



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)
Western Africa	AFRICA WEST	P173830	
Project Name	Community-Based Recovery and Stabilization Project for the Sahel		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Sustainability & Inclusion	Investment Project Financing	11/18/2020	3/29/2021
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		

Proposed Development Objective

The development objective of this project is to contribute to the recovery of communities in target areas of the Liptako-Gourma Region of Burkina Faso and Niger through a regional approach supporting (i) integrated socio-economic services and infrastructure, (ii) livelihoods and territorial development, and (iii) regional data and coordination.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	252.50

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 seeks to address territorial development and FCV challenges in targeted areas of the Liptako-Gourma Region of Burkina Faso and Niger by (a) building a Community-Driven Development (CDD) platform to reinforce resilience of communities and local institutions (through for example, access to integrated socio-economic services, livelihood, public goods, citizen engagement and institutional capacity strengthening); and (b) strengthening regional development diplomacy for the sub-region through enhanced regional dialogue and the building of a coordination and collaboration platform.



It takes a three-pronged territorial development lens to ensure that the immediate crisis response needs are addressed in the communities that have the highest needs and that are considered part of the conflict affected area; while laying the foundation for long-term recovery in the region in the areas that are moderately or/and indirectly affected by the conflict (such as secondary cities with significant numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs)) and areas that are considered as being part of preventative response (i.e. areas not yet directly and very significantly affected by the conflict). The three-pronged territorial development lens therefore comprise three “concentric circles” which are reflected in the different components of this project:

- i. The Component 1 will focus on the immediate crisis response in targeted crisis affected communes with high numbers of forcibly displaced by providing small-scale livelihood support and income generating activities, delivery of emergency supplies and goods to crisis affected regions and local level capacity-building, local-level data, citizen engagement and communications.
- ii. The Component 2 will focus on laying the foundations towards stabilization and territorial development through the building of sustainable Community-Driven Development Platforms for social inclusion and cohesion outcomes that will support access to communities’ social and economic services, livelihoods and territorial development interventions, and environmental and natural resource management. It will thus respond to refuge and IDP flows while mitigating increased competition for scarce social services, economic opportunities, and natural resources.
- iii. The Component 3 will pave the way for future large-scale investments in the region that will support the long-term stabilization and recovery in the region. This includes supporting national and regional data and monitoring as well as regional coordination and collaboration with a focus on the Liptako-Gourma Region. The sharing of a consistent and coherent approach by the three countries for the Liptako-Gourma region is expected to accelerate communities’ recovery and strengthen their resilience to fragility.

Furthermore, a Component 4 will focus on the Project Management of this Project and Component 5 will be a Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC).

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 selected areas in the Liptako-Gourma Region: Burkina Faso (Sahel, Nord and Centre-Nord regions) and Niger (Tillaberi region). Since 2012, the Liptako-Gourma region has faced a severe deterioration of the security situation, a significant increase in inter-community conflict and violent extremism in addition to water scarcity, drought and other climate-related risks - all of which have generated massive humanitarian needs, acute food insecurity, severely reduced basic services and large-scale displacement. COVID-19-related precautions such as border closures across the three countries and the August coup in Mali have further compounded these dynamics.

The development objective of this project is to contribute to the economic and social recovery of communities in target areas of the Liptako-Gourma Region in Burkina Faso and Niger through a comprehensive regional approach that will support: (i) integrated socio-economic services and infrastructure; (ii) livelihoods and territorial development; and (iii) regional data and coordination. Component 2 in particular will finance basic livelihood support and income generating activities as well as labor intensive community works. These are small scale and likely to be limited in terms of impact but they will require a high level of community support. The total number of direct project



beneficiaries is estimated at 3,430,000 and includes an estimated 800,000 displaced persons. There will be a particular focus on vulnerable populations including displaced persons, women and youth.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

In Niger, the responsible ministry is the Ministry of Finance. In Burkina Faso, the responsible ministry is the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development. The PIUs have not yet been identified. At the national level, the intention is to work in close collaboration with the implementing agencies of other World Bank financed projects to leverage opportunities and reduce transaction costs. Possible coordination and/or implementing agencies currently under consideration are: (i) Burkina Faso: the Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Social Security, which is currently implementing the Burkina Faso Public Sector Modernization Program; and (ii) Niger: Executive Secretariat for the SDS Sahel Niger (SE/SDS Sahel-Niger), which is the implementing agency of the Niger Refugees and Host Communities Support Project and the Lake Chad Region Recovery and Stabilization Project. The institutional and implementation arrangements will be confirmed during project preparation but it should be noted that it will be extremely difficult to support the preparation of the safeguard instruments without a competent counterpart. Once identified, a capacity assessment will be carried out to determine the ability of the national PIUs to prepare, implement and monitor the implementation of environmental and social risk management measures as well as manage the security implications of a large and highly dispersed insecure project area.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

High

Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

The environmental risk rating is classified as substantial, based on the type of project and nature of its activities which aim to finance livelihood activities, value chain development for high value agriculture and the infrastructure investments in small-scale irrigation and water and sanitation. In addition, the project will invest in watershed management, considering the high degree of water scarcity in the region. These activities are often associated with environmental risks and impacts that will need to be carefully managed throughout the region. The project will also likely involve implementing agencies with limited experience with ESF instruments and with incorporating climate and disaster risk management in project designs.

Social Risk Rating

High

While the activities that will be financed by this project are expected to have very limited social impacts, they will be implemented in a fragile and highly volatile environment that is facing extreme insecurity and violence. In addition, it will be difficult to monitor screening and risk mitigation for highly dispersed small scale subprojects in these insecure areas.

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:

The activities to be financed by the project are expected to have limited environmental and social impacts. Most of them are small-scale, and intended to improve social cohesion and inclusion as well as support sustainable livelihoods

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in this very complicated region. However, the activities to be financed by the project may generate environmental and social risks related to irrigation, watershed management, water and sanitation infrastructure, value-chain development, SEA/H, social cohesion and conflict and damage to personal property.

As the the scope and exact sites of the infrastructure works and livelihood activities are not yet defined, a framework approach will be adopted to provide guidance on the preparation of the various instruments. This includes the preparation of an umbrella Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that will guide the preparation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments/ Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESIAs/ESMPs) for the subprojects in each country. The ESMF will incorporate the general and sector-specific environmental, health and safety guidelines (EHSGs), labor management procedures, SEA/H mitigation, security management as well as proposed alternatives to direct supervision that will be required given the restricted access to the project areas. The ESMPs will clearly define mitigation and management measures, including roles and responsibilities, schedule, costs, implementation procedures and incident reporting that are specific to each subproject. The umbrella Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), drafted and agreed upon with the Borrower, will reflect the key milestones for the preparation and implementation of each of these instruments.

During preparation, a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) will be undertaken in each country in order to more clearly identify the potential risks and impacts and recommend mitigation measures that will be included in the ESMF and ESMPs. A SEA/H risk assessment will be undertaken and key mitigation measures will be incorporated into the project design and reflected in the ESMF. Initial security risk screening has already been completed by the Bank and will be used to inform project design and implementation support.

To address environmental and social risks and impacts, an ESMF will be prepared, reviewed and disclosed in countries and on the World Bank website prior to appraisal. It will be informed by the results of an assessment of the specific risks and impacts that will be undertaken during project preparation in order to inform project design and will cross reference the other risk mitigation instruments that will be prepared for the project. Citizen Engagement, Grievance Redress and Feedback Mechanisms are embedded in the project design and reflected in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).

This project has also been screened for climate and disaster risks. The screening has shown that the impact of climate and geophysical hazards on the project is high in the project locations and is exacerbated by unfavorable environmental, social, economic and political factors (e.g. high population growth, poor natural resource management, water scarcity, drought, limited access, security risks). These risks will be further explored with a more detailed assessment during project preparation and by building potential resilience-enhancing measures into the project design . The project will assess climate-smart agricultural options in the livelihoods and value chain development activities and incorporate resilience-enhancing measures in planned infrastructures.

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

It is not expected that the Borrowers’ Environmental and Social Framework will be used given the regional nature and scale of the project activities, but relevant national laws and regulations will be reflected in the various instruments prepared.



ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

This standard is relevant. The Liptako-Gourma region’s multifaceted political, economic, security and social context requires an integrated and holistic regional response that is based on a strong stakeholder and citizen engagement platform. There are multiple levels of key stakeholders at the regional, national and district levels. There is a complex network of regional stakeholders including the G5 Sahel that was formed in 2014 as an intergovernmental partnership between Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger as well as the various multinational security forces such as Barkhane. At the national level, there are multiple ministries that will be involved as well as the United Nations (UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, WFP, UNOPS), bilateral and multilateral development partners (AfD, GIZ, AfDB) and several humanitarian and security related actors. Stakeholders at the district level in each country include local NGOs, local governments and beneficiary communities. Resources have been provided in Sub-component (1c) Local level capacity-building, local-level data, citizen engagement and communications to support: (a) the planning and implementation of activities in crisis-affected regions through local level capacity-building and data; and (b) finance citizen engagement, communications and sensitization campaigns to strengthen the trust between citizen and the state and promote social cohesion among community members. The PIU in each country - once identified - will be responsible for preparing a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that will provide details regarding how information regarding the project will be shared, how stakeholders will be able to participate and the functioning of the project GRM. The draft SEP will be subject to consultation and will be publicly disclosed both in country and on the Bank’s website.

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. There are no large scale construction activities that will be financed by the project but there will be community based, labor intensive civil works that will include minor construction and rehabilitation of community infrastructure including water supply, health, rural roads, agricultural markets. These civil works are small scale but will likely involve community workers, contract workers and direct workers. Given the small scale, labor management procedures that reflect national labor standards as well as the principles of ESS2 will be included as a section in each country specific ESMP. This section will clearly identify what national labor standards will apply, when formal contracts will be required and their content, a model Code of Conduct that will be used for all workers and how grievances will be addressed.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The project will finance activities to support livelihood activities, watershed management, water supply and sanitation, and irrigation. These activities are not expected to generate substantial pollution to air, water or land. The project will promote soil and water conservation and sustainable use of water and energy that are likely to have positive impacts on ecosystem services. Some of the proposed livelihood and value chain development activities may require the use of agrochemicals (Pe.g. pesticides and fertilizers). The ESMF will include guidance and measures to promote good agricultural practices, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and safe use of agrochemicals.



During construction of community based irrigation, water supply and sanitation infrastructure, some activities may generate limited pollution to air, water or land and consume scarce resources. The Borrower will put in place the necessary measures to promote the sustainable use of resources (e.g. energy, water and raw materials) and to minimize pollution from project activities. The construction works may present a short-term nuisance for the neighbors in some of the project sites. The ESMPs will include mitigation measures to minimize and manage the noise levels. For example, applying standard restrictions on hours for site work or the use of lights. Construction/ rehabilitation activities will generate solid waste which will primarily include excavated soil and solid waste. The waste generated by the construction/ rehabilitation works will be disposed of at approved sites, according to national laws and regulations. The project is not anticipated to be a significant user of water or emit significant quantities of greenhouse gases.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

This standard is relevant. The project intervention area is immense and will involve many local communities. The members of these communities will benefit greatly from the project interventions under Component 1 but will also be subject to some noise, construction related pollution, disruptions in their daily life and potentially increased insecurity due to the increased activity and availability of materials and fuel. In addition to the standard EHSs that will apply to all project activities, the ESMF will also include a section on COVID-19 precautions and adaptations and will cross reference the RPF and the project GRM that will be outlined in the SEP. In order to respond to the high insecurity in the project area that will make it difficult for the Bank to provide adequate implementation support, several key arrangements to address community health and safety risks are being considered and will be integrated into the project design. These include: (i) identifying emergency decision-making procedures for the Bank together with the CMU and Corporate Security; (ii) deploying ICT tools such as remote sensing and GEMS for enhanced supervision/ monitoring; (iii) exploring supervision options through Third-Party Monitoring (TPM); (iv) customizing the design of the GRM; (v) planning for a phased deployment in high-risk areas (this will be described in more detail in the PAD and operations manual); (vi) selecting implementing partners with a high degree of access, local acceptance, and knowledge of the local terrain; (vii) considering Third-Party Execution (TPE) as an implementation modality; and (viii) ensuring constant media monitoring and stakeholder engagement. The ESMF will include chapters on community health and safety, security management provisions, incident reporting procedures, labor management procedures and SEA/H mitigation measures. These measures will be cross referenced in the country level ESMPs and other instruments as needed.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This standard is relevant. No land acquisition or physical or economic displacement is expected. However, the project is expected to finance the following under Components 1 and 2: limited amounts of construction, upgrading, rehabilitation and/or expansion of basic social services, such as education, water supply, health and economic infrastructure (including rural roads and community buildings); upgrading and/or rehabilitation of markets, especially markets with a strong regional rationale; and rehabilitation of existing community access road and construction or rehabilitation of footpaths, culverts, and bridges. These are all small scale, community focused and will take place largely in existing footprints using local labor. During preparation, discussions will be held with each of Borrowers



regarding how to best manage the screening for possible impacts or the possibility of adopting a negative eligibility list that will limit the kinds of interventions that will be financed to those that do not generate any negative impacts on private property or require any physical or economic displacement. This could be especially useful in insecure areas in which compliance verification will be difficult, land donations will not be possible and site visits are not likely in the near term. To provide guidance for the preparation of any RAPs in the case of unavoidable negative impacts on private property, an RPF will be prepared in each country. It is likely that supervision support to ensure compliance and adequate management of any negative impacts will be included in the TOR for the TPM that is expected to be hired and relevant principles will be reflected in the ESMF.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The project is not anticipated to affect or involve activities with negative impacts on biodiversity or natural resources. However, there is always a potential risk that civil works and some livelihood agricultural activities and associated value chains may lead to some impacts on natural habitats. Potential risks and impacts to habitats and protected areas will be captured in the ESMF to ensure that impacts are avoided or minimized in and around project related sites.

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

This standard is not currently considered relevant. The relevance of this standard will be further assessed during preparation.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

The Project will finance irrigation and water supply and sanitation infrastructure that will likely require some small scale excavation. These types of activities may lead to discovering both known and unknown physical and cultural resources. Though the possibility is not considered significant, the treatment of cultural heritage including archaeological relics, fossils, human graves, shrines, sacred trees or groves that may be encountered will follow a Chance Finds Procedure that will be elaborated in the ESIAs/ESMPs for the subprojects.

In addition, the World Heritage Sites of the Bandiagara Cliffs and the Tomb of the Askias are located respectively in the Douentza-Sangha axis and Gao areas of Mali and may potentially be within the proposed project footprint. As soon as the sites and locations of the proposed activities are identified, the Borrower will consult with the Direction Nationale du Patrimoine Culturel of the Ministry of Culture regarding the necessary measures to ensure that the project meets all national and this standard's requirements related to World Heritage. These will be subsequently addressed in the environmental and social risk management instruments.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard is not currently considered relevant.



C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways Yes

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

N/A

B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower’s commitments)

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Actions to be completed prior to Appraisal:

- Report from the SIA in each country
- draft ESCP for each Borrower
- draft SEP for each Borrower
- Security Risk Assessment for each Borrower
- SMP for each Borrower
- Umbrella ESMF (including LMP, SEA/H mitigation and PMP)
- RPF for each Borrower

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

- Preparation of ESIA and ESMPs for subprojects as required (per country)
- Updates for the SMP on a regular basis
- Project-specific PMPs

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS 08-Jan-2021

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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VI. APPROVAL

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Public Disclosure