



Additional Financing Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary Appraisal Stage **(AF ESRS Appraisal Stage)**

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)
Zambia	EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA		
Project ID	Project Name		
P181651	Scaling-up Shock Responsive Social Protection Project Additional Financing		
Parent Project ID (if any)	Parent Project Name		
P179095	Scaling-up Shock Responsive Social Protection Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Protection & Jobs	Investment Project Financing	3/19/2024	3/29/2024
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
3/18/2024	12,278,812		

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Proposed Development Objective

To protect poor and vulnerable households' consumption in response to shocks in Zambia

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 Activities

The emergency operation aims to smooth the consumption of the poorest households in Zambia and alleviate the negative impacts of the multiple crises Zambia has faced on household income and food security. The predictability of cash transfers, particularly during emergencies, is critical to avoid further negative coping strategies and an irreversible impact on food security and human capital. Multiple challenges have damaged the Zambian economy, weakening the Government's ability to sustain financing to social safety nets to alleviate the impact on the poor and vulnerable. Zambia is currently in debt distress and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated prior fiscal and



external imbalances arising from high public investment spending, a drought, and a steep exchange rate depreciation. Government's fiscal space is shrinking to continue the sustained financing of Zambia's safety nets. This could lead to a reversal of the timely and predictable cash transfers to beneficiaries achieved in 2021 and a return of the 2019/2020 situation where beneficiaries received only some of the transfers they were entitled to. Given government's shrinking fiscal space to sustain financing to the social protection sector at current levels, the emergency operation would provide critical financing to sustain Zambia's investment in its safety nets.

The operation will build on the results achieved under the Bank's main lending operation in the social protection sector in Zambia, the Girls Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods (GEWEL) project (P151451). The new operation will focus on the social protection program that supports the poorest families in Zambia with cash transfers. Given governments' fiscal difficulties, the emergency operation, together with funds already under GEWEL, will provide financing to cover cash transfers to the full caseload of the government's Social Cash Transfer (SCT) of almost 1 million households for the period of one year. The new operation will utilize the existing systems and capacity built by the GEWEL project, including a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that is functional countrywide, Management Information Systems (MIS) and digital payment systems.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

The AF will be implemented in all districts and provinces country wide. This builds upon the parent project Girls Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods (GEWEL) project (P151451) and Scaling- Up Shock Responsiveness Social Protection Project P179095, lending operations in the social protection sector in Zambia. As per existing implementation arrangements under the GEWEL Project, this project will be coordinated by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) comprised the Permanent Secretaries (PSs) of the two implementing ministries and Cabinet office: the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS). Component 1 Social Cash Transfer (SCT) which is an extension of this AF, will continue to be implemented by MCDSS under the guidance of the PS. In January, 2021 a fatality was reported by MCDSS involving a Payment Point Manager (PPM) in Chifunabuli District, Luapula province under the GEWEL AF1. A rapid security assessment was developed and additional security mitigation measures were introduced that included, but not limited to irregular patterns of payment, less cash carried by the PPMs, two PPMs conducting cash transfers at any one time and security training for all PPMs. There have not been any reported similar incidents to date.

D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The Republic of Zambia will implement the AF Shock Responsive Social Protection in Zambia Project (the Project), with the involvement of three implementing agencies, the Gender Division, Office of the President, Ministry of Community Development (MCDSS) and Social Services and Ministry of Education (MOE). It has one component, the SCT component, to cover cash transfers to a little over one million SCT beneficiary households nation-wide. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), in close coordination and collaboration with other government agencies and cooperating partners, as appropriate. During the implementation of the parent SSRSP there were no reported environmental or OHS incidents with the exception of the PPM fatality caused by the PPM's close family member. The implementing agencies were quick to respond to the PPM fatality by implementing enhanced security arrangements and were able to conduct specific security training for all PPMs.

The parent SSRSP project is being implemented under the ESF and several key managers and leaders attended WB ESF training. The new operation will utilize the existing systems and capacity built by the parent SSSRSP project including specialized environmental and social staff to adequately manage environmental and social risks. The existing PIU established under SSRSP will be maintained and the roles of current GRM and GBV Specialists will be expanded to include Stakeholder Engagement. These have acquired experience in implementing World Bank financed projects and strengthened institutional capacity in managing risks. To build on the already existing activities this project will include a training plan to enhance capacities for the agencies to better inform risk management in alignment with ESF requirements.

The parent Scaling- Up Shock Responsiveness Social Protection Project was approved on June 28, 2022 and became effective on November 2022 and the Trust Fund component is set to close on September 30 2024. According to the last ISR under the parent project, the overall E & S performance was rated Satisfactory. The GBV-responsive GRM has already been rolled out to 116 districts in which cash transfers are implemented, including: complaints boxes, communications-adapted for COVID, Lifeline-Childline hotline for serious and GBV complaints, GRM module integrated into SCT MIS.

II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) Moderate

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating Moderate

The environmental risk is rated moderate because of potential OHS risks associated with the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) method of payment, the low risk of Covid-19 transmission under this new operation and inappropriate disposal of PPE waste. Payment Point Mangers (PPMs) carrying substantial amounts of cash are vulnerable to theft and physical harm. The following measures are currently in place for the parent SSRP Project (i) Limiting the amount of cash carried by any one PPM (ii) PPM security training that includes risk awareness and safe mode of travel (iii) introducing the digital method of payment (iv) using two PPMs per cash transfer (principle and deputy PPM) to increase personal security, (v) maintaining a low profile during beneficiary payments by irregular payment patterns and maintaining privacy between PPM and beneficiary during payments. This AF has a low risk of Covid-19 transmission compared to the preparation and implementation of the parent project when transmission was heightened. However, in the event of an increase in the transmission rates, the risk mitigation measures contained in the ESMP under the parent Project will be implemented. The risk of inappropriate disposal of Covid-19 related PPE waste is low due to reduced Covid-19 cases recorded in the country. The AF will utilize the mitigation waste management measures in the ESMP prepared under the parent project to minimize risks associated with PPE waste disposal.

A.2 Social Risk Rating Moderate

The social risks of the project will involve: (i) labor and working conditions risks due to failure to abide by national legislation and ESS2 requirements in relation to working hours, discrimination, compensation, overtime, and benefits;



(ii) occupational health and safety issues involving direct workers recruited under the project and indirect workers engaged related to the project; (iii) Gender based Violence, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (GBV/SEA/SH) involving workers and community volunteers; (iv) Gender exclusion and (v) lack of meaningful consultations and limited participation with some stakeholders (such as people living with disabilities, marginalized women, the young and elderly) resulting in the risk of elite capture and existing social and cultural norms which may limit participation of women during community consultations contrary to ESS 10 tenets. These risks are expected to be moderate.

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

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

Social risks associated with this operation include: (i) risk of exclusion for eligible vulnerable households, including persons living with disability, (ii) elite capture, (iii) labour risks (iv) increased incidence of GBV/SEA/SH and (v) lack of meaningful consultations. Required measures to address these risks are stipulated in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was prepared, disclosed and finalized under the parent project. The SEP contains guidance on identification of project stakeholders, channels of engagement for different groups, including a grievance process for registering complaints. Labour risks may arise and therefore, a Labour Management Procedure (LMP) was prepared including measures for prevention of GBV/SEA/SH. The project will ride on the already existing GBV/SEA/SH action plan under the SSRSP project to address the potential risk of increased GBV/SEA/SH incidences.

The environmental risk is rated moderate due to potential OHS risks associated with the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) method of payment, low risk of Covid-19 transmission under this new operation and inappropriate disposal of PPE. Payment Point Mangers (PPMs) carrying substantial amounts of cash are vulnerable to theft and physical harm. The following measures are currently in place for the parent SSRP Project (i) Increasing the cash threshold limit for the SCT PPMs to reduce the number of bank visits (ii) PPM security training that includes risk awareness and safe mode of travel (iii) introducing the digital method of payment (iv) using two PPMs per cash transfer (principle and deputy PPM) to increase personal security, (v) maintaining a low profile during beneficiary payments by irregular payment patterns and maintaining privacy between PPM and beneficiary during payments. The project developed an ESMP which includes: (i) an updated OHS risk mitigation measures to address PPM security risks , (ii) Covid-19 prevention management plan and (iii) waste management

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

ESS2 is considered relevant for this operation. A Labour Management Procedure (LMP) that includes preventive measures for GBV/SEA/SH, managing OHS risks, prevention of child labour, forced labour and PPM security was prepared and included in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Measures contained in the LMP are applicable to the following worker categories: (i) direct workers (PIU staff/specialists, pay point managers, trainers) at

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national and provincial level and (ii) temporary workers contracted to provide services such as consultants and (iii) community workers (Community Welfare Assistant Committees (CWACs). Selection of CWAC members is conducted through a transparent and inclusive election process at community level. CWAC members work on a voluntary basis to support the implementation of the SCT programme by redefining boundaries on basis of distances to pay points thus ensuring adequate distribution of SCT services. Should the spread of COVID-19 be heightened during cash payouts activities and empowerment orientation activities thereby exposing communities and workers alike, COVID prevention measures which include: (i) social distancing and enhanced hygiene; and (ii) provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the form of facemasks, washbasins and soap; (iii) encouraging frequent handwashing or disinfection with an alcohol based hand sanitizer, and (iv) conducting community meetings in well ventilated spaces among others have been included in the parent LMP and adopted by this AF. In addition, PPM security measures will continue to include (i) limiting the amount of cash carried by any one PPM (ii) PPM security training that includes risk awareness and safe mode of travel (iii) introducing the digital method of payment (iv) using two PPMs per cash transfer (principal and deputy PPM) to increase personal security, reduce the amount of cash carried per PPM, reduce the number of bank visits and the amount stored at any one time (v) maintaining a low profile during beneficiary payments by irregular payment patterns and maintaining privacy between PPM and beneficiary during payments.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

ESS 3 is relevant. The likely PPE waste to be generated in meeting the Covid-19 mitigation requirements consist of face shields, face masks, particulate respirators, nitrile glove and hand sanitizer bottles. Covid-19 related solid waste mitigation measures are documented in the parent project ESMP which will be implemented under the AF.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

Relevant

ESS4 is considered relevant. The risks are limited to issues arising from training activities and cash transfer payment initiative, both involving workers of the project and targeted community members. In the event that Covid -19 arises, the AF project will implement the mitigation measures contained in the ESMP of the parent Project. Proper training on the risk management procedures including OHS measures will be provided by the project’s environmental and social focal points.

GBV/SEA/SH could also be a potential community safety risk. To manage this risk, active implementation of the adopted under the parent project of the LMP, SEP and the GRM will be promoted to ensure awareness among community members. Furthermore, the project will continue implementing the GBV/SEA/SH action developed under the parent project, and additional focal points will be identified to oversee prevention and management of GBV/SEA/SH risks at project and community level. The project has adopted a code of conduct for all workers engaged by the project which includes provisions to address GBV/SEA, and outlines the process of addressing such complaints in line with guidance from the World Bank Good Practice Note (GPN) on GBV.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

ESS 5 is currently considered not relevant since the activities will not involve any land acquisition, restriction on land use or involuntary resettlement.

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ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not Currently Relevant

ESS 6 is not relevant as the project will not have an impact on biodiversity and natural resources.

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

Not Currently Relevant

The standard is not applicable as there are no distinct social and cultural groups in the project area that exhibit characteristics of indigenous or traditionally under-served communities as spelled out under this standard.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

ESS8 is not relevant because the project will not effect tangible and non tangible cultural heritage

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

The project will not make use of financial intermediaries

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

The project prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10 that identifies the relevant project stakeholders that might be affected or interested in the activities of this operation. The SEP outlines the characteristics and interests of the relevant stakeholder groups, and the timing and methods of engagement throughout the life of the component. Key stakeholders include the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services and other organizations involved in the implementation of social protection programs, and communities of all project sites, representatives of women and vulnerable and/or marginalized groups including youth, elderly, disabled and chronically ill as well as extra efforts to reach out to non-beneficiary members of the target communities in terms of the project targeting processes and capacity limits, so as to prevent them from being unduly disadvantaged.

Consultations were held in October 2022 and over five thousand (5,000) participants were consulted with the majority being members of the community. The participants included officers at national, provincial and district level. Later in the same month, engagements were cascaded to nine (9) provinces across the country and participants this time were physically engaged. The targeted provinces included: Central, Copperbelt, Eastern, Luapula, Lusaka, Northern, North-Western, Muchinga and Western province. The main purpose of the consultations was to consult stakeholders on the design of the project and to obtain feedback thereof in relation to projected risks and/or challenges, including proposed mitigation measures aimed at addressing the perceived risks or challenges.



If, during implementation, the Project identifies additional disadvantaged groups they will be included as a relevant stakeholder group. Media and civil society will also be consulted. The project will facilitate meaningful consultations to provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation throughout the project period. Further, the SEP will utilize existing GRM system under the parent project which includes a GRM that is currently in operation and includes GBV/SEA/SH referral pathways that are survivor centered. The SEP has been disclosed in country and will be implemented throughout the project lifecycle and will be redisclosed following any updates. This requirement is reflected in the ESCP.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework No

Borrower Framework will not apply

Use of Common Approach No

There are no other financing partners

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required during implementation?

The project is making use of the already existing instruments under the parent project which include the ESCP, ESMP and SEP

III. CONTACT POINTS

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IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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V. APPROVAL

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