



Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 29-Apr-2020 | Report No: PIDISDSA28108

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Kyrgyz Republic	Project ID P172761	Project Name Enhancing Resilience in Kyrgyzstan Additional Financing	Parent Project ID (if any) P162635
Parent Project Name Enhancing Resilience in Kyrgyzstan Project	Region EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Estimated Appraisal Date 08-May-2020	Estimated Board Date 29-Jun-2020
Practice Area (Lead) Urban, Resilience and Land	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Government of the Kyrgyz Republic	Implementing Agency Ministry of Emergency Situations

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The Project Development Objective is to support the Recipient to strengthen its capacity to respond to disasters, provide safer and improved learning environment for children, and reduce adverse financial impacts of natural hazards on the Recipient's budget and population.

Proposed Development Objective(s) Additional Financing

The Project Development Objective is to strengthen Recipient's capacity to respond to disasters, provide safer and improved learning environment for children, and reduce adverse financial impacts of natural hazards on the Recipient's budget and population.

Components

Strengthening Disaster Preparedness and Response Systems
Improving Safety and Functionality of School Infrastructure
Enhancing Financial Protection
Project Management and Monitoring & Evaluation
Contingent Emergency Response

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	55.00
Total Financing	55.00
of which IBRD/IDA	55.00
Financing Gap	0.00



DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	55.00
IDA Credit	27.50
IDA Grant	27.50

Environmental Assessment Category

B-Partial Assessment

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

Not applicable.

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. **The Kyrgyz Republic is a landlocked, mountainous country and one of the poorest countries in the Europe and Central Asia region, with an estimated population of more than 6 million and per capita gross national income of US\$1,220 in 2018.** According to World Bank estimates, poverty rates (measured by national standards) also remain high and above that of most countries in the Europe and Central Asia region. In 2018, about 22.4 percent of the population lived below the poverty line, while 0.6 percent lived in extreme poverty.¹ A large proportion of the population is clustered just above the poverty line, with a high risk of falling into poverty due to exposure to shocks and insufficient safety nets. Poverty also differs significantly among the regions, with the southern oblasts (regions) in the Fergana Valley (Batken, Jalalabad, and Osh) having lower per capita income, higher unemployment, lower human development indexes, and more limited access to services.

2. **Economic growth and poverty reduction are below the country’s potential, due to, among others, constrained human capital that lacks essential skills required for a more productive and dynamic economy.** The Human Capital Index ranked Kyrgyz Republic 76 out of 157 countries,² meaning a Kyrgyz child born today will be 58 percent as productive when s/he grows up as s/he could be if s/he enjoyed complete education and was fully healthy. Learning poverty is also severe in the Kyrgyz Republic, with 64 percent of 10-years-old children not being able to read.³ Given a large bulge in its school and youth population ages under 30 years, the country has a challenge as well as a huge opportunity to boost its

¹ <http://stat.kg/ru/publications/uroven-bednosti-v-kyrgyzskoj-respublike/> - note for 2018.

² World Bank. 2018. *The Human Capital Project*. Washington, DC: World Bank.

³ <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/207591571223463701/ECA-ECCCA-KGZ-LPBRIEF.pdf>



human capital. However, opportunity to boost human capital will depend on the Kyrgyz Republic’s ability to ensure a safe and enabling learning environment in schools as a condition and a significant contribution to inclusive growth and productivity.

3. **With respect to gender inequality indicators, the Kyrgyz Republic fares better than most of its comparators, but challenges remain in some areas.**⁴ Scores on international gender indexes are relatively high for education and health but low for political empowerment and some aspects of economic participation and opportunities, such as labor force participation and earned income.⁵ While more women than men attend secondary professional vocational schools and universities, there is a gender divide in terms of specializations at the tertiary level, which is later reflected in the labor market. Women are less likely to be employed and, when employed, they earn on average 30 percent less than men. Further, while male out-migration to the Russian Federation for work has weakened some of the traditions that had suppressed women’s economic and civic roles (thus creating greater space for women to engage in paid work), further actions are needed to enhance women’s participation in civic and political activity, especially at the local level (see table 1).

Table 1. Number and Proportion of Women in Local Government Office (2011)

Office	Number of Women	Proportion of Women (%)
Non-elected office		
Government representatives (province/oblast level)	1	14.3
Akims (district level)	1	2.3
Mayors (city level)	0	0.0
Heads of aiul okmotu	22	4.8
Elected Office		
Oblast-level keneshes	1,333	16.3
District-level keneshes	2	5.0
City-level keneshes	0	0.0
Aiyl-level keneshes	37	8.1

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, National Gender Profile of Agricultural and Rural Livelihoods - Kyrgyz Republic, Ankara, 2016.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

4. **The Kyrgyz Republic is exposed to various types of natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudflows, avalanches, torrential rain, strong wind, hail, snow, and so on, which are undermining hard-won development gains, exacerbating poverty in vulnerable groups, and preventing economic growth.** Among these hazards, earthquakes share the largest proportion of potential economic losses. According to a nationwide seismic risk assessment supported by the World Bank,⁶ the average annual economic losses associated with direct damage to buildings are expected to exceed US\$280 million annually (that is, 4.3 percent of 2016 gross domestic product [GDP]). Furthermore, the effects of climate

⁴ The Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for the Kyrgyz Republic (FY19–22) (Report No. 130399-KG).

⁵ World Economic Forum. 2019. *Global Gender Gap Report 2020*. Cologny/Geneva, Switzerland: World Economic Forum.

⁶ World Bank. 2017. *Measuring Seismic Risk in Kyrgyz Republic: Seismic Risk Reduction Strategy*. Washington, DC: World Bank. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/689251517034023101/Measuring-seismic-risk-in-Kyrgyz-Republic-seismic-risk-reduction-strategy>.



change are exacerbating the threat posed by weather-related disasters, such as floods, landslides, and mudflows in the country. The Kyrgyz Republic experiences frequent flooding (annually, about 80,000 people are affected with about US\$60 million lost in potential GDP). Changing climate hazards in terms of increasing temperatures and uncertainty in future water discharge are bound to affect the country's sustainable development path over the next decades and are expected to lead to increasing risks to natural disasters, including more frequent and intense flooding in low-lying areas of river deltas and other extreme weather events.

5. **While the Kyrgyz Republic has a low contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions, building climate resilience is a key priority.** It ranks as the third-most vulnerable country to climate change among the countries in the Europe and Central Asia region. Many types of emergencies in the country depend on the climate extremes such as mudflows, floods, landslides, avalanches, torrential rain, strong wind, hail, and snow. Studies have shown a noticeable increase in the forecasted frequency of various types of hazards such as floods, mudflows, avalanches, heavy rain, hail, and snow fall.⁷ The Kyrgyz Republic is committed to the Paris Agreement and set forth adaptation and mitigation actions in its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) in 2015. The 2015 Kyrgyz Republic's INDC states that the Kyrgyz Republic's adaptation target is to prevent the climate change-related damage and losses in the country. It also sets out the required financial resources for adaptation and expected reduction of economic losses, along with monitoring and reporting modalities. For mitigation, the INDC indicates that the Kyrgyz Republic will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the range of 11.49 percent to 13.75 percent below the Business-as-Usual (BAU) scenario in 2030, and in the range of 12.67 to 15.69 percent below the BAU scenario in 2050.

6. **Among the sectors exposed to earthquakes, the education sector is a high priority because school buildings are the asset most vulnerable to earthquakes.** This priority is recognized by the government at the national level through introduction of the State Program on Safer Schools and Preschools 2015–2024.⁸ The Kyrgyz Republic has more than 3,000 school facilities and over 1 million students exposed to earthquakes. Based on an earthquake scenario assessment supported by the World Bank,⁹ for a return period of 475 years, the education sector can undergo about 26 percent of its school portfolio value in economic losses, and 1.1 percent of the total school occupants (students, teachers, and staff) can die as a result of the collapse of school buildings. Both estimates are the highest among all sectors including housing and health. This high seismic vulnerability can be explained by multiple factors including the following: (a) most of the existing school buildings were built more than 50 years ago and their condition is generally poor because of lack of adequate maintenance, (b) the design and construction regulations in the country at the time of construction of existing schools did not address the potential brittle failure of some components of the buildings when subjected to earthquakes, and (c) many

⁷ UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), GEF (Global Environment Facility), and Government of Kyrgyz Republic. 2016. *Third National Communication of the Kyrgyz Republic under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Bishkek: UNEP, GEF, and Government of Kyrgyz Republic. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/NC3_Kyrgyzstan_English_24Jan2017.pdf.

⁸ The State Program on Safer Schools and Preschools of the Kyrgyz Republic 2015–2024 was established by the Government in 2015; this work was based on a countrywide vulnerability assessment of schools conducted with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

⁹ World Bank. 2017. *Measuring Seismic Risk in Kyrgyz Republic: Seismic Risk Reduction Strategy*. Washington, DC: World Bank. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/689251517034023101/Measuring-seismic-risk-in-Kyrgyz-Republic-seismic-risk-reduction-strategy>.



vulnerable non-engineered community-built school buildings exist in rural areas. To address the high seismic vulnerability in the education sector, the State Program on Safer Schools and Preschools of the Kyrgyz Republic 2015–2024 is aiming to improve the safety of all schools and preschools (2,222 schools and 806 preschools) by 2024.

7. **The Kyrgyz Republic also faces frequent man-made disasters such as fire.** While earthquakes with a magnitude of greater than 5 on the Richter Scale ($M \geq 5$) occur approximately once per month, there is an average of 12 fires of different types occurring every day. The average number of fires in the Kyrgyz Republic from 2006 to 2016 equaled 4,126 fires per year with an estimated economic loss of roughly US\$ 6 million per year. From 2017 to 2019, the average number of fires increased to 4,477 fires per year with an estimated economic impact over the three-year period of US\$7.3 million per year. The average number of lives lost from 2006 to 2016 was 84 per year with the average number of children killed by fire being 10 per year. The latest statistics available for 2019 indicate that 50 people were killed by fires, including seven children, and these numbers demonstrate an escalating level of risk and harm caused by fires. This makes improving the capacity of firefighting service a priority for saving lives.

8. **The Kyrgyz Republic is particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic.** An outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) has been spreading rapidly across the world since December 2019, following the diagnosis of the initial cases in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Since the beginning of March 2020, the number of cases outside China has increased thirteenfold and the number of affected countries has tripled. The COVID-19 outbreak was declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020. On March 11, 2020, the WHO declared a global pandemic as the coronavirus rapidly spreads across the world. As of March 16, 2020, the outbreak has resulted in an estimated 167,515 cases and 6,606 deaths in 151 countries. The WHO has assessed the Kyrgyz Republic's operational readiness for preventing, detecting and responding to a public health emergency as 2 out of 5, among the lowest in the region. On March 18, 2020, the first 3 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the Kyrgyz Republic. Also, sharing a border with China – with high incidence of COVID-19 – puts the Kyrgyz Republic at high risk. Meanwhile, a large share of the population temporarily works abroad, further increasing the likelihood of cross-border contamination. Following the aforementioned dynamics and the likelihood of their intensification, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has issued a decree #92-B on March 22, 2020 announcing a National Emergency Situation in the country.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO

The Project Development Objective is to support the Recipient to strengthen its capacity to respond to disasters, provide safer and improved learning environment for children, and reduce adverse financial impacts of natural hazards on the Recipient's budget and population.

Current PDO

Same as the Original PDO.

Key Results

- Population covered by improved emergency preparedness and response systems in the country (Percentage)



- Landslides of highest risks are monitored and have an associated emergency plan (Percentage)
- Availability of functioning and mission-ready firefighting apparatus is increased (Percentage)
- Firefighting apparatus response travel times in both urban and rural areas are decreased (Percentage)
- Students (disaggregated by gender) having access to safer and resilient school facilities (Number)
- School facilities with improvements in functional conditions (fraction of total number of school facilities with improved safety and resilience) (Percentage)
- Reinsurance program introduced (Yes/No)
- New fully equipped and functional intensive care beds financed by the project (Number)
- Designated hospitals with personal protection equipment, infection control products, medical supplies and consumables, without stock-outs in preceding two weeks (for two years following CERC activation) (Number)

D. Project Description

7. **The AF will add new activities to scale up Component 1 (Strengthening Disaster Preparedness and Response Systems) to address the lack of capacity on firefighting service in the country.** With US\$ 5.5 million from the AF, the following new activities will be implemented:

- (a) **Preparation of firefighting service development program** for strategic, managerial and operational levels. The program will include policies, priority actions, institutional requirements, and investment needs for the effective functioning of the firefighting service. It will also consider a fleet maintenance plan to ensure that the fleet is maintained in a high status of readiness and recommendations on fire department locations to maximize efficiency of the use of the fleet and reduce emergency response times.
- (b) **Provision of required firefighting apparatus and other equipment** to improve fleet capacity and conditions to reduce emergency response times.
- (c) **Preparation and implementation of firefighting training program** to train the firefighting staff to improve their skills and capacity.

8. **The AF will allow significant scaling-up of the activities under Component 2 (Improving Safety and Functionality of School Infrastructure) and thus, the amount of project funds allocated for Component 2 will be increased from US\$12 million to US\$ 49.75 million.** With the additional US\$ 37.75 million allocated to this component from the AF, approximately additional 40 school buildings will be retrofitted or replaced for improving safety against earthquakes accompanied by functional improvements and climate-resilient design. The school buildings to be retrofitted or replaced will be selected according to the defined prioritization criteria, which consider safety benefits and cost efficiency and have already been approved by relevant ministries and applied in the parent project. Specifically, the activities that will be covered include the following:

- (a) **Feasibility studies**, including cost-benefit analysis on typical retrofitting and replacement designs (such as climate resilient design and associated costs) and detailed designs for the school interventions.
- (b) **Retrofitting works of school buildings** to improve the seismic performance of the buildings.
- (c) **Construction of new school buildings.** Schools with buildings to be replaced will benefit



from new buildings with improved seismic performance and climate-resilient and energy-efficient design to reduce the carbon footprint of schools and to allow for cost efficiency and savings in terms of electricity consumption and improved functionality. Interventions in these schools will also consider other aspects, including the demand for additional classrooms in overcrowded schools, accessibility for disabled kids and parents, and gender-oriented provisions.

- (d) **Functional improvements of school buildings.** The interventions of school buildings (whether retrofitting or replacement) will include functional improvements, including energy efficiency upgrades, which will in turn result in savings of electricity consumption thereby reducing the carbon footprint of schools, improved water supply systems, sanitation and hygiene, including promoting the use of indoor toilets in schools, recreational areas, improved fire safety, enhanced accessibility to children with disabilities, and gender-oriented provisions, among others. In case of schools that use coal boilers, the Project will promote the use of electricity-based systems. The design of energy efficiency improvements will be informed by an understanding of the operating costs at each selected school site due to conversion from coal to electricity. As part of conversion from coal to electricity-based system, upgrades to transformers may be required, in case of lack of capacity of the existing ones.
- (e) **Furniture and equipment.** Provision of minimum required furniture and equipment ensures full operation of the schools intervened under the project after the execution of the retrofitting or replacement works.
- (f) **Special Design Criteria.** The feasibility studies and designs will comply with national building regulations as well as Special Design Criteria established under the project. These criteria aim to facilitate the execution of the current Kyrgyz provisions for seismic resistance of buildings on the seismic assessment and retrofitting of school buildings, and to ensure that the engineering solutions designed under the project are cost-efficient. The Special Design Criteria will potentially complement existing design provisions for new school buildings to ensure that the new designs comply with the safety and functionality improvement objectives of the project.
- (g) **Educational service continuity and construction of temporary classrooms.** To mitigate any potential disruption to the educational services provided in the selected schools during the execution of the civil works, mitigation measures will be implemented to ensure continuity of these services. The type of measures depends on, inter alia, the proximity and availability of classrooms in other schools in the neighborhood, possibility of moving students to other buildings on the same school site while building works are executed in a specific building, and existence of sufficient outdoor space to build temporary classrooms. Consequently, these measures may include relocation of students to other school facilities or construction of temporary classrooms at the original school site. The temporary classrooms will only be used during the execution and until completion of the civil works.
- (h) **Updating long-term national intervention and investment plan.** As required, the AF will update and improve the long-term national intervention and investment plan to improve



the safety and functionality of school infrastructure countrywide.

- (i) **Strengthening the existing education management information system.** The AF will continue improving the existing information system to strengthen monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the overall implementation of the State Program on Safer Schools and Preschools. The activity will continue supporting the design and production of a web-based school infrastructure module and its integration into the existing information system.

9. **The AF will help strengthen project management and monitoring and evaluation under Component 4 (Project Management and Monitoring & Evaluation) to implement the expanded scope under Component 2 (Improving Safety and Functionality of School Infrastructure), with amount of funds allocated for Component 4 increased from US\$ 1 million to US\$ 3.75 million.** With the significant increase in the number of school buildings to be retrofitted or replaced, the PIU will be strengthened by hiring additional consultants for the following functions: engineer(s)/coordinator(s) for Component 2, environmental and social safeguards specialist(s), and communication specialist(s). Additional funds for increased operating costs will also be provided for project management and monitoring and evaluation. The AF will also include various communication activities to support the implementation of project activities. The AF will add US\$ 2.75 million under Component 4 (Project Management and Monitoring & Evaluation) to finance these activities.

10. **The ERIK Project will continue to maintain Component 5 on Contingent Emergency Response to improve the Kyrgyz Republic's capacity to respond to disasters.** Following an eligible crisis or emergency, the recipient may request the World Bank to reallocate project funds to support emergency response and reconstruction, based on the provisions laid out in the Project Operational Manual (POM).

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

The institutional and implementation arrangements remain the same as the parent project.

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

Target schools will be located in different regions of the country, in both towns and in rural areas, including remote areas. As the existing schools will be mostly located in build-up areas, they will not be in close proximity to areas of biodiversity significance, natural parks or natural habitats, or cultural heritage in the close vicinity. However, possible interaction with sensitive ecosystems such as rivers and mountains which typically surround rural schools in the target regions, could be expected and need to be considered at the environmental screening stage. Almost all schools beyond the boundaries of Bishkek are not connected to the central heating systems, often coal boilers are being used, while electric heating is to less extent due to higher running costs. Gas supply is very limited in rural areas; therefore, this alternative shall be considered



for the longer-term. Thus, specific attention should be given to the alternative energy sources, or combined heating system (electricity/coal/gas) even if the latter one has longer term plans.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Javaid Afzal, Environmental Specialist
Aimonchok Tashieva, Social Specialist
Aidai Bayalieva, Environmental Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	

KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The proposed AF of IDA grant and credit will finance scale-up activities of the Project's Component 2 on "Improving Safety and Functionality of School Infrastructure", therefore, the number of targeted schools will increase. The



Component 2 aims to improve the safety and resilience of school facilities by: (i) replacement of existing buildings by new safer buildings or (ii) seismic retrofitting of existing buildings. Additional functional improvements will include: (i) energy efficiency improvements, such as replacement of windows/doors and insulation of the existing building, and (ii) interventions to ensure basic hygiene and sanitation conditions by providing water supply and toilet facilities, as also required under the national standards and norms on school buildings. In addition, the heating and ventilation systems are expected to be improved, including replacement/repair of boilers and heating network, as well as sport gyms with proper facilities.

The original project was assigned environmental category “B” based on the OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment. The assigned category remains unchanged for additional financing. The environmental risks are expected to be site-specific, moderate and short-lived with low to moderate probability and severity of harm. Most of works (retrofitting or new construction) are expected to be within the premises of the existing school territory and will be implemented with consideration to limit disruption to the teaching and learning process. For the new construction, the environmental impacts are expected to be relatively larger scale compared with retrofitting works, as in the former case existing schools to be dismantled, thus creating more dust and noise, more waste generation, perhaps land acquisition and resettlement, as well as health and safety impacts from construction camps. Improper restoration of construction sites after the works completion also impose a risk and needs to be handled throughout the project. To ensure supply of safe drinking water to the students and teachers, the designs will ensure that water source for water supply and sanitary facilities is safe and water resources are used efficiently.

In general, the expected environmental impacts include improper care, handling, and storage of construction materials and waste, generation of excessive noise and dust, vibration, health impacts related to handling and inadequate disposal of asbestos- or mercury-containing material, as well as such occupational health and safety hazards, as works at height and in confined spaces. These potential issues have been adequately discussed in the ESMF with guidance on their mitigation.

To prevent environmental pollution of soil and groundwater by wastewater, new water supply and toilet systems need to have proper sewerage (septic) systems.

Certain environmental and safety risks associated with the conservation of the existing outdoor toilets are expected and should be properly tackled through emptying, disinfection, dismantling, closing or fencing to prevent access by students.

Renovation or new construction of the heating system should take into consideration options alternative to coal-based boilers, such as electricity or gas. As some schools practice cultivating the gardens within their premises, gardens need to be reallocated and properly restored after the works completion. Students and community safety measures will be included in the environmental and social management planning.

Towards addressing these issues, the client prepared an environmental and social management framework (ESMF) under the original project. The scope of this ESMF was country-wide, covering all regions and with the proposed AF scaling up, there is no change in geographic coverage. The Client has updated current ESMF with consideration of the Additional Financing, and therefore held another round of public consultations in Bishkek on March 5th, 2020 and re-disclosed updated ESMF on March 24th, 2020. The updated ESMF was disclosed by the Bank on March 23rd, 2020. The client has also prepared Model ESMP and Model Monitoring Plan to serve as a basic sample document for site-specific ESMPs.

The site-specific environmental management and safety measures to be prepared following the project ESMF should be included in the bidding documents and draft contracts.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area: Activities under the project may in the long run have positive impacts on environment and people’s health due to



safer schools, reduced exposure to hazardous substances such as asbestos, access to safe water and proper heating. In some cases, where existing premises are not sufficient for construction of a new school, land acquisition may be required. Such land acquisition may affect agricultural land and proper resettlement measures, including compensation, will be carefully studied in each particular case. Indirect impacts may include road safety issues related to construction works, as well as temporary relocation of the students to other existing schools in other parts of the village or even other villages in cases, where project school does not have premises for temporary relocation. Such risks should be properly addressed in traffic safety plans and monitoring, as well as potential arrangement of transportation for students, who have to temporarily study at remote schools.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

Retrofitting/new construction alternatives will be determined at the design stage and reflected in design documentation considering safer and efficient options. The final decision on retrofitting/new construction will consider potential environmental and social impacts, in addition to cost-effective and safety solutions. In case of replacement/renovation of heating supply system, alternatives to coal-based heating should be thoroughly studied and consider longer-term prospects, for instance combined system 'coal-gas-electricity', as the government has plans to provide gas supply in all rural areas in mid- and long-term. However, the preferred option would be coal-free heating to ensure air quality and CO2 emissions.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

The client has well-functioning PIU with environmental safeguards specialist hired at central office in 2019, as was required under the POM. The performance of the newly hired safeguards specialist is satisfactory and all agreements with the Bank are fulfilled in timely manner and are in good shape. No physical works under Component 2 have started so far. Once the works are to begin, it is recommended that 2 additional environmental specialists, at regional level, are hired to monitor the environmental performance under the project at various project locations. Without it, it will be very challenging for the only Environmental Specialist to visit sites spread over various regions, including remote areas. Further on, in case it will become challenging for total 3 safeguards specialists to monitor the project, the Client and the Bank will review the need to strengthen further the environment team and decide. Technical supervision engineers (firm or individual) to be hired by PIU will be also monitoring closely the environmental performance of the contracts on regular basis, as they will be present on sites. To enhance safeguards capacity of such field engineers, as well as contractors, the Client will also prepare Environmental Safeguards Training Modules for engineers and contractors for the Component 2 to provide training on safeguards.

The Client prepared ESMF under the original project, which has been revised and updated. Apart from describing expected environmental and social impacts from the anticipated works, the ESMF defines the environmental screening and assessment process for site -specific interventions and outlines the requirements for and the template of the site-specific ESMPs. ESMF is an integral part of the project POM, POM prepared under the original project will be also applied to the AF, and is being revised by the Client with consideration of the AF. Public consultations were held on March 5th, 2020. The PIU has also prepared Model Environmental and Social Management Plan (Model ESMP), Guidelines on Environmental and Social Safeguards and Screening Checklist for Component 2 to address environmental safeguards issues. Model ESMP is a sample document that will guide further development of site-specific ESMPs. Such site-specific ESMPs should become an integral part of the bidding documentation for construction contractors and should be referred to in the draft contracts, including contractual measures in case of non-compliance with safeguards requirements.

This GRM was developed for the entire project and activities to be financed under additional financing, but needs



further improvement and support in operationalizing it. The current GRM provides flexibility and accessibility to use through the variety of channels (i.e. hot lines, written appeals or inquiries to the PIU, in-person inquiries or meetings with stakeholders for those who complain, and electronic submission of inquiries). In addition to complaints, project-level GRM also accepts inquiries and recommendations on the project activities. The PIU maintains a grievance log of all inquiries and complaints received to be received in the future.

The risks related to gender-based violence (GBV) will be assessed throughout the lifetime of the project, taking into account both the broader country context, as well as risks posed by project activities specifically. Assessment of local capacity to respond and prevent GBV risks posed by the project will also be done in order to identify availability of safe and ethical service provision for survivors. The project reporting will include information not only on the status of safeguards issues, but also any evolving GBV risks that may occur as a result of works and construction activities during implementation.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

Under the original project, ESMF and RPF documents were disclosed in the local language and public consultation was held with the key stakeholders, interest groups and NGOs during March 2018. As the proposed AF is a scale up activity, current ESMF is applied and has been revised, updated and consulted with stakeholders on March 5th, 2020 and re-disclosed at Ministry of Emergency Situations' website on March 24th, 2020 at [.http://ru.mes.kg/2020/02/28/informaciya-po-dopolnitelnomu-finansirovaniyu-proekta-povyshenie-ustojch](http://ru.mes.kg/2020/02/28/informaciya-po-dopolnitelnomu-finansirovaniyu-proekta-povyshenie-ustojch). The updated ESMF was disclosed by the Bank on March 23rd, 2020. Site -specific ESMPs will undergo the same procedure but at the specific project locations.

Additionally, ESMF was further updated to reflect activities under the Contingent Emergency Response Component which was triggered in April 1, 2020 to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. The latest updated ESMF was re-disclosed on the Ministry of Emergency Situations' website on April 29, 2020 at <http://ru.mes.kg/2020/04/29/proekt/>. This version of the ESMF has been submitted for disclosure by the Bank on April 29, 2020.

B. Disclosure Requirements (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure	For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors
-----------------------------	-----------------------------------	--

"In country" Disclosure



Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process

Date of receipt by the Bank

Date of submission for disclosure

"In country" Disclosure

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting) (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Ko Takeuchi
Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist

Fernando Ramirez Cortes
Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Government of the Kyrgyz Republic
Azamat Mambetov



State Secretary
mambetovazamat@mail.ru

Implementing Agencies

Ministry of Emergency Situations
Cholpon Abdyldaeva
Ms.
cholponabd78@mail.ru

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>

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Ko Takeuchi Fernando Ramirez Cortes
----------------------	--

Approved By

Safeguards Advisor:	Nina Chee	29-Apr-2020
Practice Manager/Manager:	David N. Sislen	29-Apr-2020
Country Director:	Bolormaa Amgaabazar	30-Apr-2020