



Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 05-Dec-2022 | Report No: PIDA34995



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country Liberia	Project ID P179035	Project Name Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector Employment Additional Financing	Parent Project ID (if any) P174417
Parent Project Name Recovery of Economic Activity for Liberian Informal Sector Employment Project	Region WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 21-Nov-2022	Estimated Board Date 22-Dec-2022
Practice Area (Lead) Social Protection & Jobs	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Liberia	Implementing Agency Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ministry of Youth and Sports

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The objective is to increase access to income earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal sector in response to the COVID-19 crisis in Liberia.

Proposed Development Objective(s) Additional Financing

To increase access to income-earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal sector in response to crises, expand income and livelihood support to poor and food insecure households, and improve efficiency in managing social protection programs in Liberia.

Components

- Grant Support to Vulnerable Households to Revive or Start Small Businesses
- Temporary Employment Support and Employability Development for Vulnerable Workers
- Capacity Building and Project Implementation and Coordination
- Contingent Emergency Response Component
- Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support
- Social Cash Transfer and Strengthening of the National Social Protection System

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)



SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	25.00
Total Financing	20.00
of which IBRD/IDA	20.00
Financing Gap	5.00

DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	20.00
IDA Credit	20.00

Environmental and Social Risk Classification
Substantial

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. **Liberia’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and its continued development is significantly threatened by increased global uncertainties and rising food and fuel prices.** Following a strong recovery in 2021, gross domestic product growth is expected to slow down from 5.0 to 3.7 percent in 2022. The slow pace of recovery in 2022 reflects the increased uncertainties from global trade and supply chain disruption caused by the war in Ukraine¹ and the rising and volatile food and energy prices. Liberia is highly dependent on imports for basic food and commodities, making it susceptible to economic shocks. More than 70 percent of the nation’s staple (rice) is imported.

2. **The country is currently facing a severe food security crisis driven by a constellation of multiple factors.** Between 2019 and 2021, a staggering 80 percent of the population faced moderate or severe food insecurity, with 37 percent experiencing severe food insecurity. In 2021, Liberia was classified as a country in a serious state of hunger and ranked 110 out of 116 countries on the Global Hunger Index. In October 2022, food price inflation stood at 3.1 percent; however, imported food inflation was significantly higher at 15.8 percent, driven largely by an increase in the price of imported rice on the domestic market. With the poorest 40 percent of households devoting 74 percent of their expenditure on food, households’ purchasing power and revenue continue to diminish over time owing to rising food and fuel costs, losses of working capital, and such coping strategies as sale of productive assets.

¹ <https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/CR/2022/English/1LBREA2022001.ashx>



3. **The compounded negative impacts of the pandemic and rising food and fuel prices significantly affect the livelihood of rural communities, especially those engaged in agriculture.** Even though urban areas experienced higher numbers of COVID-19 cases than rural areas, lockdowns and travel restrictions led to a loss of income for many poor households in rural areas whose primary source of livelihood is subsistence farming. In addition, labor productivity for these households was significantly reduced as farm produce could not be processed or stored, thereby going to waste. This has severely limited affected households' ability to fully reengage in their livelihood activities at pre-COVID-19 levels. With 68 percent of the poor living in rural communities, the lasting impact of the pandemic, coupled with the current high cost of food and fuel, is having substantial negative impacts on the livelihoods of rural populations. This, in turn, reduces the potential for human capital accumulation—already from a very low value²—and affects overall poverty levels and stability in the country.

4. **Liberia is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including rising sea levels and eroding coast lines, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather episodes.** This is primarily due to its long coastal line and concentration of population close to the ocean and the reliance on agriculture, including fisheries and forestry, for livelihoods. These risks are even worse for rural populations, who are considered more vulnerable and rely heavily on agriculture as a source of livelihood. In recognition of these challenges, Liberia has developed a National Adaptation Action Plan³ to adapt to climate change and build resilience, improve emergency response, and mainstream climate change into development policy. The plan includes undertaking diagnostics, developing policies and strategies to address needs, and investing in climate-sensitive sectors (that is, agriculture, energy, waste management, forestry, and health).

Sectoral and Institutional Context

5. **Liberia's social protection system is not yet sufficiently developed to respond effectively to shocks.** Coverage of social protection interventions is very low, with only 14.3 percent of the population benefiting from some form of support and the sector contributing just 3.4 percent to the consumption of beneficiary households, therefore having a limited impact on poverty. The largest social protection program in terms of coverage is school feeding (almost 7 percent of the population), but it is also the least targeted. Except for pension programs for civil servants and formal sector workers, current social protection programs are primarily donor financed. As a result, the social protection program landscape is fragmented, with various donors and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) delivering small-scale interventions. While progress has been made in recent years through the initiation and expansion of key social protection programs, there is an urgent need to increase the effectiveness of social protection interventions to have a more significant impact on poverty reduction and help address food insecurity and other crises.

6. **The Government of Liberia (GoL) recognizes social protection as a key part of its national development, and the World Bank has been its trusted partner for a number of years.** The Government's Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), Pillar 1 (Power to the People) highlights an improved social protection system, as well as increased access to social assistance, cash transfers, and work opportunities for the poor and most vulnerable as key national development priorities. The World Bank's support for Liberia's social protection includes three key projects. First is the Youth Opportunities Project (YOP, P146827; closed on September 30, 2021) that supported urban and rural youth to acquire core life skills, provided them with opportunities for apprenticeships and productive public works, and facilitated their participation in agricultural activities. Second is Liberia Social Safety Nets Project (LSSNP, P155293; scheduled to close June 30, 2023) that has established the key building blocks of a

² In 2020, the World Bank put Liberia's Human Capital Index score at 0.32 (of a potential 1.0), suggesting that a child born in Liberia in 2020 can be expected to attain only 32 percent of human capital by age 18 (https://databankfiles.worldbank.org/data/download/hci/HCI_2pager_LBR.pdf)

³ Liberia Environmental Protection Agency. 2018. "National Policy and Response Strategy on Climate Change."



basic national safety net delivery system and provided income support to households who are both extremely poor and food insecure. Under the LSSNP, the country has established the Liberia Household Social Registry (LHSR) aimed at collecting and storing all households' socioeconomic data to improve the targeting of social protection programs. The registry also has an integrated management information system (MIS) to enable the implementation and coordination of social safety net programs. By the LSSNP's closing date, it is estimated that about 285,000 households will be profiled in the LHSR, representing almost one-quarter of the Liberian population. Following lessons from COVID-19, the Government is expanding digital and mobile payments and facilitating the issuance of national ID cards through social protection platforms. Third, the REALISE (parent) project that is providing support to informal workers in urban areas of greater Monrovia in response to the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. **The coordination of social protection falls within the ambit of the Ministry of Children and Social Protection (MGCSPI).** Key government actors in the social protection sector are the MGCSPI, Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS), Liberia Agency for Community Empowerment (LACE), and National Social Security and Welfare Corporation. Coordinating structures in place to support the achievement of the social protection objectives set in the PAPD include the National Social Protection Steering Committee and the National Youth Sector Steering Committee. The MGCSPI has a Deputy Minister for Children and Social Protection as well as a National Social Protection Coordinator who participates in activities of coordinating structures and Technical Working Groups.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO

The objective is to increase access to income earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal sector in response to the COVID-19 crisis in Liberia.

Current PDO

To increase access to income-earning opportunities for the vulnerable in the informal sector in response to crises, expand income and livelihood support to poor and food insecure households, and improve efficiency in managing social protection programs in Liberia.⁴

Key Results

8. **PDO level indicators are as follows:**

- Small businesses that are invested in by beneficiary households (Number); no change
 - Female-led small businesses that are invested in by beneficiary households (Percentage); no change
- Project beneficiaries of the labor-intensive public works program (Number); no change
 - Female project beneficiaries of the labor-intensive public works program (Percentage); no change
 - Project beneficiaries of the labor-intensive public works program who are persons with disabilities (Percentage); new sub-indicator
- Project beneficiaries of the Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support (CLAS) program (Number); new indicator
 - Female project beneficiaries of the CLAS program (Percentage)
 - Project beneficiaries of the CLAS program who are persons with disabilities (Percentage)

⁴ 'Vulnerable' refers to individuals belonging to households with inadequate livelihoods, not resilient to shocks or crises and without means to counteract them. 'Poor and food insecure households' have insufficient monetary and non-monetary resources to sustain themselves, reflected by a condition of living below either the extreme or the absolute poverty line, and their food consumption does not meet one or a number of adequacy standards (for example, Food Insecurity Experience Scale, Food Consumption Score, and Household Dietary Diversity Scale).



- Project beneficiaries of the SCT program (Number); new indicator
 - Female cash recipients of the SCT program (Percentage)
 - Project beneficiaries of the SCT program with at least one person with disabilities in their households (Percentage)
- Social Protection programs utilizing the LHSR (Number); new indicator

9. **The results framework is revised to reflect the changes under the proposed additional financing (AF).** The revisions include increasing some indicator targets related to activities financed by this AF, adding new indicators to measure progress of the new components, and moving two PDO indicators from the parent project to intermediate indicator level. Also, sub-indicators are added to track progress in supporting persons with disabilities. Finally, all indicators are adjusted with revised date for end target.

10. **The closing date of the project will be extended from June 30, 2024, to December 31, 2026.**

D. Project Description

11. **The AF will modify all current components while adding two new components: Component 5 (Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support) and Component 6 (Social Cash Transfer and Strengthening of the National Social Protection System).** Unlike the parent project, activities under the AF have been designed to have both a rural and urban focus. Components 1 and 2 will be implemented in urban areas while Component 5 and Subcomponent 6A (Social Cash Transfer Program) will focus on rural areas. Activities under Subcomponent 6B (Strengthening National Social Protection System) will support the targeting and enrollment of beneficiaries under various components of the project.

Revised Component 1: Grant Support to Vulnerable Households to Revive or Start Small Businesses (additional US\$1,080,000 equivalent from Multi-Donor Trust Fund [MDTF], new total: US\$4,600,000 equivalent)

12. **The AF will increase the number of beneficiaries and expand its geographic coverage.**⁵ The number of beneficiaries will be increased from 4,000 to 4,450 to bring in additional communities from urban areas in Margibi County. Accordingly, eligibility criteria and the targeting tools will be revised from their current focus on the Greater Monrovia area. Furthermore, based on implementation to date, there is a funding shortfall of US\$600,000 to cover the benefit package for beneficiaries and cost of service providers, based on higher implementation costs than originally anticipated.⁶

Revised Component 2: Temporary Employment Support and Employability Development for Vulnerable Workers (additional US\$720,000 equivalent from IDA CRW, new total: US\$6,000,000 equivalent)

13. **The AF will increase the number of beneficiaries and expand geographic coverage to additional urban areas in Montserrado and neighboring Margibi Counties.** It will increase the number of beneficiaries from 15,000 to 17,000. Accordingly, eligibility criteria and the targeting tool will be revised from the current focus in the Greater Monrovia area. Activities under this component are expected to positively contribute to climate change adaptation through a series of community-driven development activities that aim to improve the environment and well-being of poor and vulnerable communities. At least 50 percent of subprojects will focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

⁵ Consistent with the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).

⁶ As documented in the Aide Memoire from the May 2022 implementation support mission to the REALISE project.



Support for activities under Component 2 will continue to draw from the IDA grant and credit per the parent project. However, to help vulnerable informal sector workers cope with increasing food prices, the CRW will be used to support rapid disbursement of labor subsidies to workers participating in Labor-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) activities.

Revised Component 3: Capacity Building and Project Implementation and Coordination (additional US\$2,931,050 equivalent IDA CRW and MDTF; new total: US\$3,131,050 equivalent)

14. **The funding allocation to the component is being increased to reflect the overall expansion of the parent project's scope.** Also, a sub-component will be added to reflect the addition of MGCSPP as one of the implementing partners. The component will continue to finance costs related to project management and coordination, audits, communication, training, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). The funding allocation is being increased to enable implementing agencies to expand technical support to additional activities and reflect the extended project duration. With the expansion of the project's locations to counties outside of Montserrado, the component will support the recruitment of county-level consultants to supervise implementation of activities as deemed necessary. Moreover, a stronger emphasis on rigorous evaluation and monitoring will be introduced, with a focus on the use of technology to enhance remote monitoring. The project's overall management costs remain capped at 12 percent of the financing and will be carefully monitored throughout implementation to mitigate the risks of cost overruns.

Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC)

15. **This is a zero-value component to allow for rapid reallocation of project funds from uncommitted resources under other components during an emergency.** In the event of an eligible crisis or emergency, the project will contribute to providing an immediate and effective response to such crisis or emergency.

Component 5: Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support (CLAS) (US\$4,770,000 equivalent from IDA CRW and MDTF) - new

16. **This component is aimed at improving livelihood opportunities and climate resilience for poor and vulnerable populations in rural areas of Liberia, directly responding to the current crisis.** The component will support up to 6,200 beneficiaries living in rural communities in Grand Cape Mount, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Nimba, and Sinoe Counties with inputs and technical support to engage in community-level farming that will help recover or strengthen their income generation potential. Resources will be utilized to provide direct income support to vulnerable and food-insecure households, as well as to promote local food production through support for community-level farming.

17. **Activities under the component will be similar to those implemented under the CLAS component of the YOP and will provide temporary income support to poor and food-insecure households and livelihood opportunities through communal farming, in addition to life skills training and sensitization of beneficiaries on sustainable agricultural practices.** Based on gaps observed and lessons learned from the YOP, the AF will include support to market links, and development of small-scale community-level infrastructure that facilitate livelihood activities as part of the overall support package for participating communities. Specifically, this component would: support Beneficiary Farming Group (BFG)⁷ develop farming subprojects, receive US\$1,800 farm start-up grants to procure inputs, provide life skills trainings and promote climate-smart agriculture, and offer a labor subsidy of US\$350 to smooth consumption during the lean season. Each beneficiary will be guaranteed a total of 100 days per implementation cycle (12 months). The component will also facilitate the transition of beneficiaries to mobile money through the provision of a low-cost

⁷ BFG average size is expected to be around 30 people with 50 percent of beneficiaries being women.



mobile phone and SIM card to each beneficiary to enable them to access their labor subsidy payments and provide Community Development Support (CDS) grants of up to US\$1,800 to each participating community to help maintain or improve small-scale common infrastructures, which are identified in consultation with BFGs. It will also provide *market linkage support (MLS)* for beneficiary groups and their communities through technical assistance and business grants. The small-scale and labor-intensive nature of community projects implies they are also likely to be low-carbon activities, while MLS would also promote climate-smart farming.⁸ Details would be included in the updated POM. Support for activities under the component will be drawn from the MDTF on 'Expanding Social Protection Support' in Liberia with contribution from SIDA and the World Bank's CRW.

Component 6: Social Cash Transfer and Strengthening of the National Social Protection System (US\$16,500,000 equivalent from IDA CRW) - new

18. **This component will provide income support to poor and food-insecure households in selected counties, as well as support the strengthening of the national social protection system.** These two overarching goals are currently being operationalized in the LSSNP, implemented by the MGCSP. Under the proposed AF, the Government's ongoing SCT program under the LSSNP will be expanded to support targeted households in Grand Bassa, Grand Kru, Rivercess, and River Gee Counties. The cash transfers will aim to help poor households mitigate economic shocks, smoothen consumption over time, and enable long-term human capital development. Furthermore, to facilitate the effective delivery of cash transfers and improve targeting of social protection programs more broadly, the AF will also strengthen the national social protection system, including the LHSR and its digital information systems as well as digital payments.

19. **Subcomponent 6A: Social Cash Transfer Program (US\$15,000,000 equivalent).** This subcomponent aims to support poor and food-insecure households in the selected counties through the provision of Social Cash Transfers to targeted beneficiaries. Specifically, it would provide income support to about 16,000 poor and food-insecure households in River Gee, Grand Kru, Rivercess, and Grand Bassa Counties through regular cash transfers. These four counties have been selected because they are among the poorest counties⁹ outside of Maryland, Lofa, Bong and Bomi Counties, which are either already covered by the current SCT program or will be covered under AFD's parallel financing for the CLAS program.¹⁰

20. **The SCT benefit levels for each household size category will be increased from the benefit levels used under the LSSNP.** This is done following an updated adequacy analysis that considers the economic effect of the pandemic and recent increases in food and commodity prices. Benefit levels will be adjusted to reflect 30 percent of the national extreme poverty line in 2022 (details available in the Economic Analysis section of the Project Paper).

21. **Consistent with current SCT implementation, preference will be given to females to serve as the cash recipient on behalf of their households.** The transfers will be delivered digitally, via mobile money, and accompanied by information sessions on using mobile wallets and basic financial planning, further contributing to increasing the resilience of the households through improving financial inclusion and digital literacy. The basic financial planning

⁸ A negative list of activities to exclude, E&S screening form, and subproject appraisal processes for CDS and MLS will be detailed in the updated POM and implementation handbook for the component.

⁹ Based on the percentage of households living in extreme poverty in these counties, from Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2016 data.

¹⁰ Lofa, Bong, and Bomi Counties were already identified as locations for the CLAS implementation, following AFD's appraisal mission in March 2022 and their Board Approval in June 2022. The AF identification mission agreed with the principle of distributing the expanded social protection programs under the AF across 15 counties, so no county gets multiple interventions, which is why Lofa, Bong and Bomi have not been considered for the SCT program. Maryland has been part of two rounds of the SCT program under the LSSNP.



exercise will be provided for couples, as was done under the current SCT program. Through the financial planning, which will take place during registration and enrollment into the program, beneficiaries will be guided to set goals and plan the use of their cash transfers with their spouses/partners (as applicable). The aim is to increase women's agency related to financial decision-making while mitigating any possible intra-household conflict related to the use of the cash transfer. The implementation arrangement for the subcomponent will be detailed in the updated POM and SCT subcomponent handbook.

22. Subcomponent 6B: Strengthening of the National Social Protection System (US\$1,500,000 equivalent). The objective of this subcomponent is to improve efficiency, enhance capacity, and strengthen the national social protection system through continued development of the basic building blocks of a safety net delivery system. Under this subcomponent, the AF will leverage investments made under the LSSNP to contribute to the further development of social protection systems. Key support will include: (a) increasing the use of the integrated MIS within the LHSR and continually improving it to allow for enrollment, payment delivery, grievance redress, M&E, and access management by multiple programs;¹¹ (b) strengthening the LHSR by using new data sources and exploring interoperability with other administrative databases in the country to improve coordination of social protection interventions across government institutions, civil society and development partners; (c) exploring alternative approaches to LHSR data collection, case management and enrollment modalities as a means of supporting sustainability; (d) as feasible, expanding data collection for the LHSR to additional counties and/or non-enumerated areas in a county; and (e) assessing existing grievance-redress mechanisms (GRMs) across both the REALISE parent project and the LSSNP and identifying the potential for streamlining and consolidation—including for cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)—to improve resolution times and accountability. These activities aim to improve the performance of the social protection delivery system and pave the way to a more adaptive system to support Liberia's preparedness in responding to future shocks.

23. The subcomponent will finance the following: (a) consultant services to expand LHSR data collection and functionalities of the MIS; (b) technical advisory services and workshops to strengthen the LHSR visibility, utility, sustainability, and interoperability; and (c) technical assistance, assessments, and trainings to strengthen the GRM.

Project beneficiaries:

24. The primary target groups are individuals or households in the informal sector that are poor or who risk falling into poverty due to the impact of COVID-19 and the current global food and fuel crises on their livelihoods. Under the proposed AF, the project will benefit the poor by supporting the development of a safety net system to ensure that households headed by single women, the elderly, pregnant women, women with young infants, and persons with disabilities are considered during the beneficiary selection process. While the project will have no upper age restriction, participants in supported interventions must be at least 18 years old. Given the distribution of the working-age population in Liberia, the expectation is that most beneficiaries for LIPW, SSB and CLAS programs will be in the youth category (ages 18—35 years). Overall, about 218,000 vulnerable individuals living in Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Gbarpolu, Margibi, Montserrado, Nimba, Rivercess, River Gee, and Sinoe Counties will benefit from project interventions. The profiles of beneficiaries will however vary, owing to the different interventions to be supported under the project.

¹¹ Information system for cash transfers program management and for the social registry are developed and being expanded to enable management of other social protection programs such as public works and business grants. The information system supports digital delivery of benefits to program beneficiaries as well as processing of grievances.



Legal Operational Policies

Triggered?

Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50

No

Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60

No

Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts



Anticipated Environmental and Social Risks

25. **Environmental Risks.** The environmental risk rating for AF remains moderate as per the parent project. The classification is based on the potential environmental risks and impacts, the sensitivity of the recipient environment and the capacity of the implementing agencies to manage the risks. The project's adverse environmental risks and impacts under the parent project mainly emanated from interventions under Component 2 activities, LIPW, which focuses on community activities that improve the local environment such as solid waste management (including through street and beach cleaning), building sanitation facilities, drainage clearance, painting of public buildings, and rehabilitation of public spaces. All scaled-up and new activities will be built directly on relevant Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) and structures put in place under the parent project. Implementation arrangements, responsible agencies including the additional agency (MGCSP), and partner institutions from the parent project will be retained in full, including the Project Management Team (PMT). The project is not expected to acquire land but will provide support to existing farms. Nonetheless, land clearing and planting of crops due to agricultural activities under the project may result in damage to existing crop species and increased soil erosion. Although it is anticipated that agriculture activities will not occur on land that has pristine/good quality natural forest, but rather on existing farmed areas. The parent project Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) shall be updated to include principles and guidelines for environmental management. The proposed activities under Components 2 and 5 may result in other direct and indirect environmental risks, such as community health and safety, pollution and release of chemicals and effluent into waterways, land and soil degradation and contamination, management of waste, genetically modified crops, labor-related issues, and loss of biodiversity. However, these risks are expected to be site-specific, local, reversible, and mainly temporary, and appropriate risk mitigation measures are to be outlined in the updated ESMF and Labor Management Plan (LMP).

26. **Social Risks.** The nature of social risks for the AF remains substantial. The substantial risk rating is maintained as the same due to the implementing agencies' limited capacity and experience to implement ESSs objectives and requirements as well as other social risk factors. The possibility of the project resource being exploited by the local elite; and the differential treatment in benefiting targeted people may create social unrest and conflicts if identified social risks could not be managed accordingly. The likely associated risks include: (a) low uptake/participation among women due to social norms regarding family responsibilities such as taking care of siblings and handling household tasks; (b) low uptake of the most vulnerable households and individuals (including persons living with disabilities and elderly), because of limited access to the project, or because of insufficiently precise targeting of the project; (c) lack of community engagement; (d) 'elite capture' of resources for public works through inadequate or non-representative community organization/engagement; (e) resentment from applicants not approved by the project or communities not selected and emergence of social conflict resulting from favoritism and lack of transparency; (f) increased vulnerability of women to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)/Sexual Harassment (SH) by the authorities or by co-workers in public works. Given the current economic situation, workers might be exploited, underpaid, and deprived of social benefits; their working conditions might be too demanding, and their safety at the farms might be at risk. Additionally, given the immense needs of vulnerable communities, the Project may result in employing child laborers. Given that the project beneficiaries, especially women, are likely to be exposed to SEA/H by project implementation staff during recruitment and project implementation, the commitments in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) as well as requirements of the ESMF will provide that the project prepares a SEA/SH Action Plan, no later than three months after project effectiveness, to establish clear risk mitigation measures for SEA/SH based on the assessment of the risks. The project shall ensure Code of Conduct for project workers is developed and widely disseminated to project staff and staff of contractors and consultants. The PMT shall arrange briefing/training sessions to educate the project workers to sign the CoC and follow the measures and conduct to respect women coworkers and women living in the communities close to the project area/sites.



27. **Seven ESSs were relevant to the parent project,¹² and under the proposed AF, ESS5 (Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement) will be added.** ESS5 will be relevant because CLAS beneficiaries will use lands for farming activities, and those lands are community, family, and individual owned. The required Environmental and Social Framework documents—the ESCP and the SEP have been updated and disclosed, while the ESMF including the LMP, and the Resettlement Framework (RF)— are being updated, and will be cleared from the Association/Bank for disclosure, and adopted prior to the project effectiveness

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

28. **The AF will be implemented by the MYS, MGCSP, and LACE.** The MYS will bear the overall responsibility of ensuring the effective implementation of this project. The MYS will be responsible for overall project coordination and implementation of Component 2 (Temporary Employment Support and Employability Development for Vulnerable Workers) while LACE will be primarily responsible for implementation of Component 1 (Grant Support to Vulnerable Households to Revive or Start Small Businesses) and Component 5 (Community Livelihood and Agriculture Support). The MGCSP will be responsible for implementation of Component 6 (Social Cash Transfer and Strengthening of the National Social Protection System). Component 3 (Capacity Building and Project Implementation and Coordination) has three subcomponents broken down by the three implementing agencies, the MYS, LACE, and MGCSP. Implementation arrangements for CERC will be outlined in the CERC Operations Manual. As deemed necessary, the MYS, LACE, and MGCSP shall hire consultants and service providers to support the implementation of core activities. Procurement under the project will be done by the MYS, LACE and MGCSP through the PMT.

29. **The AF will also maintain the implementation management structure of the parent project by maintaining a single PMT.** It will consist of consultants hired by the MYS, MGCSP, and LACE to oversee the overall implementation of the project as well as facilitate participation of civil servants in supporting project-related activities. This will include training and other capacity-building activities for staff of implementing entities. The PMT will serve as the link between the implementing agencies, external stakeholders, and the policy and coordination committees, and will also be responsible for developing all guidelines, and annual work plan and budget (AWP&B), establishing appraisal mechanisms, and working collaboratively with the three implementing entities to ensure consistent and regular flow of information between internal and external audiences. The following key officers will constitute the core part of the PMT: (a) Project Coordinator; (b) Social Protection Sector Coordinator; (c) Deputy Project Coordinators for economic inclusion and social assistance programs; (d) Procurement Officer; (e) Financial Management Officer (FMO); (f) Communications Officer; (g) M&E Officer; (h) Grievance Redress Officer; and (i) Social and Environmental Officers. Key specialists and other relevant officers deemed necessary for the implementation of various interventions will form part of the PMT as well. The functions of PMT members will be detailed in the updated POM. In addition, FM arrangements will be based on the existing modalities under the parent project where the Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU), which is managing 90 percent of donor-financed project accounts, will continue to manage the project account under the AF, in close collaboration with the PMT's FMO.

¹² ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts; ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions; ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management; ESS4 - Community Health and Safety; ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources; ESS8 - Cultural Heritage; and ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure.



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