed across Gabon. The ESMF will include an ICMWMP that reflects WHO COVID-19 guidance and other international good practice to prevent or minimize contamination from inadequate waste management and disposal.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

This Standard is relevant. Protecting communities from COVID-19 infection is the intention of the project but without adequate controls and procedures, project activities have the potential to contribute to the spread of the virus and may also generate social conflict.

Medical waste and other waste from the labs, health centers, quarantine and isolation centers have a high potential of being contaminated with coronavirus and this can infect the community at large if not properly managed. Measures for industry standard waste management are outlined in the ICMWMP which includes: (i) how Project activities involving the COVID-19 pathogen or waste generated will be managed in a safe manner with (low) incidences of accidents and incidents in line with Good International Industry Practice (such as WHO guidelines); (ii) measures in place to prevent or minimize the spread of infectious diseases; and (iii) emergency preparedness measures. Information on preventive health measures to protect the communities surrounding health facilities will be provided through continuous stakeholder engagement and reflected in the SEP.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)/ Sexual Harassment (SH) risks will be assessed and addressed during implementation, including screening and implementing measures to prevent and mitigate these risks. If Gabon’s military forces or any security forces are mobilized as part of the government’s response to the COVID-19 emergency, the PIU shall take measures to ensure that personnel assigned to the project sites are: (i) screened to confirm that they have not engaged in past unlawful or abusive behavior, including SEA, SH or excessive use of force; (ii) adequately instructed and trained, on a regular basis, on the use of force and appropriate behavior and conduct (including in relation to SEA and SH); and (iii) deployed in a manner consistent with applicable national law. The ESMF will provide guidance regarding how these measures will be integrated.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement



This Standard is not currently relevant. The project will not require any land acquisition or economic displacement.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This Standard is not currently relevant. The Project is not expected to support any activities that might jeopardize the integrity of biodiversity or living natural resources.

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

This Standard is not currently relevant as the Project is not being implemented in areas where Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLCs) are present or in areas to which they have a collective attachment. Should the presence of indigenous communities be confirmed through further screening during implementation, their views and inputs will be sought as outlined in the SEP and a Social Assessment (SA) will be carried out prior to implementing any activities that would impact Indigenous communities. Following the SA and as appropriate: (i) a stand-alone plan or framework may be developed; or (ii) key elements of risk mitigation and culturally appropriate benefits will be included in the updated ESMF. Principles for public consultations with representatives of indigenous communities and their organizations are provided for in the SEP in case this Standard becomes relevant after screening. These organizations and representatives will be consulted during the revision of the SEP. The project will exclude any activities which would require Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and will follow WHO guidelines for consultations during pandemics.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This Standard is not currently relevant. A Chance Find procedure will be included in the ESMF as a precaution.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This Standard is not currently relevant.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No

This operation does not affect International Waterways

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

This project will not be implemented in Disputed Areas

III. BORROWER’S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

DELIVERABLES against MEASURES AND ACTIONs IDENTIFIED	TIMELINE
ESS 1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	

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The ESMF will be finalized no later than 30 days after Effectiveness date. One additional full time environmental specialist and one additional full time social specialist will be hired by the PIU no later than 30 days after Project effectiveness. A communications specialist will be reassigned to this Project from another Project immediately.	06/2020
ESS 10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	
An updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be finalized and disclosed no later than 30 days after Project effectiveness. The SEP will be continuously updated as needed during project implementation.	06/2020
ESS 2 Labor and Working Conditions	
Labor Management Procedures will be prepared and disclosed no later than 30 days after Project effectiveness.	06/2020
ESS 3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	
An Infection Control Medical Waste Management Plan (ICMWMP) that integrates WHO guidance and other international good practice will be integrated into the ESMF and finalized no later than 30 days after Effectiveness.	06/2020
ESS 4 Community Health and Safety	
Relevant provisions will be included under ESS1.	06/2020
ESS 5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	
ESS 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	
ESS 7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	
ESS 8 Cultural Heritage	
ESS 9 Financial Intermediaries	

B.3. Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts

Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework?

No

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

N/A

IV. CONTACT POINTS



World Bank

Contact:	Dominic S. Haazen	Title:	Lead Health Policy Specialist
Telephone No:	+1-202-458-7356	Email:	dhaazen@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Republic of Gabon

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: COMMISSION NATIONALE DES TRAVAUX D'INTERÊT PUBLIC POUR LA PROMOTION DE L'ENTREPRENEURIAT ET DE L'EMP

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
 1818 H Street, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20433
 Telephone: (202) 473-1000
 Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Dominic S. Haazen
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Kevin A Tomlinson Cleared on 28-Apr-2020 at 22:09:13 EDT
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Nina Chee (SAESSA) Concurred on 29-Apr-2020 at 15:20:30 EDT

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