



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 06/29/2020 | Report No: ESRSC01468



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
India	SOUTH ASIA	P174564	
Project Name	West Bengal Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection PforR		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Protection & Jobs	Program-for-Results Financing	9/16/2020	10/29/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
West Bengal Department of Finance	West Bengal Department of Women and Children Development and Social Welfare, West Bengal Department of Finance		

Proposed Development Objective

The proposed operation aims to strengthen the capability of the state of West Bengal to build an inclusive and efficient social protection system which empowers vulnerable groups.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
IPF Component	5.00
Total Project Cost	125.00

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

No

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

The IPF component will finance technical assistance and training related to establishment of a women's employment promotion platform and moving the focus of social care services to household case management.



D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

This project is a TA component of the Program for Results processed as an IPF and will be implemented in the State of West Bengal.

Climate change has increased the intensity and frequency of storms in the Bay of Bengal resulting in cyclones affecting West Bengal and its neighboring states. While the state is reeling under the impact of COVID lockdown, recent cyclone Amphan has battered West Bengal resulting in loss of lives, livelihood, livestock and agricultural produce. Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan was the first super cyclonic storm to occur in the Bay of Bengal since the 1999 Odisha Cyclone. Amphan is also the costliest cyclone ever recorded in the North Indian Ocean, surpassing the record held by Cyclone Nargis of 2008. Coastal areas in West Bengal —as well as Kolkata, Hooghly, Howrah, North 24 Parganas, and South 24 Parganas —were affected by the cyclone. It also caused significant destruction in Bangladesh and Odisha. It has caused over US\$13 billion of damage. Super cyclone Amphan developed in the Bay of Bengal as the strongest cyclone ever to be recorded in the region, comparable to a Category 5 hurricane. For a region that was already strained by the impacts of COVID-19, the cyclone is an unprecedented environmental and social disaster. The state had to respond with ad hoc benefits using different delivery mechanism. This development of the Social Protection Delivery Platform named Jai Bangla supported by this operation as a prior action shall enable the state to develop an adaptive safety net system which can mitigate the impact of these types of climate induced shocks.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The West Bengal Department of Women and Children Development and Social Welfare is the Implementing Agency of the PforR Program and this IPF TA that supports capacity building and trainings. The Department manages both West Bengal's series of social pension and social care programs for vulnerable and poor socio-demographic groups (disabled, widows and elderly) and cash and productive inclusion programs to empower adolescent girls and women which aim to address labor force participation gaps. The state government has also invested in building an integrated system of delivering social protection benefits through the 'Jai Bangla' platform, which marks the beginning of the state's intent to create a dynamic social registry which can be used to strengthen coverage and targeting of current programs, while simultaneously allowing the state to provide support during any crisis or disaster. That said, the State and the Implementing Agency are quite familiar with Bank's requirements on E&S risk management. This will be assessed in greater detail in the Environmental and Social System Assessment of the PforR component and capacity building (for example in identification, proper targeting and inclusion of excluded and vulnerable groups – people with disabilities, the aged, scheduled caste and tribal communities, specific socially and economically marginalized communities like the nachnis, etc. - in the program as well as capacity building of PIU staff for conducting meaningful stakeholder consultations, sharing program design and seeking feedback from stakeholders and strengthening existing GRMs), where needed, will be included in the Program Action Plan.

Public Disclosure

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low



Environmental Risk Rating

Low

This IPF component of the Program for Result is solely a technical assistance to support trainings and capacity building related to the establishment of a women's employment promotion platform and shift to household care management from social care services. It will not support any studies or preparation of future investments nor will it support formulation of policies, plans, programs, strategies or legal frameworks. There will be no civil works nor procurement of any medical supplies and equipment. That said, the environment risk rating is assessed to be low.

Social Risk Rating

Low

The TA component under the program is aimed at supporting the establishment of a platform to promote women's employment and facilitate the shift from social care services to home based care. The TA does not intend to support studies, any other investments or civil works. Given the nature of the TA support, the social risk rating is assessed as low.

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

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

The environment and social risk for this TA is low considering that it will only finance trainings and capacity building of targeted household and women beneficiaries, training of and re-orientation of field workers and setting up the social protection delivery platform.

An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan proportional to the level of risk will be developed by the client and will embed the Labor Management Procedures and workers' GRM (a separate LMP is not needed). A Stakeholder Engagement Plan will also be developed. All these will be disclosed prior to appraisal.

Areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered:

Borrower Framework will not be used for this project.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The establishment of a women's employment platform will involve several stakeholders – for e.g.: other government departments, industry associations, training and skill development institutions, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations, individual researchers, women's rights activists, etc. Effectively engaging with these stakeholders will be critical for the success of the endeavor.

Similarly, capacity building of home-based care workers would require close collaboration between the Social Welfare Department and training & skill development institutions as well as several independent trainers. The capacity building initiatives would be designed to understand and address specific needs of vulnerable target audience such as the aged, people with disabilities, widows, scheduled caste and tribal communities among others. A simplified stakeholder engagement plan outlining will be prepared and disclosed prior to appraisal.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

Public Disclosure



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

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

TA activities mainly employ direct workers and will not involve contracted workers, primary supply workers and community workers.

Capacity building initiatives for delivering home based care under the TA will be targeted at existing front line workers (Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs)) who are already employed as direct workers with the Department of Social Welfare and the Department of Health & Family Welfare respectively. The PforR program does not envisage the hiring of any additional direct or indirect workers. Existing laws and regulations of the national and state governments related to labor and working conditions of government employees also cover AWWs and ASHAs. Consequently, the risks related to labor and working conditions for direct workers are assessed to be low at the concept stage. The team will assess this aspect in greater detail during preparation. Labor Management Procedures, including workers' GRM, will be embedded in the ESCP.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This is mainly a TA to support training and capacity building. This standard is not relevant.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

This is solely a TA that poses no risk to communities.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The TA will not involve any civil works. Nor will it entail any land acquisition resulting in involuntary resettlement, economic displacement or restrictions on land use.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The TA will not involve any works or studies that will have risks and impacts relevant to the standard.

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

The TA poses no risks or adverse impacts on indigenous peoples.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

No works or activities under this TA that will have risk and impact relevant to this standard.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries



Not applicable

B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks

At the concept stage, there appears to be no other project risks relevant to the project

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered? No

Financing Partners

Not applicable

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Actions prior to Bank appraisal:

- 1. ESCP that will embed LMP and workers' GRM; and,
- 2. Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

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

- 1. Implementation of the ESCP and SEP.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS 29-Oct-2020

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

Contact: Shrayana Bhattacharya Title: Senior Social Protection Economist

Telephone No: 5785+79112 Email: sbhattacharya3@worldbank.org

Contact: Qaiser M. Khan Title: Lead Economist

Public Disclosure



Telephone No: 5785+79117

Email: qkhan@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: West Bengal Department of Finance

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: West Bengal Department of Women and Children Development and Social Welfare

Implementing Agency: West Bengal Department of Finance

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): Qaiser M. Khan, Shrayana Bhattacharya
Practice Manager (ENR/Social) David Seth Warren Recommended on 29-Jun-2020 at 21:31:27 EDT