



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 04/26/2022 | Report No: ESRSA02119



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Ecuador	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	P178564	
Project Name	Strengthening the National Statistical System in Ecuador		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Poverty and Equity	Investment Project Financing	4/21/2022	7/12/2022
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of Ecuador	Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos - INEC, Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC)		

Proposed Development Objective

The Proposed Project Development Objective is to improve the national statistical capacity of Ecuador in the production and dissemination of timely and high-quality economic and sociodemographic statistics for evidence-based policymaking.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	86.79

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]

This project aims to assist the Government of Ecuador in strengthening its National Statistical System to enhance the effectiveness of public policies based on updated, reliable, and publicly available statistics. This program will support the National Statistical Office (INEC acronym in Spanish) in implementing the next Population and Housing Census and updating Ecuadorian consumption patterns with a new income and expenditure survey. This last survey will help



correct the basic food basket, monetary poverty thresholds, and consumer price index. The program will build capacity and innovate in producing official statistics by exploiting administrative records and georeferenced statistics to monitor and evaluate programs.

Updated information on the population distribution and living conditions is critical for designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating public policies. Updated Census data will help the Government of Ecuador support policies to fight chronic malnutrition and gender violence, create new jobs, strengthen the social protection system, and improve the living conditions of minorities and indigenous populations. It will also help national and regional governments improve service delivery in rapid urbanization contexts by quickly identifying access gaps in infrastructures, such as water, sanitation, and transport.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

With a total area of 283,561 km², Ecuador lies between latitudes 2°N and 5°S. Ecuador has four geographic regions: (i) The Coast, which is the western region bordering the Pacific Ocean and includes the western provinces of the Andean mountain range – seven provinces (ii) The Sierra, which consists of the provinces of the Andean and inter-Andean highlands – ten provinces, (iii) The Amazon, formed by the provinces of the Amazon jungle – six provinces, and (iv) The Insular Region that includes the Galápagos Islands, about 1,000 kilometers west of the continent in the Pacific Ocean.

The scope of the proposed project is nationwide; its main activity is the planning and implementation of data collection for the “VIII Population Census and VII Housing Census” of Ecuador, covering all households, both in urban and rural areas. The project also proposes to support data collection for other surveys (“National Income and Expenditure”, “New Labor Force”, and “Agricultural Integrated Survey”). Ecuador’s Constitution recognizes the plurinational and multicultural nature of its heterogeneous population. According to the last population census (2010), in Ecuador the majority of the population self-identified as Mestizo (72 percent), White (6.1 percent) or Other (0.4 percent), whereas 21 percent of the Ecuadorian population self-identified as part of an ethnic group: Indigenous (7 percent), Afro-descendant (7.1 percent), or Montubio (7.4 percent). Indigenous peoples (IPs) were found to live predominantly in rural areas in the highlands and Amazon (80 percent), Montubios along the coast, and three-quarters of Afro-Ecuadorians (AEs) in urban areas. During the last decade, Ecuador has gone through several events that could have modified the socioeconomic conditions: an earthquake (2016), a strong influx of foreign migrants (2016-2019), economic crises due to falling oil prices (2014, 2020), and the COVID-19 pandemic, among others, which have generated different dynamics in socioeconomic indicators such as employment, poverty, and labor market composition. For these reasons, socioeconomic and demographic information as a basis for territorial planning and public policy making, is outdated, due a two-year delay in the implementation of the latest census due to the pandemic.

Regarding Venezuelan immigration influx, it is estimated that approximately 1.9 million Venezuelans have passed through Ecuador since 2016. Most have continued their journey to countries further south, although around 430,000 have chosen to settle in Ecuador. The search for better living conditions, a desire for social integration, options for legal residency, personal connections, and new economic opportunities seem to be the main pull factors that influence the decision of Venezuelans to remain in Ecuador.



The proposed project aims to improve the national statistical capacity of Ecuador in the production and dissemination of timely and high-quality economic and sociodemographic statistics for evidence-based policymaking, based on 4 components: (1) strengthening demographic information through the implementation of the VII Housing and VIII Population Census, (2) improving data production and dissemination covering the income and expenditure and employment surveys, plus employment survey, and agriculture integrates survey as well as updating statistical products based on their results, (3) strengthening statistical production through administrative records, and (4) providing project management, monitoring, and evaluation. According to the current information the activities comprising the project's components are mostly of an administrative nature, activities that do not pose significant environmental or social risks according to the ESF. The main project activities, which are both under Component 1, that may potentially generate environmental and social risks are: (i) the physical deployment of the census in its enumeration phase, when personnel contracted by the project would undertake physical visits throughout the country to obtain firsthand information; and (ii) the provision of almost 18,000 tablets to the personnel in charge of field activities related to the census implementation and supervision.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The implementing agency will be the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), which is the institution that has historically carried out censuses in Ecuador. INEC is permanently collecting data for the production of statistics related to Ecuador; in addition to being used to this type of work, it has procedures in place for managing the risks inherent in the types of activities included in the project, especially those related to occupational health and safety of the staff involved in the data collection and analysis process, as well as to individuals belonging to households, communities, organizations, etc. from whom information is collected for statistical production during the execution of the census and surveys associated with the project. Updates to existing procedures regarding occupational health and safety will include: (i) the identification of significant occupational health and safety risks for workers involved in the project's execution; (ii) the corresponding measures to manage the aforementioned risks; (iii) emergency management protocols; and (iv) mechanisms for legal and Bank reporting of incidents and accidents inherent to the project. These will be reflected in the LMP (Labor Management Procedures) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).

INEC has already taken steps to create a Project Implementation Unit (PIU), consisting of a project coordinator, a technical assistant, and specialists in financial management, procurement, environmental and social issues management, and monitoring and evaluation. As part of the staffing of the PIU, a qualified social and environmental specialist will be contracted to oversee E&S matters; this has been included in the project's Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) as a condition to be fulfilled by INEC after the effectiveness date. Otherwise, despite the technical experience of INEC in conducting surveys and data collection, this is the first time that it will be implementing a project under the ESF. As such, the client's capacity to implement the project in accordance with the ESF is limited. The Institute's capacity for environmental and especially social issues management was assessed during project preparation, and the findings indicate that INEC, despite not having environmental or social specialists, has: (i) generated protocols for the biosafety management of their personnel; (ii) produced a self-care protocol for occupational health and safety risks; and (iii) incorporated a risk specialist into the project preparation team, which is working on updating the documents inherent to the identification of occupational health and safety risks and the measures for their management. Despite these advances, the due diligence process demonstrated that it is necessary for INEC to update E&S management procedures and tools to cover certain gaps with respect to what is requested under the relevant ESSs. The recommendations coming out of this assessment regarding the staffing, training, and other capacity building needed to manage the project in accordance with the ESF have been reflected in the ESCP.



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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

Based on the available information, the proposed environmental risk classification for the project is Moderate under the ESF. This classification is based on the following: (i) the environmental risks resulting from the physical census execution are not significant as the activities refer to basic logistics and simple social interrelationships; (ii) the operation will neither finance or require large civil works activities nor will it support other activities likely to cause environmental harm; and (iii) the project includes the purchase of information technology equipment (approximately 18,000 tablets and a physical server) for the execution of the census, which could lead to adverse environmental impacts in the event of inadequate or improper handling or disposal, or disposal that differs from local legislation and the procedures recommended by the manufacturers, which shall be confirmed by an ex-post environmental and social assessment in the event that retroactive financing is required for this purchase. In order to manage this last risk, INEC will outline in the Project Operational Manual (POM) a procedure for the proper management of potential electronic waste, including measures for prevention and mitigation in accordance with local environmental legislation and the ESF. At this time, no specific environmental studies will be required.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

Based on the available information, the proposed social risk classification for the project is Moderate. The activities to be carried out as part of the project do not involve any physical impacts on territories or communities, since they will essentially require information gathering from households to produce aggregated statistical data at the national level. The main social risks associated with this project are: (i) risks to community health and safety during census execution, when household members may be exposed to COVID-19 virus transmission, sexual harassment and assault, and become victims of criminals posing as enumerators; (ii) risks associated with occupational health and safety, since the health and/or physical integrity of INEC’s field team during the data collection phase could be placed at risk when they work in unsafe neighborhoods or conflict areas, in addition to the risk posed by the transportation of personnel through unsafe roads; (iii) risks of sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace, particularly resulting from the hiring of a significant number of enumerators, supervisors, and administrative staff, many of which will need to travel and use temporary accommodations; (iv) risks associated with the cultural sensitivity of the population, especially in indigenous communities, during the field visits and in communication campaigns; and (v) risks associated with the use of security personnel, considering that INEC has mentioned that it will work with military and police to provide support during the census field phase, which may pose a risk to communities and individuals. These risks are associated with a context where the ability of the PIU to effectively monitor compliance with the relevant ESF provisions during the execution of the Project may be limited, particularly given the ongoing pandemic restrictions, along with the national scale of the project, in a country characterized by a high proportion of ethnic and racial minorities such as indigenous peoples, Montubios, and Afro-descendants (IPAMs), as well as other vulnerable groups.

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

B.1. General Assessment

Public Disclosure



ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

This standard is relevant. As mentioned under section II.A, the main environmental risks and impacts associated with the project are related to the potential mismanagement of a significant volume of tablets to be purchased and used throughout project implementation. Measures for the proper management of technological equipment will be addressed in the Project Operational Manual. In addition, the ESCP establishes a specific commitment related to adequate e-waste management. Under ESS3, more information is included related to the potential risks and impacts to be caused by the handling and disposal of electronic equipment and hazardous materials. The main social risks and impacts are related to community health and safety during census execution on one hand, and to occupational health and safety for the project's numerous workers on the other (see the ESS2 section for more information).

As mentioned in section D.2., the implementing agency does not have experience with World Bank-financed projects under the ESF. Nevertheless, INEC has a set of procedures developed for its daily operational activities, including those applied during the execution of pilot census in 2021 and other surveys, and which will be applied for the management of the census. These procedures include labor management aspects, community and worker health and safety protocols, biosecurity, operational procedures for field work, codes of conduct and ethics, among others. These procedures have been integrated into the different management instruments, such as the SEP, LMP and as part of some of the commitments in the ESCP, and all project workers will receive specific training in the different protocols and procedures, depending on the activities they will perform in the project. Just the same, it will also be necessary to train the project's E&S specialist, once hired, and to strengthen the ability of the PIU to manage the E&S risks of the project in accordance with the ESF. This would include the updating of codes of conduct, COVID-19 protocols and other relevant procedures related to carrying out of the census and other project activities.

INEC has developed an ESCP outlining environmental and social risk management commitments and actions related to ESS1, ESS10, ESS2, ESS3, ESS4 and ESS7. It has also developed an SEP, in accordance with ESS10, that describes relevant stakeholder engagement and communications actions for the project. Under ESS2, a draft version of the LMP has been prepared and will be published by appraisal, with the final version due by project effectiveness. Commitments related to ensure an adequate coverage of cultural sensitivity issues for indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups under ESS7 have been included in the ESCP, and specific procedures for related tasks will be included in the POM. To mitigate identified risks related to community health and safety, a Code of Conduct for workers with provisions for preventing SEA/SH has been developed and included in the LMP, along with measures to be included in the POM. Finally, as public security forces will support the census deployment, a specific protocol regarding their support to census workers will be incorporated into a Safety and Security Plan under preparation by INEC, as specified in the ESCP.

The project will include retroactive financing (RF). Based on the information obtained during project preparation, it is foreseen that the items to be retroactively financed that will require an E&S assessment are: (i) Hiring of civilian personnel for INEC's central and district offices; (ii) Dissemination, information, and publicity (contracting the service of a communications agency); and (iii) Acquisition and maintenance of technological mobile devices.

As mentioned, as the project involves retroactive financing, an ex-post environmental and social assessment will be carried out by INEC as a disbursement condition to confirm that the activities carried out during the retroactive period have been implemented in accordance with the relevant ESSs. The terms of reference for such assessment will



be developed and agreed with the Bank in due course and included in the POM. INEC will ensure that information is collected appropriately and efficiently and prepare the report (including a corrective action plan, if necessary) for the Bank's review so that this disbursement condition may be fulfilled in a timely manner.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

This standard is relevant. This project will be implemented on a national scale, so, one important form of interaction with stakeholders will be based on mass communication, rather than on engagement with specific groups, along with the proper application of a grievance mechanism consistent with ESS10. But this will come with an appropriate level of attention to specific groups at all stages of project cycle, and in relation to all project components. INEC, as the implementing entity, has already laid a strong base for stakeholder engagement (SE) during the project's preparation phase, in the context of the deployment of the national population and housing census. As the census was supposed to be carried out in 2020, SE processes began in 2019 when, for the construction of the survey form, some meetings with civil society, academia and international organizations were held. These events, which involved some 644 participants, serve as examples of two-way engagement with well-defined feedback loops. After the 2020 census was suspended, consultative activities were restarted to shape a new pilot census to be carried out in 2020 and 2021. New pilots were conducted with the participation of international observers, and 18 focus groups with more than 242 participants from different sectors, as well as tests in other statistical operations, were held.

The discussion of the census questionnaire began in April 2019, through the Special Statistical Commission (SSC) for the VIII Population and VII Housing Census, the Thematic Commissions, consultations with experts, and workshops for discussion of census-related topics. The SSC carried out activities through the technical groups of seven Thematic Commissions, according to the content of the census questionnaire: population and migration; living conditions; education and ICT; health; labor and economic production; gender and priority groups (disability, peoples and nationalities, gender); and environment, energy and water. The contributions and requirements regarding the content of the survey form are varied, since some of the entities requested to keep questions from the 2010 census questionnaire, and others only helped to define more appropriate questions. A total of 410 proposals for inclusion in the census questionnaire were received during the process, which were classified according to relevance. As a result of the discussions, the following are some examples of the main modifications made: (i) Incorporation of a question on pet ownership: the Local Governments need to regulate the ownership of urban fauna, considering their impact on biodiversity and public health systems of the population. (ii) Women's groups: Incorporation of questions on age of the mother when she had her first child in order to make cases of underaged pregnancy more visible. (iii) SSC for IPAMs: Updating names and languages of IPAMs, in addition to the identification of ethnic adscriptions not included in the existing categories. (iv) Housing authority: Updating of housing materials and clarification of housing status questions to ensure comparability with previous census. (v) LGBTIQ+ collectives: Incorporation of questions on gender identity and sexual orientation. Census experiences in the region have been considered and the questions have been tested in pilot exercises and other surveys. It is worth mentioning that, on these and other topics, workshops were held with high-level experts with experience in census activities in the region and with knowledge in demography and census statistical operations. Workshops were also held with international organizations and the National Statistical Offices of other countries, to discuss methodological options and exchange experiences. Through these discussions it was possible to ratify the main methodological change in the upcoming census (to a Census of Law), and to consider the importance of innovating in technology through the use of electronic devices in census data collection.



During the project preparation phase, INEC carried out a dedicated information session with representatives of Ecuador’s indigenous peoples (IP), to provide them with details on the execution of the census and to make them aware of a follow-on stakeholder consultation event centered on the project’s Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). This event, carried out prior to Appraisal, provided deeper engagement with a range of vulnerable groups around the census plans, such as the elderly, Afro-descendants, people with disabilities, the LGBTIQ+ community, migrants (documented and undocumented), and people living in remote areas, including IP. To avoid possible risks of exclusion, INEC is working on communication campaigns to prevent certain population groups from being afraid to answer the survey—for example, undocumented persons or migrants. With respect to undocumented migrants, the lack of an ID card will not prevent anyone in the national territory from being considered. For IPs, INEC is working on response categories, so that through the "others" option, the self-identification of people who self-identify as part of not recognized groups among the response categories can be recorded. In order to ensure the inclusion of the population residing in risky areas, such as the national border, homeless people, or sectors known to be highly dangerous, specific registration activities will be carried out, with the accompaniment of public security forces where needed. To avoid the risk of exclusion of people based on gender identity or sexual orientation, filter questions have been incorporated to determine whether people feel comfortable talking about these issues, and thus reduce the possibility of under-registration. One of the alternatives for those who may not wish to share sensitive information with enumerators is to use the “self-census” option, whereby people can enter their census data through the online platform available for this purpose, in a private manner.

The results of this Technical Working Group’s activities are summarized in the SEP for the project, which were consulted on, finalized and disclosed prior to appraisal. The SEP describes the SE activities undertaken to date, both for the upcoming census and the project-supported activities, and comments on how the lessons from the former set of activities have served to shape the project’s design. It also reflects the results of a stakeholder mapping exercise, and specifies approaches and methodologies for engagement and communication activities with the full range of project stakeholders, including the above-mentioned vulnerable groups, thereby reducing the barriers for their participation in the census and surveys, and facilitating their inclusion. Finally, the SEP describes the existing mechanisms to present a complaint, and outlines a project-specific Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).

The SEP incorporates a targeted approach for communication with and participation of indigenous communities, along with the requirement to carry out stakeholder engagement activities with their representative organizations, to ensure data collection actions consider pertinent cultural aspects of these groups, especially on issues like the census/survey questionnaires and the deployment of enumerators in indigenous territories. This can also help identify key areas to include in the training of the census staff. The Plan also includes commitments related to translation of census forms into the main indigenous languages and the use of a culturally accessible GRM.

INEC recognizes the importance of implementing an inclusive approach for collecting disaggregated data and statistics on vulnerable groups, to reflect their views and interests in policymaking. The dissemination strategies for the population census, labor survey, agriculture survey, and other statistical exercises included in this project will include tools and methodologies to: (i) obtain feedback from beneficiaries (users) and stakeholders; and (ii) incorporate said feedback in future activities within the purview of the project. Because of the particular way in which activities under the project’s three components are expected to be sequenced, the SEP initially focuses on the population and housing census. As other activities to be supported (e.g., the labor survey) are prepared, the SEP will



be revised to reflect the SE needs involved, at which time the Plan will be consulted on, finalized, and redisclosed prior to the implementation of those activities.

The methodology used and approaches taken for census data collection, analysis and storage will be clearly communicated to all the key stakeholders. The project’s communication strategy will be implemented in three moments: (i) before the census--the announcement of the census, general and detailed information to stakeholders and media; (ii) during the census--information for the general public on the execution of the census and frequently asked questions; and (iii) after the census--delivery of partial and final results, thanking internal and external stakeholders for their participation, and promoting the use of the data. The same procedures will be applied opportunely at the time of the execution of the other surveys that are part of the project.

The SEP includes the GRM requirements for the project, to ensure that it is consistent with ESS10, including the need to have (i) designated qualified personnel to operate the GRM throughout the duration of the project; (ii) adequate budget allocated to implement GRM activities; (iii) procedures for the handling of complaints in a timely manner; and (iv) protocols for handling SEA/SH complaints in coordination with GBV services providers when warranted.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

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

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

This standard is relevant. The project expects to involve direct and contract workers, hiring a significant number of enumerators, supervisors, and administrative staff. Given the large number of people to be hired (especially the 19,665 temporarily contracted enumerators and supervisors), it is necessary to have solid procedures for managing the workforce. The main risks in this area are related to recruitment and hiring processes, occupational health and safety, and personnel security. SEA/SH risks were also identified, as the enumerators will be in contact with members of communities from different socioeconomic backgrounds and will also be sharing work and resting spaces (transportation and accommodation) with different personnel in the places where they will be working. INEC is currently developing a Gender Policy that is expected to be approved in July 2022 to address this kind of risk. Also, INEC will prepare and adopt a set of Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the project that includes the protocols to address SEA/SH and GBV events, as part of an internal mechanism. A final LMP will be adopted and publicly disclosed as a condition of effectiveness.

A digital platform currently under development will be used for labor recruitment, which is planned by geographic zones, in order to create corps of supervisors and enumerators from their own data collection areas. According to available information provided by INEC, it began hiring personnel to support the preparation activities of the Population and Housing Census, starting in January 2022, and will do so gradually during the calendar year. It is expected that the most significant percentage of civilian staff recruitment will begin during September 2022 and conclude in December 2022. For this reason, the scope of the ex-post evaluation will include the assessment of labor recruitment processes and the implementation of LMP measures, occurring prior to the signing of the loan agreement to ensure that the recruitment process is aligned with ESS2, in a manner acceptable to the Bank. . The project is planning to carry out communication campaigns to involve local personnel at the canton level. INEC plans to use the web pages of the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs) to support in carrying out the



recruitment process. The management of local hiring will be supported by INEC's zonal directorates in the territory, which will decentralize the process and make it more agile from an institutional point of view. With the use of the hiring platform, the registration of people who want to get involved in the data collection will be received. After going through an evaluation process, they will be selected and hired to join the workforce and receive all the necessary training for their work in the field (use of tablets, cartography management, occupational health and safety procedures, security, and other protocols, such as codes of conduct, gender aspects, and cultural appropriateness, depending on the activity to be undertaken).

These procedures have been assessed by the Bank to verify their relevance, identify possible gaps and integrate them into the project's Labor Management Procedures (LMP) document. The occupational safety and health aspects to be updated within INEC's existing procedures and to be included in the LMP are as follows: (i) identification of occupational safety and health risks that would affect workers during the execution of field activities; (ii) measures for managing the aforementioned occupational risks; (iii) a Safety and Security Plan; (iv) an Accident Response Plan; and (v) a protocol for notifications of incidents and accidents. The LMP will describe how the full range of relevant procedures will be put into place and operationalized within the available timeframe and for a large number of temporary staff.

The minimum age for project workers will be 18 years old, and forced labor is considered not to be a risk in the project. INEC has developed procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among its workers and the community members they come in contact with, which will help to manage this risk in the project. Procedures for handling labor-related complaints in the project have been incorporated into the LMP. On a related note, with respect to not only labor management but also a range of other social issues, the nationwide scope of many project-supported activities will require the PIU to engage with a number of entities at the sub-national level. Depending on the contracting modality, coordination could be carried out with the Internal Revenue Service (SRI), Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), Ministry of Labor (MDT), Ecuadorian Social Security Institute (IESS) and in terms of physical security risks, with the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Government, which are part of the technical security committee in charge of preparing the Safety and Security Plan for the census.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This standard is relevant. Under C1, activity 1.3, the project includes the purchase of information technology equipment (approximately 18,000 tablets). There could be a potential for environmental impacts if this technology equipment is mishandled or inadequately disposed of; particularly, it is possible that these equipment or some of their components could convert to e-waste during the project's implementation, after which they should be adequately treated, recycled, reused and/or disposed of. INEC reported that no procedure is in place for the management of e-waste; thereby, in order to manage these materials INEC will design and implement an e-waste procedure that addresses the requirements set forth in local regulations, manufacturer guidelines, and the ESF and defines measures to minimize any pollution generated from an inadequate handling, transportation, reuse, or disposal of the e-waste. The e-waste procedure will also consider the availability of e-waste recycling providers, the cost of such service, who will bear the cost, and provisions to prevent that these devices (particularly the ones with batteries) are discarded as regular trash.



Procedures for handling and disposal of e-waste and other hazardous materials will be outlined as part of the project Operational Manual. Additionally, the ESCP incorporates a specific commitment related to adequate e-waste management.

In the event that the purchase of technological equipment is financed retroactively, as explained under ESS1, an ex post E&S assessment shall be carried out to verify that during the procurement and use of the equipment, INEC has considered adequate standards for the management of technological waste. The E&S assessment will be a disbursement condition, as its outcome shall be acceptable to the Bank.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

This standard is relevant. There are risks related to SEA/SH, the spread of COVID via visits of enumerators to households, and the use of security personnel to accompany data collection in the field.

The risk of SEA/SH has been identified in relation with this standard, since the members of the participating communities will be in close (if brief) contact with multiple enumerators/supervisors (male and female), as well as accommodation conditions of personnel in the places where they will perform their work, which may present risks of abuse/harassment and sexual exploitation. Mitigation measures to address any possible risk regarding SEA/SH will be managed by integrating a Code of Conduct for enumerators into the LMP, as well as by measures for SEA/SH prevention and response in the MOP. The current existence of a GRM for workers, which will need to be strengthened, can help identify situations when such risks are present and provide the means to address them.

INEC has developed procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among its workers and community members they come in contact with, which will help to manage this risk in the project. Good practices for PPE use and specific guidelines to establish secure interactions with the surveyed people have also been developed and included in the draft LMP.

As with any national census unfolding at the household level, enumerators will sooner or later be required to venture into unsafe areas. On these occasions, specially trained personnel (military and police) will accompany the enumerators, to help ensure their safety. For coordination with the police, especially in urban areas, Community Police Units (UPC) will serve focal points for this work. In sectors prioritized for high danger, the armed forces and the police will both participate, so that the operation can be carried out on the same day, thus reducing the amount of time that enumerators have to spend in these sectors. For the work in border areas that may be conflictive, military personnel will be used, and they will be trained to carry out the enumeration work in these areas, so that there is no risk of exposing civilian personnel to harm there. Security procedures and protocols will be integrated into a Safety and Security Plan that is currently under development and will be ready before the start of training activities. This training will cover the same topics as those listed under ESS2 above.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This standard is not relevant.



ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This standard is not relevant.

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

This standard is relevant. The ethnic and racial minorities to be involved in this project (encompassing indigenous peoples, Afro-Ecuadorians and Montubios, or IPAMs) will find it relevant to have access to the census itself, both physically and in terms of the use of languages by enumerators and their supervisors that that can be adequately understood. They will also want to see themselves represented in the results of the census, just like the rest of society, and to be able to use those results. Since the 2010 census, several improvements have been identified and adopted to promote the inclusion of these peoples and ensure that their responses can be recorded based on self-identification according to their own cultural criteria, overcoming the old practice of the enumerator assigning an ethnicity to people based on his or her subjective assessment of their physical traits or living conditions.

In 2019, INEC decided to create a Special Statistical Commission for Indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio Peoples and Nationalities (CEE-PIAM), which aims to "promote and mutually leverage capacities and strengths to establish a synergy of interagency coordination and strategic allies in the process of production, analysis and dissemination of statistical information to ensure the visibility of indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian and Montubio peoples and nationalities; and, other technical and cooperation activities, within the scope of the parties' competences, of high consideration to the VIII Population Census and VII Housing Census in favor of the peoples and nationalities of Ecuador". This Commission is made up of 10 institutions (between ministries and secretariats) of national scope, with the ability to convene leaders of the IPAMs, and to consult and take decisions. The Commission has already generated and approved a roadmap with activities and products to be implemented during 2022 and 2023, mainly focused on solving technical and articulation needs for the population and housing census.

Among the activities to be carried out by the CEE-PIAM is the planning of the "community census", which will seek to adapt the collection of information to the territory, regulations and customs of the communities and localities. The following activities are planned to be carried out between April and August 2022: (i) Definition of the agenda for the promotion of the national census and sensitization regarding the self-identification of peoples and nationalities (including the approach with leaders of the communes, communities, peoples and nationalities); (ii) Meetings with leaders of the communes, communities, peoples and nationalities for the promotion of the census (census ballot) at the territorial level; and (iii) Execution of the awareness campaign for the census with a focus on interculturality and plurinationality in the population. Given the nature of the project and its risks and potential impacts, it is not expected to require a process of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) for the participating IP. As part of project preparation, a dedicated information session with Ecuadorian IP leaders in relation to the project and its objectives was held, to discuss protocols and procedures for the use of native languages in field work and the translation of the questionnaires for the census. This session was also used to make the leaders aware of a follow-on stakeholder consultation event centered on the project's SEP.

For this census and the other surveys that are part of this project, it is foreseen that the communication and dissemination component must be inclusive and consider possible barriers in terms of language and access to the census media for indigenous peoples, Afro-Ecuadorians and Montubios. INEC plans to translate the forms of the census and surveys into the most widely used indigenous languages (Kichwa and Shuar Chicham), and also hire



census enumerators belonging to indigenous communities to enumerate in their own areas of residence. In addition, the census enumerators also need to be trained in sociocultural appropriate procedures applicable to each group. The CEE-PIAM has consulted with the peoples and nationalities on the design of the census questions and has involved IPAM organizations in the socialization processes for the census. Once the data collection phase is complete, all the working commissions will be informed, and when the results of the census are available, which is scheduled for May 2023, the information will be delivered to each commission.

To address the above-mentioned and related risks, INEC as the implementing entity will need to continue to implement the stakeholder engagement activities with the representative organizations of these ethnic and racial minorities. These have been included in the SEP, outlining the engagement approach for these groups, determining if they have any specific concerns related to data collection (including the way that survey questions are asked) that would need to be addressed, and identifying potential obstacles to their participation and enabling the conditions for their full inclusion in the census. Moreover, the GRM outlined in the SEP has been designed so as to be culturally appropriate and accessible for IPAMs.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This standard is not relevant.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard is not relevant.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

B.3. Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts

Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework? No

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

None.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

Public Disclosure



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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Republic of Ecuador

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos - INEC

Implementing Agency: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INEC)

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

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Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Maria Gonzalez de Asis Cleared on 20-Apr-2022 at 08:29:7 GMT-04:00