



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 03/27/2022 | Report No: ESRSC02671



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
World	OTHER	P178041	
Project Name	Monitoring and Evaluation Capacity Building in Pakistan and Central Asia		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Other	Investment Project Financing		4/29/2022
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Center for Economic Research and Policy (CERP) in Pakistan	Center for Economic Research and Policy (CERP) in Pakistan		

Proposed Development Objective

The project will improve monitoring and evaluation frameworks, capacity, and use in Pakistan and Central Asia. In doing so, the project will seek to build partnerships with existing Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD) providers to generate synergies.

This project aims to contribute to the higher-level development of the objective of the GEI, namely, to improve monitoring and evaluation frameworks, capacity, and use in supported developing countries for improved evidence-informed policy making.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	1.36

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

No

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

Public Disclosure



The project’s specific development objective is to improve monitoring and evaluation frameworks, capacity, and use in Pakistan. In doing so, the project will seek to build partnerships with existing Evaluation Capacity Development providers to generate synergies.

This project will support the Center for Research and Policy (CERP) in Pakistan and aims to contribute to the higher-level development of the objective of the Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI) MDTF, namely, to improve monitoring and evaluation frameworks, capacity, and use in supported developing countries for improved evidence-informed policy making.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

The Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP) is a leading independent policy institution focused on improving decision-making in Pakistan. CERP specializes in conducting Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT) to study economic and social issues and advising the relevant policymakers. It has a long and good record of international and regional collaborations in academic research. Under this TA, CLEAR PK will continue to be hosted within CERP which will remain the legal entity responsible for fiduciary and financial aspects. Apart from Pakistan, CERP will explore and expect to expand its collaboration and professional network to Central Asia.

This project will focus on strengthening national M&E systems, building local M&E capacity, generating and sharing M&E knowledge, and supporting the administrative and management capacity of CLEAR Pakistan. The project activities will be conducted in Pakistan and Central Asian countries to be selected during the project implementation. The project has no physical investment activities. The project activities that may have social-environmental implications are described below against each of the project components.

COMPONENT 1: Strengthening M&E Systems in Pakistan. Activities under this component will focus on strengthening local M&E systems and capacities. Activities will include i) country- and sub-national level needs assessments using GEI’s Monitoring and Evaluation Situation Analysis (MESA), ii) scoping and in-depth assessment on the existing M&E system at the federal and/or provincial level for their gaps and needs of improvement, gauge the demand within government institutions for technical assistance and establish a collaborative framework.

COMPONENT 2: Building a critical mass of M&E professionals. Activities will include the delivery of various training programs to professionals. These will include open enrollment training workshops, tailored and customized courses, advisory services, and training programs and learning events. This training will be offered on an ongoing basis through the three years of the CLEAR-PK grant. While delivering this training in Pakistan, CLEAR PK will keep exploring similar opportunities of deploying training in the Central Asian region.

COMPONENT 3: Contributing to the availability and use of knowledge on M&E and capacity building for M&E. Activities under this component will focus on capturing and curating M&E knowledge generated from CLEAR PK’s activities. Activities will include generation and publication of knowledge products, such as lessons learned papers, knowledge products that translate research into concrete and actionable suggestions, organization of knowledge sharing events, including workshops and roundtable series to share knowledge, promote best practices, and facilitate networking among M&E stakeholders in Pakistan.

Public Disclosure



COMPONENT 4: Establishing the CLEAR PK Centre. This component will support the establishment of the new CLEAR PK center and the transition from CERP. This component will support the setup of CLEAR PK, its staffing and capacity development as well as some of the initial operational expenses, such as travel and accommodation.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The Centre for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP), is a leading independent non-partisan policy institution focused on improving decision-making in Pakistan through quantitative research and evaluation, providing policy advice to government entities at both federal and provincial levels to improve decision making at these entities. CERP specializes in conducting Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT) to study economic and social issues and advising the relevant policymakers. CERP’s expertise also includes evaluation study design, data collection, analytics and visualization, advisory services, and designing and delivering technology solutions. CERP’s core business includes academic research; impact evaluation studies with Randomized Controlled Trials (RCT), with both government and private sector stakeholders; survey design and data analytics; policy advisory services; and development of software solutions for research in a wide range of sectors.

CLEAR PK will continue to be hosted within CERP which is the grant recipient. A dedicated CLEAR PK team will make it easier to engage federal and provincial level institutions/actors via longer-term and more strategic partnerships. CLEAR PK will set up a dedicated office to manage and monitor the project activities. Specifically, CLEAR PK will recruit a Director to manage the Center along with a team, which includes a Policy & Administrative Manager, a Capacity Building Manager, and a Capacity Building Associate. During the first year, the team will focus on business development and relationship-building. CLEAR PK Director will be cost-shared on a 70:30 basis between CLEAR and CERPs, whereas the salaries of the Policy & Administrative Manager, Capacity Building Manager, and Capacity Building Associate will be fully covered by this grant. As CLEAR PK’s portfolio expands over time, this ratio will be adjusted to reflect more time allocation by personnel from CERP to CLEAR PK’s programs. During implementation, the Center is likely to require more resources (human, administrative, and operational), commensurate with the increase in business development. This grant will finance personnel costs, operating costs, and costs associated with basic goods needed to make the center operational.

CLEAR PK will follow existing policies and guidelines of CERP in the management of human resources and staff as well as other related matters. CERP has in place and under active implementation an Employee Handbook. This handbook includes provisions on ethics and code of conduct at the workplace, preventing human trafficking and modern slavery, inclusion and equal opportunities, corruption and bribery, discrimination and gender harassment, safeguarding interests of vulnerable people and children, handling complaints, and grievance redress. The handbook sets out clear procedures in filing, investigating, and deliberating over work-related complaints, and processes for determining appropriate resolutions. It includes appropriate requirements on documentation and confidentiality. The handbook also lays out the management structure in this regard, including designated responsible staff and institutional mechanism. This policy applies to CERP staff, consultants, partners and affiliate institutions. As shown above, even though CERP has not implemented World Bank ESF before, it has developed and adopted relevant policies, regulations and has extensive experiences over the years in managing social risks as identified under this TA project.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low

Public Disclosure



Environmental Risk Rating

Low

This TA project focuses on capacity building in monitoring and evaluation. The project activities are limited to conducting diagnostic, analytical and research work, advisory support in the design and development of M&E curriculum and training materials, delivery of training to institutions and professional individuals, technical advisory support in M&E system development and strengthening, production of knowledge products, assistance in knowledge sharing and dissemination, as well as the organization of learning workshops and events. The grant will not support any activity related to the construction or redevelopment of infrastructure. No environmental risk or potential impacts are expected on the biophysical environment, human health and safety, and/or valued environmental components from the project activities. The environmental risk from the grant activities is expected to be low.

Social Risk Rating

Low

The project activities are not expected to incur significant adverse social impacts and risks. There could be risks associated with labor and sexual harassment and discrimination among the project delivery team and TA beneficiaries as a result of people’s interactions in an office environment. The risks will be reduced by the current COVID-19 context and are considered low, as interactions are anticipated to remain largely virtual for at least the initial phase of the grant’s implementation period. The key stakeholders involved here include CERP staff, potential partner organizations in Pakistan and central Asian countries, the trainers of virtual and possible future on-site workshops, as well as the potential beneficiary participants. CLEAR PK will contribute to M&E studies and training on SDG-related themes. As a CLEAR affiliate, CERP has been supporting organizations, whose primary focus is working towards gender inclusivity in building M&E capacity for their staff. The center will continue to promote gender-responsive in its M&E diagnostics, training, and services, and will encourage the professionalization of young evaluators through research and fellowship opportunities in line with GEI thematic focus and regional priorities. The project will give priority consideration in their beneficiary selection to those who represent underserved demographics, geographies, and sectors, including vulnerable, disadvantaged and indigenous groups. The project will ensure broad information dissemination of its TA activities and engagement to facilitate broad participation of potential beneficiaries, particularly the marginalized groups, NGOs and other institutions who may represent vulnerable segments of society for maximum project development benefits. The project is not expected to incur significant stakeholder risks.

Public Disclosure

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

This standard is relevant. The project is focusing on capacity building in monitoring and evaluation. The project activities are limited to designing M&E training materials, research, developing knowledge products, curriculum development, advisory support in M&E system development, knowledge sharing, delivering online and possible onsite training, and organizing workshops and events. The project will not support any civil works or equipment procurement. Therefore the project activities are not expected to have significant adverse environmental and social impacts. The capacity-building efforts will have indirect positive environmental and social impacts by supporting the



strengthening, monitoring and evaluation capacity in Pakistan over natural resources, protected areas, forests, and a range of ecosystems, social impact mitigation, as well as management of (global) environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, waste and degradation of natural systems.

The center will continue to promote gender-responsive methodologies and enhance inclusion considerations in its M&E diagnostics, training, and services, and will encourage the professionalization of young evaluators through research and fellowship opportunities in line with GEI thematic focus and regional priorities. The project will give priority consideration in their beneficiary targeting and selection to those who represent underserved demographics, geographies, and sectors, including vulnerable, disadvantaged and indigenous groups. The project will ensure broad information dissemination to raise awareness on the engagement of the project activities to facilitate broad participation in the training and capacity-building program. This is particularly so with the marginalized groups, such as women, indigenous groups, other under-represented groups and sectors so that they can benefit equally from the project training activities. The project will be implemented by staff members of CERP and other possible partner institutions. There may be potential of labor-related issues for the project delivery staff such as SEA and SH. CERP will implement necessary interventions to mitigate and address such risks.

Since no significant environmental social impacts and risks are expected from the grant activities, the recipient is not expected to prepare any specific environmental and social assessment documents/instruments beyond the ESCP. An appraisal stage ESRS is also not required.

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

Use of Borrower Framework is not considered.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The standard is relevant. The key stakeholders involved in this project include staff members of CERP who will implement the project and potential partner organizations to implement capacity building activities as and when synergies exist, and the potential beneficiary institutions and individuals in both government ministries, departments and private sector. The project will continue the past efforts of CERP in stakeholder engagement to improve the training program and tailor its design of delivery under the current pandemic situation. Such engagement includes tracer and feedback surveys from participants and internal engagement with the CERP delivery team, such as after-action reviews with workshop instructors and facilitators. The project will ensure broad information dissemination to raise awareness on the engagement of the project activities to facilitate broad participation in the training program. This is particularly so with the marginalized groups, such as women, indigenous groups, people with disabilities, and other under-represented groups so that they can benefit equally from the project training and capacity-building activities.

In addition to what is already required under the policy of CERP, CERP will establish the following specific grievance mechanism, to be aligned with ESS10 requirements, to address any grievances under the project and , and disclose the grievance mechanism within the timeframe defined in the project’s ESCP.

- One member of the project management team will be assigned the responsibility to lead and manage grievance resolution under the project.



- All grievances will be registered, and the project will keep a grievance log for the record. Grievances will be classified according to their type to ensure they are handled with their own specificity (i.e., labor complaints).
- Maintain an updated list of service providers, which can be used to refer GBV-related complaints.
- All grievances will be deliberated and addressed in a transparent and timely fashion. The complainants will be informed of the resolution response in a timely fashion.
- If the complainant is not satisfied with the resolutions under the project, he or she can continue, at their own liberty, to appeal their cases under legal channels and means available under the laws of the respective participating countries or submit their appeals to the Bank's Grievance Redress Service (GRS).
- The project will maintain the GRM users' identity as confidential and will also accept anonymous complaints

The above-planned actions will be reflected in the ESCP and a summary of the GRM will also be uploaded and disclosed at the CERP's website following clearance from the World Bank.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

The standard is relevant. The capacity-building activities supported under the project will be provided through existing CERP staff and potential partner organizations and will be conducted in accordance with ESS1-10 that would also apply to the project workers in the partner organizations. The size and composition of the team specifically working on this project (direct workers) is to be determined later, during the grant's execution stage. However, due to the size of the grant and the nature of the project, this team is expected to be small. There could be labor risks involved such as SEA, SH and discrimination issues among project staff members. CERP will implement the project activities in accordance with the labor-related laws of the Pakistan and ESF ESS2. The project workers will be subject to a code of conduct with provisions to prevent SEA and SH. The project team will assign one member to take up the responsibility to manage all labor-related issues, within the timeframe specified in the ESCP. CERP will also conduct training for all its project staff to raise their awareness on possible labor risks and the relevant governing policies of the countries and ESF ESS2 and 10.

CERP has an Employee Handbook which includes management structure on employment-related matters, procedures for addressing grievances, and appropriate confidential requirements when handling grievances. The Handbook is adequate for meeting the relevant ESS2 requirements. CERP will continue to follow these requirements during project implementation. Additionally, CERP will establish an additional grievance mechanism for the project in line with relevant ESS10 requirements. Labor-related grievances will be classified as such and addressed under the project grievance mechanism, which will be incorporated as part of the ESCP. The project GRM mechanisms should be accessible to all project workers, including those in the potential partner organizations.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This standard is not relevant.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety



This standard is relevant. There could be SEA/SH risks among project staff members and beneficiary participants in face-to-face interactions, particularly those associated to the interactions between people in an office environment. The project will follow relevant laws of Pakistan and ESF in addressing such issues. There could also be public health risks associated with COVID-19 transmission, particularly in face-to-face interactions when providing advisory support and organizing public events. However, most of the project activities will be conducted virtually through online means. Where face-to-face interactions are planned, CERP will follow relevant policies of the participating country and technical advisory and guidelines issued by the World Health Organization for stakeholder engagement in the current COVID-19 pandemic situation.

CERP will designate a qualified person to monitor that these provisions are implemented during project execution, in accordance with the timeframe specified in the ESCP.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This standard is not relevant.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This standard is not relevant.

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

This standard is not relevant. However, project capacity-building activities are open to all eligible participants in Pakistan and potential TA beneficiaries could include members from indigenous communities in Pakistan and central Asia and/or institutions who may work and represent the interests of such communities. Therefore, the project will ensure broad information dissemination on the design and engagement of the project activities to facilitate their participation in the capacity-building programs, including the dissemination of information.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This standard is not relevant.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard is not relevant.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

Public Disclosure



III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered?

No

Financing Partners

None.

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

None.

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

The project will include in the ESCP agreed actions and commitments in compliance with ESS2 on Labor, ESS4 on Community Health and Safety, and ESS10 on stakeholder engagement and grievance redress.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

Contact:	Fabio Pittaluga	Title:	Senior Social Development Specialist
Telephone No:	+1-202-458-9367	Email:	fpittaluga@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Center for Economic Research and Policy (CERP) in Pakistan

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Center for Economic Research and Policy (CERP) in Pakistan

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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

VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Fabio Pittaluga

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Maria Gonzalez de Asis Recommended on 17-Mar-2022 at 21:38:39 GMT-04:00

Public Disclosure

