



Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 24-Feb-2023 | Report No: PIDC264915



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Project Name
P179038		Moderate	Haiti: Promoting the Productive Inclusion of Persons with Disability
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Haiti	24-Feb-2023	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	
Investment Project Financing	Republic of Haiti, Ministry of Economy and Finance	Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, Agency for Persons with Disabilities BSEIPH	

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PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	2.76
Total Financing	2.76
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	2.76
Japan Social Development Fund	2.76

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. Haiti's economic growth has been historically low and volatile. From 2000 to 2020, Haiti's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an average annual rate of 1.5 percent. In contrast, over the same period, economic growth in Latin America and Caribbean countries (LAC) and Low-Income Countries (LICs) respectively



averaged 2.2 percent and 3.6 percent per annum. As a result, real income per capita in Haiti has stagnated in the last 20 years[1]. Key obstacles to factor accumulation and productivity increases include deficient infrastructure, limited human capital, weak governance and institutions, and an unfavorable business environment characterized by uncertainty, under-developed capital markets, and limited market contestability. Haiti's long-term economic development is also hindered by political instability, insecurity, and violence. The World Bank Group (WBG) classifies Haiti as affected by Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV).

2. Haiti's economy contracted for a third consecutive year in 2021. From mid-2018, the deterioration of the political and social environment, compounded by the COVID-19 crisis, has resulted in a sharp decline in investments and private consumption. In 2021, all three sectors of the economy declined, with agriculture registering the largest contraction at 4.1 percent. The lingering political and institutional crisis, compounded by increasing levels of insecurity, will continue to slow Haiti's economic performance in 2022. The country is also recovering from a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake and tropical storm Grace, which both hit the Southern peninsula in the summer of 2021. Inflation, driven by high monetary financing of the government fiscal deficit and supply disruptions, has accelerated since 2018 and hovers around 25 percent[2].

3. Haiti remains the poorest and among the most unequal countries in the LAC region. In 2012, the last year for which a nationally representative living standards household survey was conducted, the overall poverty headcount amounted to about 59 percent and extreme poverty to 24 percent. The estimated Gini coefficient was 0.61 in 2012, with the richest 20 percent of the population holding more than 64 percent of the total income of the country, against barely 1 percent held by the poorest 20 percent. While Haiti made marginal progress in poverty reduction until 2018, the combined effect of the political crisis, the deterioration of the economic and security conditions, and the COVID-19 pandemic have reversed this trend and erased earlier gains. Projections suggest that monetary poverty slightly declined over the period 2012-2018, from 59 to about 56 percent. However, the national poverty rate in 2020 is estimated to have climbed back to 60 percent. Food inflation is contributing to an increase in food insecurity, especially for the poor. In 2022, more than 4 million individuals are expected to experience high levels of acute food insecurity, requiring urgent food aid[3].

4. Haiti's performance in terms of human capital indicators is lower than the average for the LAC region. The Human Capital Index 2020 estimates that a child born in Haiti today will be only 45 percent as productive when she/he grows up as she/he could be with complete education and full health (46 percent for females and 43 percent for males). This is lower than the average for the LAC region (56 percent and the lowest score in the region) but higher than the average for LICs (37 percent)[4]. Access to quality health, sanitation, and nutrition services is limited, particularly in rural areas, with disproportionate consequences for women and young children. Low government spending on human development and basic services contributes to high out of pocket spending by the poor. Modest improvements registered in health, education, and access to basic services (water, sanitation, electricity, transport) indicators over the period 2012-2016/17 have not been sustainable due to the deterioration of the country's socioeconomic and security situation[5].

5. Haiti is one of the most exposed countries in the LAC region to natural hazards and climate change. More than 90 percent of the territory and population are exposed to at least two types of hazards, including



hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and to a lesser extent tsunamis and drought. Climate change is expected to aggravate this exposure through increased frequency of extreme weather-related events and rising sea levels. In 2016, Hurricane Matthew affected over two million people with damages and losses equivalent to 32 percent of GDP. In August 2021, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck the Southern Peninsula leaving 2,246 casualties and estimated damages and losses amounting to 11 percent of GDP[6]. Catastrophic events tend to affect disproportionately the poorest and most marginal segments of the population, which settle in hazardous areas as a result of the lack of economic opportunities and access to affordable formal housing.

[1] World Development Indicators, 2022.

[2] Macro Poverty Outlook, April 2022.

[3] Haiti Systematic Country Diagnostic Update, 2022.

[4] World Bank Human Capital Index, 2020.

[5] Haiti Systematic Country Diagnostic Update, 2022.

[6] Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, 2016 and 2021.

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Sectoral and Institutional Context

6. Persons with disabilities represent at least 3.9 percent of the Haitian population aged 5 years old and above, or 450,000 individuals. According to the latest Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) survey[1] conducted in 2016/2017, 4 percent of the Haitian population aged 5 years and above live with disabilities as defined by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics. In at least one of the six domains of vision, mobility, hearing, cognition, self-care, and communication used to measure disability, 3 percent of individuals face a lot of difficulty functioning. Another 1 percent cannot function at all in at least one of these six domains used to assess disability. The Grand’Anse is one of the regions with the highest prevalence of disability in the population according to the same DHS survey. This is explained by several factors, including limited access to health services, the impacts of Hurricane Matthew in 2016, and the August 2021 earthquake. The prevalence of disability is however likely to be severely underestimated for a number of reasons, including weak disability assessment capacities and societal prejudice not encouraging true reporting. As a result, disability statistics in Haiti face challenges in terms of their reliability and consistency.

7. Persons with disabilities are among the most vulnerable and most likely to be discriminated against in Haiti. Their economic empowerment and resilience are severely limited, and they are largely excluded from the labor market. Persons with disabilities face important barriers in accessing education and vocational skills development. They need to bear additional out-of-pocket costs to obtain accessible transportation to training sites, personal caregiving services, or assistive devices. They also face societal prejudice that impacts the scale and quality of training opportunities they receive. Being often at a disadvantage, they enter the



labor market with a skills deficit and a lack of previous work experience. On the demand side, persons with disabilities face constraints such as low awareness and confidence among employers on how they can be included in the workplace. Insufficient access to financial and business support services are also important constraints they face. Recent survey data[2] shows that about 47 percent of persons with disabilities in Haiti have never worked, primarily due to their disability or health condition, and more than three quarters are not currently working. The percentage is slightly higher for women with 48 percent having never worked as opposed to 46 percent for men with disabilities. Around 78 percent of those reporting working did so as own-account workers. Their exclusion from productive opportunities makes them reliant on support from others, which in a country with widespread poverty like Haiti is often insufficient to address all their needs. The inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labor market is thus a fundamental dimension to address to increase their economic resilience.

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8. Persons with disabilities have access to a fragmented social protection system with limited resources. In 2007 the Government of Haiti (GoH) established the Office of the Secretary of State for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities (BSEIPH, *Bureau du Secrétaire d'État à l'Intégration des Personnes Handicapées*) under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST, *Ministère des Affaires Sociales et du Travail*) with the dedicated objectives of developing a legal framework for the integration and protection of persons with disabilities. As a result, legislation was formally adopted by the Government and the needs and rights of persons with disabilities have been highlighted in recent public policies and selected government programs. However, the Government has been limited in its ability to offer and implement qualitative and quantitative coordinated and regulated services due to insufficient institutional capacity and scarcity of resources. Several public institutions offer direct services and assistance to persons with disabilities including the BSEIPH, the Caisse d'Assistance Sociale (CAS) and the Fonds d'Assistance Economique et Sociale (FAES) but overall interventions remain insufficient, fragmented, and with limited documented evidence of impact. Over the recent years, the management and fiduciary capacity of BSEIPH has improved allowing it to increase its engagement in the social protection system and better coordinate with NGOs. However, efforts to develop coordinated programs and reach beneficiaries are undermined by the agency's lack of resources and inter-ministry convening power, and uneven presence outside the capital city.

9. The National Policy for Social Protection and Promotion (PNPPS) recognizes the vulnerability of persons with disabilities and identifies them as priority beneficiaries. Adopted in 2020, the policy sets to reach the following goals by 2040: (a) reducing poverty and inequality; (b) reducing economic, social, and institutional injustices; and (c) giving citizens the right to access social protection and promotion as mechanisms to enhance their capacity to live better lives. The challenges faced by persons with disabilities are included throughout the four strategic axes of the policy that revolve around the main life cycle stages (children, working age, health, and old age) as well as around shock responsiveness. The PNPPS confirmed the commitment of the GoH to the disability agenda following the steps taken in 2012 and 2018 to adopt legislation regarding the integration of persons with disabilities into public programs and services and into the labor market. Additional steps were also taken to develop a social registry, *the Systeme d'Information du MAST (SIMAST)* with initial promising initiatives to include a disability module in their data collection process, allowing for improved targeting of persons with disabilities in social protection programs. Further investments are needed to improve the capacity of the BSEIPH to manage the information collected through



the SIMAST to assess, tailor, implement, and monitor interventions that meet the needs of persons with disabilities.

10. Other disability programs funded by donors and NGOs lack coordination and operate at a relatively small scale. Several other actors are involved in the field of disability in Haiti. These include primarily the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which is strengthening legal frameworks for disability as well as supporting rehabilitation and integration of persons with disabilities; the United Nations agencies which target persons with disabilities in overall humanitarian and development programming; and several NGOs (e.g., Christian Blind Mission, Humanity and Inclusion, Fonkoze Foundation) which provide direct services to persons with disabilities including health and rehabilitation, education and economic inclusion, and provide capacity strengthening to civil society organizations for disabled persons (CSODP). No agency or donor is currently strengthening the institutional capacity of the BSEIPH to plan, manage, and coordinate programs for productive inclusion of persons with disabilities as discussed and presented by the agency in their 2021-2022 strategic and operational action plan and confirmed through exchanges with key external partners (NGOs and donors).

11. The proposed project complements previous and ongoing WBG operations in Haiti. A recently completed and successful program implemented by the BSEIPH through the Policy and Human Resources Development Fund (PHRD) Grant (P145468) identified and registered more than 50,000 persons with disabilities. The grant also piloted a small wage employment placement service package and developed a database linking persons with disabilities to job opportunities in the formal sector. Through the job placement service, 27 persons with disabilities were matched with employment opportunities, twelve persons received scholarships to continue their studies, and 157 individuals received professional trainings in selected economic sectors. The PHRD grant supported access to wage employment and the experience showed that there are very few jobs of this nature available for persons with limited functionality. Instead, the PHRD identified self-employment as a potential opportunity to promote the economic inclusion of persons with disabilities. The ongoing International Development Agency (IDA) financed Adaptive Social Protection for Increased Resilience (ASPIRE) Investment Project Financing (IPF) operation (P174111) is complementary to the proposed project as well. The ASPIRE operation provides unconditional cash transfers to the most vulnerable households in the Grand'Anse region. It also provides accompanying measures to these beneficiary households so that they can better prepare for and adapt to shocks (via information on best practices in hygiene, nutrition, maternal health, COVID-19 prevention, and financial inclusion). Some beneficiary households of ASPIRE may include persons with severe disabilities who cannot work. The activities that will be pursued under this proposed Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) project cannot be financed by the ongoing IDA operation because all resources are already programmed for other activities. Moreover, the IDA operation already has a financing gap because some of its resources have been reallocated to provide emergency support in the aftermath of the 2021 earthquake.

12. There is a strong rationale for the JSDF to finance the proposed project. It targets deprived persons with disabilities, which are some of the most vulnerable and most discriminated population groups in Haiti. The project will provide direct benefits and training to participants to increase their productive and economic inclusion (PEI) and improve their livelihoods. The proposed project will also strengthen the capacity of local



civil society organizations (CSO) to engage in advocacy with local governments and to support the economically active participation of persons with disabilities. The proposed pilot will partner with an NGO to reach the target group and be closer to the beneficiaries. Project design reflects a participatory consultation process and the targeted beneficiaries endorse the grant activities. Monitoring and Evaluation will include a participatory component to ensure ownership and sustainability. If proven successful, the piloted interventions could be permanently incorporated and scaled up in the flagship social safety net program of the MAST financed by the IDA financed ASPIRE project.

13. Innovation is at the core of project concept and design. First, the pilot will support the introduction of an economic inclusion program specifically designed for persons with disabilities. To date, very few economic inclusion programs in Haiti and globally exclusively target disabled adults[3]. There remains an important knowledge gap in Haiti and in FCV-contexts more broadly on whether a broad package of economic support can allow vulnerable persons with disabilities to sustainably generate more revenues and become more empowered. Moreover, the pilot will test the efficacy of two different economic inclusion intervention bundles for beneficiaries in order to generate evidence on the optimal intervention package. Second, through awareness campaigns and advocacy activities undertaken by local CSOs the pilot will address some of the demand-side constraints to the productive inclusion of the population targeted. The project will thus simultaneously aim to address supply- and demand-side barriers to inclusion. Third, the pilot's welfare impact on beneficiaries will be measured via a rigorous mixed-methods impact evaluation. With support from the Research department of the WBG, the pilot will embed an impact evaluation in project design and execution. This will generate new high-quality evidence and lessons learned on a topic where knowledge is scarce at the global level.

[1] Institut Haïtien de l'Enfance (IHE) and ICF, 2018. Enquête Mortalité, Morbidité et Utilisation des Services (EMMUS-VI 2016-2017) Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: IHE et ICF.

[2] Ministry of Social Affairs, Social Registry (SIMAST), disability module data collected in 2021 among 53,783 persons with disabilities in 50 communes, 2021.

[3] See for instance to the PEI Global program database.

Relationship to CPF

14. The proposed project is well aligned with the main objectives of Haiti's Country Partnership Framework (CPF) and its adjustment to support the GoH's response to the COVID-19 crisis. The proposed project is in alignment with the World Bank Group's CPF for the Republic of Haiti FY16–FY19[1] discussed by the Board of Executive Directors on September 29, 2015. Building an economic inclusion program for vulnerable persons with disabilities is consistent with the CPF's three main areas of focus: (a) inclusive growth; (b) human capital; and (c) resilience. It also aligns with the WBG COVID-19 Crises Response Approach Paper[2], in particular its thematic pillars 2 and 4 focusing on the social response for protecting poor and vulnerable people from the



impact of the economic and social crisis triggered by the pandemic, while also supporting long-term institution strengthening to improve social protection delivery systems.

15. The proposed project is also aligned with the World Bank’s 2020–2025 Strategy for Countries affected by FCV[3]. The objective of the FCV Strategy is to enhance the WBG’s effectiveness to support countries in addressing the drivers and impacts of FCV and strengthening their resilience, especially for their most vulnerable and marginalized populations. The FCV Strategy places special emphasis on several high-priority issues in FCV settings, including investing in human capital and creating jobs and economic opportunities. In the FCV Strategy, social protection is also recognized as a key entry point for addressing the impact of violence, reducing poverty, and contributing to social peace.

[1] CPF Report No. 98132-HT. The CPF period was originally set from FY16 to FY19. However, after the Performance and Learning Review (Report No. 124812-HT) of the CPF was completed on May 31st, 2018, CPF milestones were extended until 2021, while a new CPF is being prepared.

[2] See: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/136631594937150795/pdf/World-Bank-Group-COVID-19-Crisis-Response-Approach-Paper-Saving-Lives-Scaling-up-Impact-and-Getting-Back-on-Track.pdf>

[3] World Bank Group Strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence 2020–2025 (English). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/844591582815510521/World-Bank-Group-Strategy-for-Fragility-Conflict-and-Violence-2020-2025>

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C. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

16. The PDO is to improve the economic inclusion of vulnerable adults with disabilities in selected locations. The total number of direct beneficiaries to be reached is 2,490. The PEI intervention will target 1,500 beneficiaries (half of which will be women, 33 percent will be youth aged 18-29 years old). Selected CSODPs will receive capacity building to improve their ability to advocate for the economic inclusion rights of persons with disabilities vis a vis the private sector and local governments. The project aims to reach 33 CSODPs and 990 direct beneficiaries defined as the members of the CSOs which will receive capacity building trainings. The targeted location of the pilot is the Grand’Anse region of Haiti and the capital city of Port-au-Prince.

17. To promote the economic inclusion of persons with disabilities, the proposed project will provide access to selected beneficiaries to a poverty graduation-type program specifically designed for disability inclusion. Graduation type programs reach the most vulnerable groups and usually include a combination of cash or in-kind transfers, skills training, coaching, access to finance, and links to market support. Participants of the proposed project will benefit from a multi-pronged package of interventions and services tailored to help people living in poverty and with disabilities achieve higher socio-economic empowerment and resilience.

18. The project will also provide technical assistance to BSEIPH and CSODPs to promote the economic inclusion of persons with disabilities. The project will build the capacity of BSEIPH to play a stronger role in enforcing existing employment legislation for persons with disabilities and in supporting the access of persons with disabilities to



productive (self-)employment opportunities. Support will also be provided to selected CSODPs to strengthen their economic inclusion advocacy capacity. CSODPs are local grassroots CSOs for persons with disabilities. They engage in advocacy for the rights and needs of persons with disabilities. They also provide various types of services to their members (health, education, microfinance, etc.). The majority of CSODPs have a legal CSO status and pay a registration fee to BSEIPH and MAST.

Key Results

- Direct beneficiaries: Number of persons with disabilities beneficiaries of the PEI program (total, disaggregated by gender and youth). Target: 1,500 beneficiaries (50 percent women, 33 percent youth aged 18-29).
- Number of PEI program beneficiaries employed or self-employed 6 months after completing the PEI program (total, disaggregated by gender and youth). Target: 525 beneficiaries (35 percent). Measured via impact evaluation survey.
- Number of PEI program beneficiaries reporting at least a 10 percent higher weekly income or consumption 6 months after completing the PEI program (total, disaggregated by gender and youth). Target: 525 beneficiaries (35 percent). Measured via impact evaluation survey.
- Number of Civil Society Organizations for Disabled People (CSODP) trained for increased engagement in promoting economic inclusion. Target: 33 CSOs (25 in Port-au-Prince, 8 in Grand'Anse region).
- Direct beneficiaries: Members of CSODPs which received capacity building for better economic inclusion advocacy. Target: 990 members (30 members per CSO on average).

D. Preliminary Description

Activities/Components

19. The proposed project will finance training, services, cash benefits, and capacity building to increase access to PEI opportunities for persons with disabilities in Haiti. Persons with disabilities, CSODP, as well as BSEIPH's central and regional office in Grand'Anse will benefit from the activities financed under the project. The Project will include three components.

Component 1: Capacity building and raising awareness for improving disabled adults' economic opportunities (US\$349,950).

20. This component will strengthen the capacity of the BSEIPH and selected CSODPs to promote the economic inclusion and employment of persons with disabilities. Several capacity building activities will be provided and a significant awareness raising campaign will be financed. The component will be divided into two sub-components.

Sub-component 1.1: Capacity building of BSEIPH and CSODPs (US\$99,950)



The following activities will be included in this sub-component:

- At the central level of the BSEIPH in Port-au-Prince, training will be delivered to civil servants to strengthen the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) capacity of the agency and improve the management of data related to disability and employment. The organization, strategy, and planning capacities of the central office will also be reinforced.
- In the Grand'Anse region, the BSEIPH regional office will receive training to improve its project management and execution capacity with a focus on (self-)employment activities.
- Training will also be delivered to selected CSODPs active in Grand'Anse and Port-au-Prince to enable them to engage more effectively in advocacy with local authorities and economic networks for economic inclusion of disabled adults.
- Finally, the project will finance some minor Information and Communications Technology (ICT) equipment for the BSEIPH central and local offices in Grand'Anse region to improve communications and technical assistance to develop a management information system.

Sub-component 1.2: Advocacy and awareness raising campaigns (US\$250,000)

The following activities will be included in this sub-component.

- A subset of the CSODP trained under sub-component 1.1 will receive small grants to conduct advocacy campaigns. Recipients of the small grants will be nominated based on the results of an innovation challenge/call-for-proposals on advocacy ideas to promote economic inclusion of persons with disabilities at local and/or national scale. Selection will be done through a jury made up of volunteers and influential members of civil society active in the sector.
- A significant awareness raising campaign with the objective of promoting the economic inclusion of persons with disabilities will also be financed under this sub-component and managed by the BSEIPH. The campaign will focus on the importance and opportunities of increasing the participation of persons with disabilities in economic activities. It will include tailored outreach and communication strategies for public and private institutions and enterprises to promote recruitment of person with disabilities.

Component 2: PEI program for disabled adults capable of working (US\$1,910,438).

21. This component will provide access to a comprehensive PEI program to selected persons with disabilities in the Grand'Anse region. Beneficiaries will be offered a benefits' package comprising monthly cash transfers, start-up capital, behavior and socioemotional support interventions, business skills training, and individual coaching. This 'big-push' intervention will allow beneficiaries to overcome multiple binding constraints at once and place them on an ascending welfare improvement and resilience path.

22. The project plans to target and enroll 1,500 beneficiaries from the Grand'Anse region under Component 2. The eligible population for the PEI program will be persons with disabilities aged 18-64 years old, capable of working, residing in the Grand'Anse region, and living in households classified in the two highest vulnerability categories by the Haiti Deprivation and Vulnerability Index (HDVI). Beneficiaries will be



targeted using the social registry SIMAST, which has been entirely updated for the whole population of the Grand'Anse region between November 2021 and June 2022. In addition, the BSEIPH will mobilize the CSODPs from the region to get their support to reach, target, and enroll eligible persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities often live on the fringe of society in Haiti and can be hard to reach. CSODPs through their members and networks have information on the local population living with disabilities. The BSEIPH maintains a registry of CSODPs and will engage with these grassroots organizations to support beneficiaries' targeting and enrollment.

23. Two different benefit packages will be offered to participants, to generate learning on what works. The pool of participants will be split in two equally sized groups. The first group of 750 participants will receive the full intervention package, comprising behavior and socioemotional support, business skills training, monthly consumption support cash stipend/transfers worth US\$30 for a total period of nine months, a start-up capital grant worth US\$500, and individual coaching for 15 months. The second group of 750 participants will receive a lighter intervention package including the socioemotional support intervention, US\$30 monthly cash stipend/transfers for 9 months, and a US\$500 capital grant. Having two intervention packages of varying cost and intensity will help provide evidence on their respective impacts and the value added of including costly extra training and coaching interventions. In an environment where empirical evidence is scarce and resources limited, being able to assess what intervention bundle is most cost-effective is important for sustainability and potential scale up. All participants will be from the Grand'Anse region.

24. The PEI program will be specifically designed for persons with disabilities, reflecting the best practices from other PEI interventions in Haiti. There is a growing body of evidence showing that PEI programs can have positive welfare effects on beneficiaries. In particular, Fonkoze's 'Graduation' program, Chemen Lavi Miyo (CLM), has been targeting extremely poor households in rural Haiti and providing a comprehensive package of inputs designed to support their ascent out of poverty. CLM has done this through a multi-pronged livelihoods protection and promotion scheme that combined livelihoods support, social protection, financial inclusion, and the guidance of regular case-manager visits over 18 months. While the CLM program has demonstrated high rates of graduation and positive outcomes reported soon after graduation, there remains key questions related to program scalability and whether gains are sustained as CLM evaluations have not focused on long term impacts.[1] The proposed project will offer a similar type of program specifically tailored for persons with disabilities and will aim to sustain impacts over the long run.

25. The proposed project will also structure the targeting and PEI intervention based on global lessons and experiences. Following the latest global evidence on best practices for PEI programs[2], the project will be designed so that the PEI program meets the following characteristics: (i) targeting the individuals living in the poorest and most vulnerable households relying on the SIMAST social registry, an objective legitimate and government platform acting as gateway to identifying those most in need; (ii) not too complex yet holistic in that it combines regular cash transfers to address basic needs, social emotional skills development to build confidence and handle stigma, and training on how to create/grow its own microenterprise and access financial services; (iii) providing a single, significant investment in the form of cash (as opposed to in-kind transfers) to overcome the lack of capital, which is often cited as one of the major barriers to economic inclusion, and only after the participants had a chance to build their competences and identify income



generating opportunities; and (iv) including continuous coaching or mentoring to overcome economic and social barriers and stigma.

26. Project design and objectives are also based on consultations with policymakers and direct stakeholders. The WB Task team discussed the proposed pilot on multiple occasions with the Minister of Social Affairs, the Secretary of State for Persons with Disabilities, and officials from MAST and BSEIPH. Consultations with direct beneficiaries also took place. Feedback from focus group discussions and interviews with beneficiaries conducted as part of the recently closed PHRD Grant (P145468) highlighted the unseized opportunity for technical training and financial assistance to support self-employment and labor market integration. In May 2022, the WB Task team met with local CSODP and their members in the Grand’Anse region. During these consultations, CSODP representatives stressed the difficulties persons with disabilities face to access education and training services, enter the labor market, and remain economically active. Providing support to relax barriers to productive inclusion, including stigma and discrimination, was identified as relevant and important. During the pilot preparation stage, further active consultations will be conducted with the targeted beneficiary population to closely align the project objectives and components to their specific needs and preferences. Participatory approaches to ensure ownership and empowerment of the project beneficiaries themselves will be employed.

Component 3: Project management, M&E, knowledge dissemination (US\$499,550).

3.1. Project Management and Administration (PMA)

27. This sub-component will finance project management and administration. BSEIPH will be the grant recipient and responsible for the overall implementation of the project. Costs related to project launch, fiduciary aspects, audits, mid-term reviews, implementation and completion report (ICR) will be covered under this sub-component. The implementation of the project will be conducted in close collaboration with the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the ASPIRE project to achieve synergies and save on costs (see Section B below).

3.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

28. This sub-component will finance monitoring and evaluation activities. During project preparation, an M&E framework using SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Replicable, Time-bound) indicators will be developed. The M&E system and its underlying tools will be activated and maintained using resources from the sub-component. The M&E framework will be used throughout project execution to monitor implementation progress and identify areas for improvement for better execution.

29. The PEI-DIME Collaborative of the WB will provide support for designing and implementing a mixed-method impact evaluation of the PEI program. The WB Partnership for Economic Inclusion (PEI) and the Development Impact Evaluation group (DIME) have forged a strategic technical partnership to evaluate interventions, develop pathways to maximize program impact, and support the evidence-based scale-up of economic inclusion programs. With support from the PEI-DIME Collaborative, the project will embed an impact evaluation in the design and execution of the PEI intervention implemented in the Grand’Anse region.



The expertise of an external research team will be mobilized using funding from the Collaborative. The researchers will work closely with the WB Task team and the grant recipient agency to prepare and implement an evaluation plan embedded within project execution of Component 2. The PEI-DIME Collaborative will also bring complementary resources to finance the impact evaluation. Thanks to the partnership with the PEI-DIME Collaboration, the project’s impact evaluation will provide cutting-edge evidence on the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the PEI program implemented. The impact evaluation (endline and baseline surveys, focus group discussions, and empirical analysis) will be entirely conducted within the timeframe of the project to ensure the evidence generated is completed in a timely fashion. An impact evaluation is being successfully implemented under the ASPIRE project and this experience will be capitalized on in the proposed project.

3.3 Knowledge Dissemination

30. This sub-component will finance knowledge dissemination activities. Dissemination of lessons learned during implementation and evaluation findings will occur in the second half of the project lifecycle so that all stakeholders can capitalize on the experience generated from the pilot. Workshops and seminars with CSOs, NGOs, public sector institutions, international development partners, including Japan, will be organized.

[1] Institute of Development Studies. (2019). Pathways to sustained exit from extreme poverty: evidence from Fonkoze’s extreme poverty ‘graduation’ programme.

[2] Andrews, Colin, Aude de Montesquiou, Inés Arévalo Sánchez, Puja Vasudeva Dutta, Boban Varghese Paul, Sadna Samaranayake, Janet Heisey, Timothy Clay, and Sarang Chaudhary. (2021). The State of Economic Inclusion Report 2021: The Potential to Scale. Washington, DC: World Bank. doi:10.1596/978-1-4648-1598-0. License: Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 3.0 IGO.

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Environmental and Social Standards Relevance

E. Relevant Standards

ESS Standards		Relevance
ESS 1	Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant
ESS 10	Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
ESS 2	Labor and Working Conditions	Relevant
ESS 3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Relevant
ESS 4	Community Health and Safety	Relevant



ESS 5	Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Relevant
ESS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 7	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 8	Cultural Heritage	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 9	Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant

Legal Operational Policies

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

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Persons with Disabilities (PwD) are among the most vulnerable and most likely to be discriminated against in Haiti. Their economic empowerment and resilience are severely limited. PwD are largely excluded from the labor market. They face important barriers in accessing education and vocational skills development. They need to bear additional out-of-pocket costs to obtain accessible transportation to training sites, personal caregiving services, or assistive devices. They also face societal prejudice that impacts the scale and quality of training opportunities they receive. There is also bias and discrimination in where and how PwD obtain skills and access training opportunities. Being often at a disadvantage, they enter the labor market with a skills deficit and a lack of previous work experience. On the demand side, they face constraints such as low awareness and confidence among employers on how to include PwD in the workplace. Insufficient access to financial and business support services are also important constraints faced by persons with disabilities. The situation is compounded by the sheer number of PwD following the January 12, 2010, 7.0-magnitude earthquake. In its wake the earthquake left as many as 250,000 people dead and thousands more disabled. According to a 2015 study on disability in Haiti, there are an estimated 440,000 persons with disability in a country with a population of 11 million, a number most likely severely underestimated because the disability assessment and determination mechanisms are weak, posing challenges in terms of their reliability, consistency, and relevance. The integration of PwD in the labor market is thus a fundamental dimension to address to increase their economic resilience. The PDO of the proposed project is to improve the economic inclusion of vulnerable adults with disabilities. The total number of beneficiaries to be reached is 2,800 (half of which women). The anticipated targeted location of the pilot is the Grande Anse department of Haiti (Haiti is divided into 10 departments) and Port-au-Prince. The geographic scope will be finalized during project preparation. Grand Anse is one of the three departments with the highest level of vulnerability (according to the Haitian Deprivation and Vulnerability Index). The proposed JSDF pilot is complementary to the ongoing Adaptive Social Protection for Increased Resilience (ASPIRE) IPF (P174111). ASPIRE provides unconditional cash transfers to the most vulnerable households in the Grande Anse department. It also provides accompanying measures to these beneficiary households so that they can better prepare for and adapt to

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shocks (information on best practices in hygiene, nutrition, maternal health, COVID-19 prevention, and financial inclusion). Some beneficiary households of ASPIRE have PwDs, but the majority don't. The proposed JSDF pilot will instead provide a productive inclusion package specially tailored for PwDs (startup capital, hard and business skills training, coaching, behavioral interventions, etc.). ASPIRE's implementation status rating for environmental and social risk management is currently Moderately Satisfactory. The Project developed all E&S instruments during preparation in the required timeframe, becoming effective on April 21st 2021 and has included relevant E&S clauses in the contract with the World Food Programme (WFP), the delegated implementation authority hired by the Client. An E&S specialist is mobilized at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor (MAST) and a WFP E&S focal point has been appointed. The Grievance Redress Mechanism has been established and is functioning effectively though needs to be expanded to include workers grievances. The MS rating is due primarily to increased insecurity in Haiti which is affecting the project: two security incidents have been reported and final incident report and corrective measures have been pending completion and needs attention by the PIU. Some areas needing additional attention to ensure compliance with E&S instruments were identified during the May 2022 mission including: i) using the E&S monitoring tool at distribution sites, ii) applying the risk mitigation measures related to the deployment of security personnel as part of project activities, iii) including COVID and waste management protocols in the semester reports, iv) developing the sensitization campaign on GBV prevention and response and v) ensuring all project workers sign the code of conduct. The WFP E&S specialist committed to work more closely with the MAST E&S specialist to ensure application of all relevant E&S risk management instruments. The proposed JSDF pilot will operate in a challenging security environment. Insecurity in Haiti is a pervasive challenge that manifests in different ways across the Haitian territory. In recent years, insecurity in Port au Prince has increased significantly through a proliferation of gangs controlling neighborhoods and relying on kidnapping, both targeted and indiscriminate, to finance gang activity. The state has significant challenges in asserting control, and there are complex political economy factors that have limited the state's ability to effectively counter the surge in gang activity. While areas outside of Port au Prince have been relatively insulated from the insecurity dynamic affecting the capital, there are nonetheless instances of insecurity arising as a factor of socio-economic disruption and frustration at the limited role of the state.

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