



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 05/30/2023 | Report No: ESRSC03601

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Operation Data**

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P180648	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	Closing the digital gap in Colombia	2024
Operation Name	Closing the digital gap in Colombia		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Colombia	Colombia	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Digital Development
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Ministerio de Hacienda y Crédito Público	Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies - MINTIC	18-Mar-2024	31-May-2024

Proposed Development Objective

The PDO is to foster an inclusive and resilient digital uptake and to respond effectively in case of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Operation Cost	250.00

B. Is the operation 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 Operation [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]



The Project will seek to improve broadband connectivity and digital uptake in Colombia. In addition, the Project will focus on underserved and remote areas and towards strengthening digital skills and cybersecurity environment. The Project proposes four main components (and a CERC component): -Component 1 -Supporting the digital enabling environment through (a) ICT policy and regulatory support; (b) Technical assistance for the public sector cloud migration strategy, including cloud study and mapping the public and private data center; (c) Technical assistance to support the strengthening of the enabling laws and regulations on data protection, cybersecurity, e-transactions / e-commerce; cloud computing; data infrastructure; (d) Technical support on how digital technologies can help to tackle climate change. -Component 2 -Supporting an inclusive digital uptake: Subcomponent 2.1: Technical assistance in: (a) feasibility studies (technical, and environmental and social impact); (b) public tender structuring; (c) demand-side and household survey; (d) technical, regulatory, and financial consultancies. Subcomponent 2.2: Construction and operation of disaster and climate-resilient broadband infrastructure to reach unconnected localities which currently lack digital infrastructure and remain unserved by the private sector (by leveraging the existing network). -Component 3 -Strengthening digital skills and cybersecurity awareness: Subcomponent 3.1: Strengthening the digital skills (training for all actors in supply and demand). Subcomponent 3.2: Promote cybersecurity awareness, and strengthen the security and resilience of digital infrastructure and systems through: (a) Reviewing and updating of cybersecurity policies, regulation, and institutional and coordination structures; (b) Strengthening the cybersecurity arrangements; (c) Capacity building and networking programs targeting government cyber professionals and cyber awareness campaigns for civil servants, private sector, and citizens; (d) Review and update of data protection and privacy law, and data access and exchange policies. -Component 4 -Project management and institutional capacity building: Support for the PIU (MinTIC) to manage and implement the project components. -Component 5 - Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) The MinTIC will be the implementing agency for the project. MinTIC leads the digital infrastructure strategy and is responsible for policy and regulations at national level and will be the technical lead. The PIU hosted at MinTIC will ensure compliance with World Bank (WB) environmental and social requirements. The PIU will oversee the coordination and monitoring of the environmental and social management of the project, through its Environmental and Social (E&S) team.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

The Project will be nationwide and will be implemented in remote regions of Colombia where digital gaps exist (especially in rural and remote areas). The exact areas where the Project will be implemented are not known yet. The Project considers the development of a comprehensive evaluation (technical, financial, social, environmental, security, etc.) to determine the eligible regions, locations, and populations. Beneficiary localities will be selected by assessing their proximity to the backbone network's nodes and the energy power supply, together with an analysis of their socioeconomic and geographic features. Technical and financial feasibility studies will determine which technology (e.g., wireless, fixed, satellite) is the most efficient to bring connectivity to the selected localities.

The Project is structured around four integrated components. The activities of components 1 ((a) ICT policy and regulatory support; (b) Digital public infrastructure: Technical assistance for the public sector cloud migration strategy, including cloud study and mapping the public and private data center; (c) Technical assistance to support the strengthening of the enabling laws and regulations on data protection, cybersecurity (including combatting cybercrime), e-transactions/e-commerce and related issues to promote trust to enable the Colombian digital economy and safeguard the rights of individuals; cloud computing, and data infrastructure; and (d) technical support



on how digital technologies can help to tackle climate change (monitoring and adaptation), and 2 (subcomponent 2.1, (a) feasibility studies, covering both technical and environmental and social impact; (b) public tender structuring; (c); and technical, regulatory, and financial consultancies (e.g., transactional advisor), as needed, to support project implementation.), carry out potential direct or indirect/downstream E&S impacts. The components 3 and 4 will be expected to have minimal or indirect environmental and OHS impacts when implemented because they include activities associated with Strengthening digital skills and capacity building, such as development of studies, development of training tools and other administrative activities that will be carried out mainly in the offices of the parties involved. Overall environmental and social impacts of the Project are expected to be positive since it will promote reducing the digital gap through infrastructure that will promote climate resilience, especially the Component 1 - (d) Technical support on how digital technologies can help to tackle climate change.

Based on the information currently available, the main environmental, social and OHS risks and direct impacts are related with Subcomponent 2.2, which will involve civil works through the expansion of digital infrastructure in the territory (repeater towers, wireless connectivity, satellite, etc.). The types of activities – not the specific sites and scope – are expected to be confirmed prior to Appraisal, the risks and impacts related to activities will be identified and assessed in detail, and appropriate mitigation measures will be defined to prevent, minimize, correct and/or compensate the identified environmental, social and OHS risks and impacts; these details will be updated in the Appraisal ESRS. Activities under this subcomponent are not expected to affect environmental protected areas or result in loss of natural or critical habitats. The ESMF will define E&S criteria for the selection of sites with potential intervention (for civil works) and will provide guidance on detection, prevention, and mitigation measures to ensure that project activities do not alter or cause destruction of any natural, critical or sensitive habitat.

Component 1 and Subcomponent 2.1 include the technical assistance activities for which the project will apply the "Technical Assistance and the E&S Framework" guidelines to manage activities of Type 2 and Type 3.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The implementation agency for the project will be the Ministry of Technology, Information and Communication (MinTIC for its acronym in Spanish), as it is the ministry leading the digital infrastructure strategy and responsible for policy and regulations at the national level. MinTIC will host the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), which will oversee the coordination and monitoring of the environmental and social management of the project, through its environmental and social team. Additionally, the PIU will carry out these responsibilities in close coordination with entities relevant to the Project, as well as with organizations specialized in serving vulnerable groups, including among others the National Indigenous Organization in Colombia (ONIC), an organization integrated in the Directorate for Indigenous, Rom and Minorities Affairs, under the Ministry of Interior.

According to the information available, MinTIC will be the environmental and social counterpart that will prepare the environmental and social instruments during project preparation (draft ESMF, SEP, etc.). MinTIC does not have a specific environmental and social management unit. The arrangements between the E&S team of the PIU and other relevant areas within MinTIC will be defined during preparation and reflected in the Appraisal ESRS and in the ESCP, as necessary. The possibility of the MinTIC hiring specialized external consultants to prepare the environmental and social instruments during project preparation will also be reviewed. MinTIC must define as soon as possible the E&S counterpart team to start preparing the instruments. The Bank will support MinTIC by reviewing the TORs to make sure they comply with ESF requirements and by supporting the counterpart once established.



While MinTIC has prior experience working with World Bank (P153593 Colombia: Support to eGovernment unit in Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies, Technical Assistance Project), which was an analytical activity, so this is the first project it will implement under the new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). MinTIC does not have a dedicated team specialized on managing social, environmental and health and safety specific to the project.

Nevertheless, the Borrower's capacity to manage environmental and social risks will be further assessed during project preparation to determine any capacity gaps and specific training needs in relation to the ESF. The assessment will identify details on capacity building, staffing and training needs of the implementing. Specific capacity building measures agreed between the Bank and the Borrower, such as additional training, will be included in the ESCP at the appraisal stage and financed under Component 4.

The Bank will provide guidance and support to MinTIC for the development of the project's environmental and social management instruments.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

Overall, this project is expected to have positive environmental impacts resulting from the technical assistance and construction of new and modern digital infrastructure meeting international grade standards of energy efficiency and climate resilience. The specific locations of the digital infrastructure have not yet been defined, but these interventions are not expected to take place on national environmental protected areas, legally protected and internationally recognized areas of high biodiversity value or result in loss Natural and Critical Habitats. However, due to the uncertainty in the location of the intervention sites (regions, locations, and populations) and in the technology to be used for the expansion of the infrastructure (wireless, fixed or satellite) the environmental risk at CN stage is considered Substantial. This, considering that: (i) The impacts can be temporary, predictable and/or reversible, with the possibility of avoiding or reversing them. Some impacts can even be compensated (impacts on the biotic environment due to the development of civil works); (ii) Depending on the technology to be used, the impacts generated by the construction and operation of the digital infrastructure may be of low to medium magnitude and/or spatial extension with some adverse effects on the environment; (iii) the Borrower's past experience in developing Projects with the WB ESS implementation requirement is limited; (iv) There is still uncertainty in the definition of the technology to be used, the locations, and the target population. Also, the preliminary environmental risk is Substantial due to: A) the Technical Assistance activities included on the Component 1 and Subcomponent 2.1 which are related to activities of Type 2: Supporting the formulation of policies, programs, plans, strategies or legal frameworks and Type 3: Strengthening borrower capacity, defined on the "Technical Assistance and the Environmental and Social Framework", where projects often support the drafting of policies, programs, plans, strategies, laws and/or regulations, the Capacity building activities and other activities under TA could carry out potential direct or indirect/downstream E&S impacts; B) the potential risks during the civil works planned under Subcomponent 2.2 (Component 2) which will consist of construction and operation of broadband infrastructure to reach unconnected localities. The proposed civil works (construction and installation of towers, optic fiber, etc.) may generate environmental risks and impacts that will need to be managed in order to comply with the ESF. The



construction and operation of the broadband network infrastructure are expected to result in environmental impacts including: (i) construction and hazardous wastes, including e-waste; (ii) air emissions from construction machines and backup power generators; (iii) noise and fugitive dust emissions; (iv) water and energy use; (v) potential contamination of soil and water sources; (vi) risk of fires and explosions; (vii) Loss of vegetation cover and potential affectation of flora species; (viii) impact on fauna; (ix) alteration of the landscape; (x) Occupation of channels in rivers and streams. Potential OHS risks and hazards that can be associated with the construction of physical infrastructure will be include: (i) exposure to construction hazards; (ii) exposure to loud noise; (iii) biological hazards, due to contact with animals during construction and , the potential risks and impacts associated with these civil works activities are expected to be reversible with appropriate mitigation measures, which will be put in place to avoid, minimize or compensate identified E&S risks and impacts; and C) the currently lack of capacity of the borrower to implement the ESF. Concrete environmental impacts will be better identified once such details are confirmed during preparation; the environmental risk rating may be downgraded to moderate.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The proposed social risk rating is Substantial. Although social impacts are expected to be mainly positive because they focus mostly on technical assistance and capacity building activities, Subcomponent 2.2 will finance broadband infrastructure to reach unconnected localities which currently lack digital infrastructure. Hence, the project will also finance civil works activities (subcomponent 2.2) that may have an impact on land use and/or economic activities, and may affect areas where indigenous communities are present. Project details are yet to be defined and technology options (i.e., wireless, fixed, satellite) confirmed once technical and feasibility studies are conducted. For example, activities related to excavations along side streets and next to houses, and the installation of piping and communication infrastructures can be sources of risks and impacts, leading to the disruption of economic activities, restrictions on land use, labor risks related to civil works, community health and safety linked to those same works and affectation of private property. Construction of civil works involve the potential risks of labor influx and of discrimination and child labor in the hiring processes of the contracts, as well as the potential risk of workers security due to the construction activities that may take place in remote areas where the presence of “guerrilla” and “narco-guerrilla” is important. Concrete social impacts and risks will be better identified once such details are confirmed during preparation, specifically in relation to standards 2, 4, 5 and 7. For the PDO – closing the digital gap – to be effective, the project needs to promote digital inclusion in an efficient and culturally appropriate manner, which will involve empowering local communities and engaging stakeholders, especially those in remote areas or belonging to vulnerable groups. Project design must consider the risk of exclusion from project benefits and that the increased connectivity may lead to the exploitation of vulnerable groups. Therefore, the project must focus on vulnerable groups to ensure their effective participation in the benefits generated by the activities and to address any potential risks of exclusion. For instance, identifying and avoiding potential barriers that specific groups – such as indigenous peoples, illiterates, women, peoples with disabilities or LGBTI – may face to access and benefit from project-financed activities. During project preparation, stakeholders will be identified, and a differentiated approach may be taken to engage vulnerable groups that are at risk of exclusion from project benefits. This risk is expected to be manageable through the ESF instruments prepared in accordance with the provisions of the applicable environmental and social standards, such as the SEP, the IPPF and the ESMF, as well as through the citizen engagement approach which will develop a proactive communication and stakeholder engagement strategy to sensitize the population on the benefits of the project’s activities.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) Risk Rating

Moderate



The SEA/SH rating for the Project is Moderate at concept stage based on the SEA/SH risk screening tool, given the challenges to implement effective mitigation strategies due to the remoteness of some of the areas where infrastructure will be potentially installed and the workforce, albeit small in number, that will probably need to be deployed temporarily to those areas. The social acceptability of gender-based violence (GBV), scarcity of GBV services and conflict and insecurity in some parts of the country, together with project-specific risks such as influx or presence of workers in rural areas and presence of marginalized and vulnerable communities, may create or exacerbate risks of SEA/SH. To mitigate these risks, the project will set measures, as appropriate, in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), particularly in the Code of Conduct. Additionally, in line with the recommendation of the Good Practice Note on GBV, a GBV Action Plan should be prepared. The grievance mechanisms (GM) will define a specific channel to deal with grievances and complaints related to SEA/SH and GBV.

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 Operation:

This standard is relevant. Components 1, 2 (2.1), 3 and 4 are expected to have minimal or indirect environmental and OHS impacts, specifically regarding technical assistance (TA) and capacity building activities, i.e. development of studies and training tools, other administrative activities carried out in the offices of the parties involved. Associated minor risks and potential impacts are expected to be predictable and manageable through the ESF instruments, such as Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF); all to be included in the ESCP. The PIU must ensure that consultancies, studies, capacity building, training, and other TA activities under Components 1, 2 (2.1), 3 and 4 will be carried out in accordance with terms of reference (TORs) acceptable to the WB in consistence with ESSs, considering also the downstream impacts of TA activities. The requirements set out in ESS1 paragraphs 14-18 will be applied to TA activities as appropriate to the nature of the risks and impacts. The TORs, work plans or other documents defining the scope and outputs of TA activities will be drafted so that the advice and support provided is consistent with ESSs.

Anticipated negative E&S risks and impacts are expected to be limited to activities under Subcomponent 2.2 which will finance the construction of broadband infrastructure to reach unconnected localities which currently lack digital infrastructure and remain unserved by the private sector. The technological choice to expand the broadband network has not yet been defined (i.e., fixed optic fiber network, wireless services or satellite connection), nor have specific intervention sites and targeted populations been selected. The assessment of risks and impacts will depend on their definition, with the expectation that impacts will be limited to the locations and will be temporary, reversible and manageable by adopting the ESS and WB's General EHSG. A screening process will ensure that E&S risks and impacts associated with these activities will be addressed appropriately.

Activities will generate positive E&S impacts in line with the effort to close the digital gap in Colombia, such as the resilient and climate-sustainable expansion of broadband infrastructure, the increase in data storage and the improvement in authentication mechanisms. The project will develop supporting studies, provide TA and generate



participation, awareness and training strategies for targeted populations and institutions. To mitigate the risks of exclusion and exploitation of vulnerable groups due to increased connectivity, subcomponent 3.1 foresees specific programs to strengthen digital skills that will target newly connected areas tailoring content and scope to children, youth, women, indigenous peoples, etc. During preparation the project will define how to support vulnerable groups to acquire digital skills, generate digital awareness and access digital tools to avoid barriers from participation to access project benefits.

The project will prepare an ESMF to assess key risks and impacts and mitigation measures consistent with ESSs. The ESMF will provide guidance on screening, scoping and managing unavoidable E&S impacts, and on the level of E&S assessment and types of instruments needed, such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIAs) and Environmental Social Management Plan (ESMPs). The ESMF will establish detailed requirements for site-specific ESIAs and related ESMPs to be prepared once detailed technical designs are defined during implementation. Each subproject ESIA or ESMP will be developed according to the timeline and protocols outlined in the ESMF and in time to inform the technical design of subprojects. Once the CERC activities under component 5 have been agreed, the ESMF will cover, depending on context, relevant risks like waste management, OHS, social risks, stakeholder engagement and risks based on security issues. According to the WB's CERC Guidance Note (Oct. 2017), the ESMF should include a specific section on CERC to include, among others: a) Identification of potential activities that the CERC could finance (positive list of goods, services and works); b) Analysis of potential E&S Risks and Impacts based on the positive list; c) E&S Management Procedures (screening, clearance and approval, implementation, M&E, Completion and Evaluation); d) Institutional Arrangement for the EAP (Emergency Action Plan) implementation. The ESIAs will have to comply with national environmental regulatory requirements and procedures of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS). The preparation and implementation of the Contractors' ESMP (C-ESMP) will be responsibility of the contractors and will include clearly defined mitigation measures during the construction phase (for Subcomponent 2.2). Contractors will be required, as a contractual condition, to prepare, implement and comply with the C-ESMP, project LMP, including Code of conduct and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures that will be outlined in the ESIA/ESMP.

The draft ESMF will be disclosed prior to Appraisal. The final ESMF will be defined during Appraisal and explicitly addressed in the ESCP. Programs and plans identified in the ESMF to address specific E&S risks and impacts, e.g. ESIAs/ESMPs, will be prepared, disclosed, consulted and implemented prior to initiation of corresponding project activities as defined in the ESCP.

The client will prepare and disclose an ESCP before Appraisal and will be reviewed and approved by the WB. The ESCP will cover all measures to ensure compliance with the ESF during preparation and implementation, and define the E&S instruments, such as SEP, IPPF, LMP and a RPF, including Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) as determined necessary once impacts on land use, economic activities or land acquisition are defined. The ESCP will outline the timeline for the commitments and will be monitored and updated, if necessary, throughout the project lifecycle.

The SEP will identify the key stakeholders of the project and the actions to be taken to ensure their inclusion through consultation and participation during project preparation and implementation. An advanced draft will be disclosed both in-country and on the Bank's website prior to project appraisal. The timeline for disclosure of the final version of the SEP (after integrating the feedback received during the consultation process) will be defined during appraisal and explicitly addressed in the ESCP, based on the definition and timing of the activities of the project.



SEA/SH risk mitigation measures will be integrated into E&S instruments. Depending on the location and construction activities that will be finally undertaken, measures may include a SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan with an estimated budget allocation, response protocol, and accountability mechanisms to prevent and respond to any SEA/SH incident. This will include but not be limited to: the mapping of GBV services in the areas of intervention, as well as the drafting and signature of codes of conduct forbidding SEA/SH, with sanctions for non-compliance; training for workers and awareness raising on SEA/SH risks and measures for communities; separate consultations with women, if deemed appropriate and; a project Grievance Mechanism (GM) sensitive to the management of SEA/SH complaints informed by a survivor-centered approach, with distinct entry points, as well as referral pathways to GBV services, and procedures that are confidential and survivor-centered.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

This standard is relevant. The design of the project is strongly focused on stakeholder engagement as a pillar to support an inclusive digital uptake (component 2) and to strengthen digital skills and cybersecurity (component 3). A robust stakeholder identification process will be conducted to adequately identify at an early stage the varied types of project-affected parties and other interested parties, as well as vulnerable groups, in order to engage them and receive feedback that will inform project design to ensure an inclusive and efficient implementation. Due to the scope of the project, its beneficiaries are on both the demand (e.g., individuals, users of digital services) and supply side (e.g., institutions, IT industry), so the engagement strategy will need to identify the needs and requirement to include all of them effective and efficiently, and to combine their views during the preparation and implementation stages.

The stakeholder engagement strategy will be composed of capacity building activities to strengthen digital skills and cybersecurity as key elements to support individuals to adapt to the digital economy and online activities (component 3). To this regard, stakeholders identified to date are cyber professionals, public institutions, civil servants, private sector and citizens. Moreover, digital skills are also essential for women and underserved groups so that they are not left behind in an increasingly digitalized economy. As individuals will have the chance to advance their digital skills and access a more sophisticated digital ecosystem, this can bring changes in closing the digital gender gap through women-targeted trainings. Specific programs will target newly connected areas tailoring content and scope to vulnerable segments of the population (e.g., minors, women, peoples with disabilities, indigenous communities, etc.). The stakeholder engagement strategy will be described in the SEP aligned with the design of activities under component 3; implementation arrangements, budget and M&E measures will be defined during preparation and included in the Appraisal ESRS.

The project incorporates themes of inclusion, citizen-centric design, and citizen feedback to inform activity selection and implementation models. It will provide opportunities for women, youth, indigenous peoples, LGBTI and the disabled to access digital services, skills development, and job-readiness training to prepare them for the digitally enabled jobs of the future. Design of digital public services and reform of the underlying transaction processes will be based on feedback from end-users to ensure that they are user friendly and accessible to the widest audience possible. Industry surveys will be utilized to identify skills gaps in the market and create skills development programs with clear pathways to employment opportunities. Additionally, the project will promote that authentication



platforms and the interfaces are inclusive of people with disabilities, including visually impaired, and it will facilitate channels to ensure inclusion.

The project foresees a citizen engagement approach to (i) develop a proactive communication and stakeholder engagement strategy to sensitize the population on the benefits of broadband, increase data storage and improved authentication mechanism; and (ii) to develop an engagement strategy with the targeted populations and institutions to gauge the level of demand in service delivery and development needs. Citizen engagement activities will be mainstreamed across all project components, including component 4 on Project management which will support outreach activities that cut across the other components. Such activities will include: (i) ensuring engagement at the local level to promote greater transparency and accountability, alter perceptions of exclusion and promote digital literacy, especially in rural and remote areas; (ii) the development and implementation of a comprehensive Grievance Mechanism (GM) to collect and respond to issues encountered by beneficiaries, system users, other system stakeholders, as well as the general population, including links between the GM and Monitoring and Evaluation systems in order to improve project monitoring data; (iii) the development of a comprehensive citizen engagement strategy and fit-for-purpose consultation mechanism, following environmental and social standards to ensure that all relevant stakeholders, including women and marginalized groups, are consulted about the project design and implementation on at least an annual basis and the feedback from those consultations inform the implementation plan and design of project-financed systems; and (iv) user research to identify barriers to accessing and successfully using project-financed systems and services, particularly barriers faced by marginalized groups and underserved populations, and inform the design and implementation of the activities. The project will invest in stakeholder outreach, communications, and other citizen engagement mechanisms and rely on at least one citizen engagement indicator.

This approach will be structured through a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that will, in addition to the aforementioned, identify access barriers that vulnerable groups (women, youth, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, LGBTI and the disabled) may face and will determine mitigation measures to ensure that they have the opportunities to participate in the preparation and implementation stages, as appropriate, in an inclusive and culturally appropriate manner. The SEP will also include a strategy to engage with these groups and their representatives, and relevant feedback and recommendations they may provide through their engagement in consultation activities will be taken into consideration for the final design of the project and during implementation, to promote their full sharing in the benefits of the project. Regarding gender issues, the GM will include a specific channel to manage SEA/SH and GBV issues appropriately. Also, a particular focus will be put on Indigenous Peoples, for which an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) will be developed (as necessary).

The project will prepare and disclose the draft SEP prior to appraisal and will finalize it, after incorporating feedback received during consultations, before Board approval.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

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

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions



This standard is relevant. Details regarding number and type of workers have not been confirmed at this stage. Nevertheless, the following can be currently assumed to foresee probable risks and impacts and their related measures. The Project will be implemented by staff from the Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications –MinTIC, and some local consultants could be hired to perform specific tasks. It will also include direct, contract workers, and primary supply workers. For all the components and activities of the Project, compliance with the Colombian regulatory requirements and the ESS2 guidelines in OHS matters must be ensured.

For the Subcomponent 2.2 (Component 2) contracted workers are expected to be hired for the construction of the broadband infrastructure. Risks and impacts will vary depending on the type of technology that may be installed (fixed, wireless, satellite); further details and measures will be confirmed and set in the appraisal ESRS. Meanwhile, potential OHS risks and hazards that can be associated with the construction of physical infrastructure may include: (i) exposure to construction hazards (work at heights; hot work; electrical hazards; exposure to dusts, fumes, and gases; excavation work); (ii) exposure to loud noise due to frequent or excessive use of tools and machinery; (iii) ergonomic hazards, stress and fatigue due to frequent or excessive manual handling of loads; (iv) biological hazards, due to contact with animals during construction and operation of the physical infrastructure in remote areas. In order to manage these risks, and to guarantee the health and safety of workers during the implementation of the project, general guidelines for compliance with ESS2 and the WB General EHS Guidelines must be included in the ESMF and subsequent instruments (ESIAs/ESMPs). The ESCP shall include an OHS Management Plan (OHSMP) that considers: OHS Policies; Risk Matrix; OHS Legal Requirements Matrix; OHS controls, plans and procedures (with emphasis on critical tasks); OHS Assignment of Responsibilities and Accountability; Emergency plan; Road safety plan; Registration, reporting and investigation of work accidents; Use of Personal Protection Elements (PPE); OHS training and training; OHS performance monitoring; among others.

The project will prepare Labor Management Procedures (LMP), which will describe the types of workers involved in all project activities, set the labor conditions applicable to all types of workers (including contracted and primary supply workers), provide an overview of the applicable legislation and measures to comply with the objectives and requirements established in the ESS2, such as prevention of child and forced labor, minimum salary requirements, working hours, labor influx, non-discrimination due to gender and nationality among others, equal opportunities, OHS measures, specific grievance mechanism (GM) related to project workers and labor issues, and SEA/SH prevention measures. Measures to mitigate the risk of insecurity for workers due to works being in remote areas will be set, including measures in case security personnel is necessary. The LMP will also comprise a Code of Conduct enforceable to all project workers, including contractors and primary suppliers. The LMP may include relevant guidance for the employment of women, indigenous peoples, peoples with disabilities, LGBTI and youth through the project's activities when applicable; this will be confirmed once more details are obtained.

The final LMP will be available before the beginning of any civil work, and will be in place prior to the contracting of any project workers. During project implementation, the LMP will be revisited and updated as required and as additional labor related risks or issues unfold.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This standard is relevant. Subcomponent 2.2 (Component 2) will support the construction of new digital infrastructure meeting international standards of energy efficiency and climate resilience. The construction and



operation of the digital infrastructure are expected to result in moderate to substantial environmental impacts including: (i) the generation of construction and hazardous wastes; (ii) e-waste; (iii) air emissions; (iv) noise emissions during construction; (v) water and energy use; (vi) potential contamination of soil and water sources, mainly due to construction waste management; (vii) environmental contamination risks resulting from the use and storage of fuels and lubricants during construction; (viii) risk of fires and explosions associated to the electrical hazards and to the fuel storage; among others. These risks and impacts will be evaluated in the ESMF, and the measures to address them will be described, and will be addressed through the site-specific ESIAs and related ESMPs and C-ESMP mentioned above.

Project activities are not expected to be significant sources of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, understanding that the activities are minor civil work in householder, then the GHG estimations will not be required in line with para. 16 of ESS3.

The other Components, according to the information available, will not generate direct environmental impacts and risks that require specific alignment to the ESS3.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

This standard is relevant. The Project involves moderate community health and safety risks associated with the activities of Subcomponent 2.2 activities (Component 2) – digital infrastructure construction –, such as: (i) accidents due to movement of vehicles and machinery during construction; (ii) disturbances due to noise generation and air emissions during construction; (iii) accidents due to explosion and fire; (v) generation of diseases due to inadequate waste management; (vi) risks due to electromagnetic exposure (applicable to communication towers). However, these impacts are expected to be controlled and mitigated by the adoption of WB ESS and WB EHSs.

The risks associated with community health and safety, including SEA/SH, will be also evaluated in the ESMF, and the measures to address them will be described and will be addressed through the aforementioned site-specific ESIAs and related ESMPs and C-ESMPs.

Based on the concept of Safety of Services related to the provision of internet and other connectivity services, the Project will consider management systems to ensure the safety of the community, especially of vulnerable groups such as women, children, youth, elderly, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants and LGTBI community. Access for rural communities without adequate protection mechanisms may lead to the exploitation of vulnerable groups. As indicated in the ESS4 guidance note, associated risks may lead to the use of services for the purpose of financial, sexual or other exploitation, particularly of vulnerable groups. Therefore, safety management measures that complement capacity building programs under component 3 must be designed and put in place. These management systems will consider project-related risks and external risks and should be in place before the initiation of Project activities.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This standard is currently relevant. Despite the uncertainty regarding the location of the intervention areas and the type of technology that will be used to improve the broadband infrastructure, some sort of impact on land use or economic activities is foreseeable based on the limited information available at this stage. Some sort of civil works



will be conducted to install optic fiber or towers or stations to enable wireless or satellite connectivity under subcomponent 2.2. Consequently, it will imply activities such as excavations along side streets and next to houses, or the installation of piping and communication infrastructures (e.g., towers) in urban and/or rural areas. It is very likely that these activities will be conducted in rural remote areas which, given the Colombian context, will probably affect natural areas or indigenous communities depending on the sites that will be identified in the future. The information available at this stage establishes that beneficiary localities will be selected by assessing their proximity to the backbone network's nodes and the energy power supply and poles/ducts, together with an analysis of their socioeconomic and geographic features. However, it must also be taken into consideration that the objective of subcomponent 2.2 is to reach unconnected localities which currently lack digital infrastructure.

Ultimately, the activities under subcomponent 2.2 will generate some sort of risks and impacts regarding ESS5 which may lead to the disruption of economic activities, land acquisition, restrictions on land use and, although less probable, to temporary displacement. The ESMF will identify during preparation the relevant risks and impacts, and determine the corresponding measures to be taken. To this regard, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared and disclosed prior to Appraisal to clarify resettlement principles, organizational arrangements and design criteria to be applied to subprojects. This will be later expanded during implementation into specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) when the subprojects are identified. Project activities that will cause physical and/or economic displacement will not commence until such specific plans have been finalized and approved by the Bank.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This standard is relevant. With the information available so far, it is not expected that the project will involve protected areas or natural habitats. However, the expansion of the current digital infrastructure network and the technology to be used may generate some impacts on biodiversity (Subcomponent 2.2) such as: (i) Loss of vegetation cover and potential affectation of flora species; (ii) impact on fauna due to the need to scare away, rescue and translocate; (iii) Alteration of the landscape (in case of installation of towers); (iv) Occupation of channels in rivers and streams (in the case of fiber optic installation). The ESMF will provide guidance on detection and mitigation measures to ensure that project activities do not disturb or cause destruction of any natural, critical, or sensitive habitats. These measures will be described and will be addressed through the site-specific ESIA's and related ESMPs and C-ESMP mentioned above.

Some environmental exclusion criteria have to be considered that can contribute to the selection of the locations of Subcomponent 2.2, for example: (a) Avoid intervention in protected areas national environmental protected areas, legally protected and internationally recognized areas of high biodiversity value or result in loss Natural and Critical Habitats; (b) Avoid intervention in areas of unmitigable risk; (c) Avoid intervention in areas that are not compatible with the permitted land use; (d) Implement technologies with less impact; among others. The ESMF will include an "exclusion list" to avoid the key environmental issues mentioned above.

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



This standard is currently relevant. Both for the technical assistance and capacity building activities, as for the infrastructure works under subcomponent 2.2, it is foreseen that indigenous peoples will be among the project stakeholders and will be approached specifically to ensure their efficient and culturally appropriate inclusion in project activities. TA will include, among other aspects, the identification of barriers which may be faced by marginalized groups and underserved populations – including indigenous peoples and other traditional communities – to inform the design and implementation of the project activities. For instance, subcomponent 3.1 aims to strengthen digital skills to better equip individuals to adapt to the digital economy and online activities to help minimize disruption of basic public services (e.g., education and health) and to support underserved groups, such as indigenous peoples, not to be left behind in an increasingly digitalized economy. The project will count on specific programs to target newly connected areas tailoring content and scope to vulnerable sectors of the population, in this case, indigenous peoples. These capacity building programs, together with other measures such as the safety management systems referred to under ESS4, will mitigate risks of exclusion and exploitation and manage impacts related to the increased connectivity of remote areas which, in the specific case of indigenous peoples and afro descendants, may be exacerbated as a result of their differentiated customs and culture. During preparation, related impacts will be identified and analyzed to adjust the measures described under ESS1 (to build digital and basic skills, to generate digital awareness and to access digital tools to avoid barriers from participation to access project benefits) to the specific needs and requirements of indigenous peoples and afro descendants in an inclusive and culturally appropriate manner. These measures will be described in the SEP, IPPF, ESMF and other relevant instruments that may be applicable.

Additionally, the installation of broadband infrastructure to reach unconnected localities which currently lack digital infrastructure (subcomponent 2.2) will most likely affect indigenous peoples, although it is not yet confirmed and will depend on the selection of the beneficiary localities. As the most efficient technology to reach remote rural areas is apparently wireless or satellite connectivity, the probability of installing communication towers (e.g., repeater towers) in natural protected areas or indigenous territories is significant. This potentially represents impacts and risks for indigenous or afro-descendant communities should some beneficiary localities be in the Amazonas or Chocó regions, for example. Thus, precise risks and impacts related to ESS7 will be identified further ahead once more information is available regarding the technology chosen to strengthen the broadband infrastructure (i.e., fixed, wireless, satellite) and the selection of the beneficiary localities.

Currently, based on the limited information available at this stage, the project will prepare an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) that will assess the potential barriers faced by these communities to access the benefits of the project and it will also include a strategy to engage with indigenous peoples and/or afro-descendants and their representatives. The relevant feedback and recommendations they may provide through their engagement in consultation activities will be taken into consideration for the final design of the Project and during implementation, to promote their full sharing in the benefits of the Project (e.g., policy, studies, surveys, capacity building) and to manage the risks and impacts related to the potential infrastructure works. The IPPF will include a specific GM for indigenous peoples, that will be culturally appropriate and, if possible, rely on existing customary mechanisms. It will also set out the guidelines to create Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPP) if determined to be necessary during preparation or implementation, once details regarding the Project's area of influence and impacts on indigenous peoples are defined. The draft IPPF will be prepared and disclosed prior to appraisal. The timeline for disclosure of the final version of the IPPF (after integrating the feedback received during the consultation process) will be defined during appraisal and explicitly addressed in the ESCP, based on the definition and timing of the activities of the project.



ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This standard is currently relevant. For the Subcomponent 2.2 (Component 2) there may be tangible and intangible cultural resources within the sites where the project's physical interventions will take place, which will be defined during preparation, that need to be considered. The ESMF will include provisions for managing any potential chance finds, or impacts on such cultural resources, if applicable (i.e., deep excavations), that could take place during project activities in the field, in line with national legislation and ESS8.

In addition, as it is possible that physical works are developed within or in the vicinity of the IPSAHUTLC areas, the ESMF should include an analysis of the potential risks and impacts on the intangible cultural heritage, considering the evaluation of the interventions and places, as well as the identification of management measures for prevention, correction and mitigation.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

N/A

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered? No

Financing Partners

N/A

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Prior to Appraisal, the project will prepare and disclose:

- Draft of the ESMF that will contain the guidelines for the development of the different environmental and social management plans and procedures detailed under ESS1 and other relevant ESSs.
- Drafts of the SEP and the IPPF.
- A draft RPF.
- Draft Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).

Prior to Board Approval, MinTIC will prepare and disclose a final ESCP, as well as submitting the draft ESMF approved by the WB.



The timing of disclosure of the final ESMF, the final SEP, final IPPF and final RPF, will be defined during appraisal and explicitly addressed in the ESCP, based on the definition and timing of the activities of the project.

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

The draft Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will be prepared and disclosed by the Borrower during the preparation stage of the project, prior to appraisal. The ESCP will be in line with the relevant environmental and social instruments described in the relevant ESSs, as well as details the E&S instruments that would be prepared during project's implementation:

- i. Final Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) including the E&S plans and procedures.
- ii. Final Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including the project-level GM.
- iii. Labor Management Procedures (LMP), including the specific GM for workers and labor issues, as well as a Code of Conduct for contractors and sub-contractors.
- iv. Final Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Resettlement Action Plans (RAP), as necessary regarding sites, risks and impacts related to Subcomponent 2.2.
- v. Final Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), including the specific GM for IPs.
- vi. Terms of reference (TORs) acceptable to the WB, that are consistent with the ESSs for the consultancies, studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Components 1, 2 (2.1), 3 and 4. The TORs for the consultants and capacity building should be designed accordingly considering the relevant provisions of ESS to ensure (among other things) that principles of environmental and social standards cultural appropriateness are included in the implementations of those components.
- vii. Hiring and retention of environmental and social specialist to provide support to the project as part of the PIU.
- viii. All the necessary environmental and social capacity building measures.

The final version of the instruments (ESMF, RPF, IPPF) will be defined in the Appraisal ESRS and explicitly addressed in the ESCP.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

15-Feb-2024

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

Contact:	Axel Rifon Perez	Title:	Senior Digital Development Specialist
Telephone No:	5357+2339 / 51-1-6222339	Email:	arifonperez@worldbank.org
Contact:	Niccolo Comini	Title:	Digital Development Specialist
Telephone No:	+1-202-473-2184	Email:	ncomini@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient



Borrower: Ministerio de Hacienda y Crédito Público

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies - MINTIC

Contact: Sergio Valdés Beltrán

Title: MINTIC

Telephone No: 57601344460

Email: svaldes@mintic.gov.co

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): Axel Rifon Perez, Niccolo Comini

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Genevieve Connors Recommended on 30-May-2023 at 19:00:34 EDT