

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET

IDENTIFICATION / CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC12832

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 09-Apr-2015

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Sierra Leone	Project ID:	P155339
Project Name:	Strengthening the Capacity of Local Councils to Respond to Ebola		
Team Leader(s):	Randa G. El-Rashidi		
Estimated Date of Approval:	10-Nov-2015		
Managing Unit:	GSPDR	Lending Instrument:	Lending Instrument
Sector(s):	Sub-national government administration (30%), Other social services (60%), General water, sanitation and flood protection sector (10%)		
Theme(s):	Decentralization (20%), Natural disaster management (20%), Other social protection and risk management (40%), Other communicable diseases (20%)		
Financing (in USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	3	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
Financing Source			Amount
Japan Social Development Fund			3
Environment Category:	C - Not Required		

B. Project Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to bolster social trust, community participation in the delivery of social assistance services and resilience to disasters through strengthened capacity of Local Councils to effectively respond to the Post Ebola Recovery Strategy.

C. Project Description

Summary: The proposed project consists of three components:

Component 1: seeks to promote long-term psychosocial health and resilience through the implementation of selected sensitization and community building activities, via capacity building support for Local Councils (LCs) to adequately adapt the delivery of social assistance services to the Ebola and post-Ebola context with new activities. The component also seeks to strengthen the devolution process, since its effective operationalization will contribute significantly in enhancing the capacity of LCs in the post-Ebola context and hence in ameliorating the quality of service delivery.

Component 2: focuses on disaster risk management to build LC resilience and to promote a pre-determined action strategy in face of future external shocks, strengthening ongoing technical assistance to LCs and Ward Committees (WCs). Community engagement interventions will be promoted through the creation of social accountability teams, and open training activities for citizens on communication, advocacy and other relevant skills to ensure effective citizen interaction with local public institutions. Similarly, funding will be apportioned to scale up a Community Monitoring (CM) intervention piloted under the Decentralized Service Delivery Program (DSDP) II project. The component will also strengthen data collection and data management of LCs through training and capacity building to enhance their responsiveness to community needs.

Component 3: consists of the operational support geared towards project management, monitoring and evaluation.

The project will complement existing strategies, such as the Agenda for Prosperity (A4P), Vision 2035, the Ebola Emergency Response Plan (EERP) and the Ebola Recovery Strategy (PERS). The program, therefore, seeks to strengthen existing frameworks to ensure sustained and robust delivery of social services and focus on the general development direction defined by the GoSL. The leading priority of the EERP and PERS is restoring national healthcare delivery services, adapting service provision, and putting in place a solid framework for a mechanism that is robust to respond to future outbreak of health emergencies. Yet, achieving desired health outcomes is hinged on achieving desired outcomes in other sectors. Accompanying priorities include: (i) restoring other social services such as education, water, environmental sanitation and hygiene; (ii) increasing support for social protection and safety nets; and (iii) restoring and stimulating economic activities to increase employment and government revenue. The current epidemic has tested the efficacy of service delivery at the community level, and suggests reviewing decentralization programs and redoubling efforts in this direction.

This project has been designed in close partnership with staff from the Government of Sierra Leone's Decentralization Secretariat (DecSec), the Local Government Finance Department (LGFD) and the Integrated Project Administration Unit (IPAU), at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED). Consultations have also been held with communities and members of WCs. The alternative of working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to implement this project were explored, however, given the ongoing EVD crisis, the capacity and availability of strong NGOs/CSOs has been overextended and largely fragmented. Given the importance and urgency of ensuring that the services are delivered to the communities as rapidly and efficiently as possible, the project team strongly recommends recruiting IPAU to undertake the implementation of the project. IPAU has a strong track record of effectively coordinating a number of donor-funded projects, including the two phases of DSDP. IPAU is well acquainted with the decentralization process and has been actively working with communities, LCs and WCs, having exerted monitoring and evaluation functions at the local level. The agency is therefore well positioned to play a leading role in guiding and managing the project. IPAU will also work in cooperation with DecSec, ensuring that capacity building and training activities for LCs, communities and WCs are effectively provided. The project team will also promote partnerships and close coordination with other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

Project Location: Because of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) impacting Sierra Leone nationwide, the

project will focus on all 19 Local Councils and 394 Ward Committees. However, localities most affected by EVD will receive special attention in the funding of sensitization and psychological activities. Additional assistance and resources will be assigned to localities according to the following pre-defined criteria (in order of priority): (i) outbreak communities with a higher number of cases; (ii) quarantined/formerly quarantined communities; (iii) communities with a large number of first responders; and (iv) communities close to Ebola Treatment Centers, Interim Care Centers, and Community Care Centers. As the situation is continuously evolving, the project will adapt the targeting method accordingly. The funding for disaster risk preparedness and other activities included under components 1 and 2 will be provided equitably.

E. Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The recipient implementing agency has worked with the implementation of World Bank projects and has the institutional capacity for safeguard policies. The project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) team together with members of Integrated Project Administration Unit(IPAU) received safeguards training in June 2014 to further strengthen safeguards implementation capacity. This project however has minimal environment and social safeguards risks. Notwithstanding, the project team will work directly with the implementing agency to build any capacity necessary for safeguard policies and will ensure that they are followed.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Franklin Kuma Kwasi Gavu (GEN07)

Gloria Malia Mahama (GSURR)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	No	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11	No	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	This project is not anticipated to have any major social risks relating to land acquisition and loss of livelihood. As such, it does not trigger OP 4.12 (Involuntary Resettlement). The project activities include capacity building, disaster risk management, community engagement, citizen participation and community monitoring.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Appraisal stage ISDS required?: Yes

i. Explanation

This project does not finance any civil works or investments that have negative environmental a

The interventions expected to be rolled out in component 2 such as sensitization, training in Dis

ii. Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ISDS

14-Sep-2015

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing should be specified in the Appraisal Stage ISDS.

No safeguard instrument is required.

The project design adopts a bottom-up approach and in so doing promotes voice and representation of community members. Additionally, the project supports community participation and voice firstly, the project will pilot the use of scorecards and community monitoring for all activities. Secondly, the project will create a feedback loop between communities and Local Councils (LCs) by strengthening Ward Committees (WCs) (which are interlocutors between communities and LCs). This will require LCs to respond publicly to concerns raised by WCs and beneficiaries.

IV. APPROVALS

Team Leader(s):	Name: Randa G. El-Rashidi	
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Johanna van Tilburg (SA)	Date: 10-Apr-2015
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Stefano Paternostro (PMGR)	Date: 13-Apr-2015

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.