



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 08/31/2020 | Report No: ESRSA01017



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Philippines	EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC	P174066	
Project Name	Beneficiary FIRST Social Protection Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Protection & Jobs	Investment Project Financing	8/27/2020	9/15/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of the Philippines	Department of Social Welfare and Development		

Proposed Development Objective

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the welfare of low income households and strengthen DSWD’s social protection delivery systems to be adaptive and efficient.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	10000.00

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

Yes

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

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) has significantly disrupted economic activities, resulting in the country’s first economic contraction in over two decades. Prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, the Philippines has consistently maintained solid economic growth and steady poverty reduction, with the poverty incidence falling from 26.6 percent in 2006 to 16.6 percent in 2018. As COVID-19 cases began to increase in the Philippines in early March, the government imposed Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) while building up the health system’s capacity. The Philippines is the first country in Southeast Asia to introduce strict quarantine measures in order to limit the spread of the disease. The containment measures restricted people movement, interrupted local supply chains, and disrupted economic activities. Indeed the Philippine economy contracted by 16.5 percent year-on-year in the second quarter of



2020 mainly due to the implementation of ECQ. As a result, many workers lost jobs and incomes, and low income households are at the risk of falling back or deeper into poverty if it were not for social protection (SP) programs.

The Government of the Philippines (GoP) has responded with strong SP measures to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 crisis. The Bayanihan To Heal as One Act (Republic Act No. 11469) was enacted into law on March 24, 2020, declaring a national emergency and granting the President expanded powers to adopt measures to prevent and suppress the spread of COVID-19 within three months. Through this legislation, GoP laid out an extensive package of SP measures worth over US\$4 billion (equivalent to 1.1 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product). The emergency subsidy is the largest direct financial assistance social protection program granted by GoP to Filipino families in the country's history, covering about 18 million families, approximately 70 percent of total households, under a social amelioration program (SAP). The government later added 5 million families who were not part of the initial list of beneficiaries. The extensive SP measures builds on the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (Pantawid or 4Ps), the country's robust flagship safety net program implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to which the Bank has been providing financial and technical support since 2008. The GoP is committed to staying the course of effectively implementing SP and poverty reduction reforms with the financial and technical support from the World Bank and other development partners.

While the rapid announcement of SP measures was a welcome approach, the implementation challenges of SAP beyond the Pantawid program revealed the limited adaptability and inefficiency of DSWD's existing delivery systems. Experiences across the world have shown that the common features among the countries that have quickly, effectively, and safely used SP systems in an accountable manner to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 include strong foundational national ID systems, dynamic digital Government to Persons (G2P) payment ecosystems, and coherent whole-of-government approaches to personal data governance and management. Without these platforms in place, the Philippine SAP had to depend on paper forms and manual processes, and the distribution of physical cash to non-4Ps beneficiaries, resulting in delays and duplication of payments. This experience as well as the country's exposure to natural disasters underscores the urgent need for strengthening SP delivery systems.

The proposed operation aims to help the DSWD meet its immediate financial needs stemming from the COVID-19 response and to strengthen DSWD's SP delivery systems in the longer term. The project will support the provision of 4Ps grants to beneficiaries, complementing the existing Social Welfare Development and Reform Project (SWDRP) II. Moreover, it will support the transition of business processes and SP delivery systems into more robust and sustainable ones. Through the adoption of digital technologies and a more integrated and holistic approach to beneficiary data, the project activities will enhance the efficiency, responsiveness and accountability of SP delivery in the longer term.

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the welfare of low income households and strengthen DSWD's social protection delivery systems to be adaptive and efficient. The first objective would be achieved by providing continued support to 4Ps in propping up the household income of 4Ps beneficiaries. The strengthened SP delivery systems would be achieved by investing in DSWD's targeting, digital payments, grievance and information systems. As the title of the project – Beneficiary FIRST, where FIRST stands for Fast, Innovative, and Responsive Service Transformation – suggests, the project aims to take the beneficiary centered approach through its provision of benefits and service delivery.



D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

The proposed project will finance cash grants to poor and near poor households under the Pantawid program or 4Ps. The 4Ps currently has more than 4.3 million active household-grantees in 145 cities and 1,481 municipalities of 80 provinces. The household-grantees were identified as poor through the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR), otherwise known as "Listahanan". Aside from being identified as poor, the eligible household-grantees have a pregnant household member and/or with children 0-18 years old.

Generally, 4Ps grantees are from areas with high poverty incidence and prone to natural disasters. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has the largest number of 4Ps grantees i.e 397,269, accounting for 9.2 percent of the total beneficiaries nationwide. About 16 percent (or 675,390 household grantees) of the total beneficiaries are indigenous peoples (IPs). About 18 percent of the IP grantees are from the BARMM. However, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) has the highest proportion of IP grantees by region at 64.3 percent. Further, about 5 percent (or 203,039 household grantees) of the total beneficiaries have at least one household member classified as person with disability (PWD). The program also covers families in need of special protection (FNSP) due to natural or human induced disasters. Majority of the 27,711 FSNP beneficiaries are from Central and Eastern Visayas Regions.

Since the project will finance only an estimated 6 percent of the total Pantawid budget over 5 years and will be co-mingled with resources from the GoP as well as other financing, the specific location of the 4Ps grantees that will be supported by the Bank will not be distinguished or identified.

The project will similarly strengthen DSWD's SP delivery systems in the longer term. It will enable SP programs to serve beneficiaries more effectively through the adoption of digital technologies and tools. For instance, enhancements of the digital payments can significantly reduce the time and costs of traveling and waiting to receive payments. The electronic case management system will enable DSWD to assess the needs of vulnerable populations in a timely manner. Scaling up the grievance mechanisms into an integrated grievance redress system will help address challenges faced by beneficiaries in accessing SP services available to them. Moreover, digital solutions for the efficiency of business process and information systems not only improve the beneficiary experience but also makes the program more adaptive to future shocks as well as the post-COVID-19 "new normal."

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

There are two ongoing WB-financed operations under the DSWD (i.e, National Community Driven Development Project and SWDRP II), both of which have been consistently rated satisfactory in terms of safeguards compliance. Overall, the DSWD has embedded environmental and social standards in the key design features as well as operational systems; designated adequate staff and budget for this purpose; and, continually innovate or enhance its safeguards practices/guidelines based on the results of regular monitoring and thematic studies. Specific to SWDRP I and II, which supported the Pantawid program and serve the foundations for the Beneficiary FIRST project, the DSWD has developed and implemented an Indigenous Peoples Participation Framework (IPPF) as their safeguards instrument. The 4Ps has systematically integrated safeguards dimensions in its various operational systems (i.e., compliance verification system; beneficiary updating system; grievance redress system; payment system; monitoring and evaluation system) and the Family Development Sessions (FDS) which is a monthly parent group activity participated by the main program grantees of the household, usually mothers, to enhance their parenting capabilities and encourage them to be more active citizens of the society.



There is strong institutional support for IPPF implementation as evidenced by the following: (a) the project team includes IP focal team both at the national and sub-national levels; (b) IP representatives comprise the project advisory committees at all levels (from national to municipal levels); (c) capacity building or training are provided to promote IP responsiveness among staff and partners; (d) annual consultations are conducted to draw feedback from IP grantees; and (f) IP-related plans/activities are provided with budget.

The DSWD has vast experience and institutional memory in implementing the 4Ps for more than a decade now. The Project’s Component 2 activities and investments will help DSWD further enhance its institutional capacity and financing sustainability. Given the aforementioned track record, it is expected that DSWD will adequately implement this project in a manner that is consistent with the relevant E&S standards.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The project will contribute to the financing of the DSWD's Pantawid program to support poor and near-poor households, as well as support institutional capacity building to strengthen DSWD's SP delivery systems such as the introduction of digital solutions to enhance beneficiary experience. It will not support the procurement of any materials or goods, or rehabilitation or construction activities that would have adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, negative environmental impacts and environmental risks associated with the project are considered low.

The project includes Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) as Component 3 to allow for the reallocation of financing to provide immediate response to an eligible crisis or emergency as needed. In case CERC is activated, the project E&S risks assessment will be revisited, and updated as needed, as soon as the scope of the contingency component is better defined. In addition, the project's SP Delivery Systems Manual with its annex including the Emergency Response Manual (ERM) will include provisions to govern the operations of the CERC and procedures for analysis of potential E&S risks as well as the institutional arrangements for E&S management during implementation of the CERC in accordance with the ESF. The ERM for CERC will be developed to provide detailed information on (i) mechanisms for activating the CERC; (ii) main instruments under the CERC; (ii) coordination and implementation arrangements; (iii) procurement, financial management and disbursement functions; (v) compliance with ESF ; and (vi) monitoring and evaluation.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The 4Ps grantees are selected through the NHTS-PR which involves a household survey covering in areas with high poverty incidence and in identified urban poor areas. The NHTS-PR uses a statistical proxy means test (PMT) with uniform set of proxy indicators to assess economic welfare instead of a household’s or individual’s income or consumption. The score (household’s per capita) is used to determine eligibility to receive benefits from public programs. In finally determining who is poor, Listahanan’s PMT results are compared with official poverty thresholds. Predicted per capita income for each household based on the PMT is compared against the applicable poverty

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threshold for the province it belongs to determine if the household falls below (poor) or above it (not poor). The list of the poor households also go through a community validation process.

The World Bank considers the Listahanan as a sound targeting system although there are technical challenges such as exclusion/inclusion errors. To address such issues, the NHTS-PR has a grievance mechanism in place. The NHTS-PR (Listahanan) is one of the major areas where the Project Component 2 will provide technical assistance, and further ensure the that the assistance are provided to the right beneficiaries.

Social risks related to COVID-19 and the proposed Project also include delays in social assistance/welfare services due to limited mobility, reduced access to educational services as a result of mandated quarantine or physical distancing. It is projected that it will take time to fully address the pandemic impact. Thus, it is anticipated that more school-aged children could drop out, child labor might increase as a result of income losses/disruption in productivity, increase in malnutrition may occur and immunization rate may decrease. The Project is designed to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic.

The 4Ps has contributed to poverty reduction in the country, and has proven its impacts on health/educational outcomes of children from poor households. The program also contributed to economic empowerment of women and enhanced the inclusion of vulnerable groups. The success of 4Ps is primarily attributed to a good targeting system. However, given the pandemic significantly straining DSWD’s delivery mechanisms, continued efforts to improve the targeting and operations systems are required. The Project includes a strategic technical assistance component that will facilitate the transition of the operations systems of DSWD's major social assistance programs, including the 4Ps, into digital platforms to enhance its efficiency given the pandemic and to be responsive to future disasters/shocks, and to facilitate the interoperability of the various social assistance programs.

Although the Project is anticipated to mitigate the COVID-19 impacts, the uncertainties of the extend of the pandemic could slow down the implementation that may result to exclusion of vulnerable groups. Project workers may be exposed to COVID-19 related risks. 4Ps also operate in conflict affected areas which resulted to incidents of extortion which were experienced only during pay-outs. Thus, as mandated by law, the LGUs mobilized local police to ensure peace and order during payouts. With all grantees having received their ATMs or bank cards now, except in BARMM, there are no more pay-outs and thus far, there were no recent reports of security risks. Nevertheless, pay-outs are still practiced in BARMM where are will continue to coordinate with LGUs to ensure security. DSWD will continue to monitor security risks through the GRM.

Given the aforementioned assessment, a social risk rating of moderate is recommended.

The risk/impact assessment will be updated based on CERC ERM which will include a brief CERC-ESMF , which summarizes the procedures, requirements & institutional arrangement for E&S risk assessment as well as management in accordance with the ESF.

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 project will mainly support 4Ps cash grants and include activities to strengthen DSWD’s SP delivery systems. The project’s design does not include measures with physical footprint or activities that could lead to specific actions that could have associated environmental impacts. It is, therefore, not expected to have any negative environmental risks or impacts.

The project includes the use of education and communication technologies as well as activities on digital transformation and information systems upgrade to identify and deliver training services and cash assistance to affected families using digital SP delivery solutions/platforms. These measures will likely reduce the occupational health and safety risks for project staff and case/field workers given the current COVID-19 pandemic situation. To further mitigate risks associated with face-to-face transactions, as may be needed, the project workers will follow proper hygiene, physical distancing measures, and other safety precautions consistent with World Bank, World Health Organization, and other relevant government guidelines.

It is notable that the project has adopted flexible guidelines/protocols to respond to grantees who have been displaced by environmental risks such as typhoon, flooding, landslides and earthquake. In addition, project activities related to strengthening of the SP delivery systems promotes adaptive social protection that can address operation and service disruptions as part of risk management.

The social risks and impact assessment under the section on E&S Risk classification were based on the following documentation and information: technical design of the proposed project and Implementation Status and Results Reports (ISRs), aide memoires, results and documentation of thematic studies and field-level consultations regarding SWDRP II, documentation of the SWDRP II IPPF, and 4PS Operations Manual that includes the Grievance Redress Mechanism of the 4Ps. However, due to the emergency nature of the project, consultations on the SEP and ESCP will be undertaken after approval and 30 days after effectiveness as for the IPPF

The 4Ps maintains a database of all household grantees under the Pantawid Program Information System (PPIS) and the Social Welfare and Development Indicators (SWDI) which focuses on quality of life indicators. Emerging issues and risks affecting the grantees are primarily captured through FDS and GRS. Moreover, broader assessment of the program’s impacts and emerging risks are drawn from the annual third-party spot checks and the series of impact evaluation surveys. Spot checks and field-level consultations are conducted with specific focus on program impacts and emerging concerns/risks including gender related ones among indigenous groups, persons with disability, senior citizens and other vulnerable groups as well as on gender-related concerns. All these systems and activities are sufficient to provide an updated and regular assessment of risks and impacts of the program to reflect in the quarterly and annual implementation reports. Based on the data/information generated by the different system and various field/research reports, the project will prepare a risk assessment report on a semestral basis, the results of which will be used for policy consideration or enhancement of operational systems.

Given the nature of the project, as well as the existence of a tried and tested safeguards system, use of the Borrower’s E&S Framework is not being considered.

Given the likely low environmental as well as the moderate social risks and impacts, no further environmental and social assessment following the initial screening is required. This is consistent with the country system, wherein the



project would not be required to undergo an environmental assessment. An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) have been prepared in time for project appraisal. An updated IPPF is expected particularly to reflect COVID-19 related risks and risk management measures and the application of the World Bank’s new Environmental and Social Framework. Since there will be no civil works included in this project, the local regulations on Environmental Impact Assessment will not apply.

A CERC ERM will be prepared as annex to the SP Systems Manual/POM of the Beneficiary FIRST Social Protection Project. The manual will include a brief CERC-ESMF which summarizes E&S risk management requirements based on the potential list of activities the CERC could finance (positive list of goods, services and works), analysis of potential E&S risks, procedures, and the institutional arrangements for E&S management during implementation. If the CERC is activated, the environmental and social risk assessment as well as the institutional arrangement will be updated. The detailed procedures related to CERC will be presented in the CERC-ERM and in accordance with the ESF.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The 4Ps has established a strong engagement with key stakeholders that include the national and local governments; civil society organizations (CSOs) and the grantees. Major government agencies and LGUs are regular members of the project’s inter-agency committees (i.e., National Advisory Council [NAC] and Regional Advisory Council) at all levels from national to municipal level. These committees’ representatives including the ones of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) as well as the Bank, as ex-officio member, meet on a quarterly basis. Similarly, CSOs (including faith-based organizations) and private sectors are also members of the committees. The NAC is responsible for deliberating and agreeing on policies governing the 4Ps while the Regional Advisory Councils are responsible for monitoring operational standards and emerging issues that require inter-agency resolution.

The grantees have various venues to provide feedback which includes the GRS and FDS. All these stakeholders’ engagements are integral parts of the project implementation as described in detail in the program’s operations manual and related DSWD guidelines. Annual regional and national fora are held with parent leaders, who are elected by the grantees at village level. These activities serve as venue for discussion of field-level issues that should be elevated to the Councils at respective levels. While the DSWD still plans to continue organizing the forum, this may have to be adjusted in terms of approach and schedule due to the pandemic. The representatives of the World Bank are invited as observers to these events.

As required under ESS10, a SEP has been prepared and disclosed by the DSWD. The SEP summarizes the whole range of partnership arrangements that promotes project transparency and meaningful consultation. The SEP also captures the key features of the GRS for which the 4Ps have developed a separate manual.

With regard information disclosure, the DSWD has established a system for transparency in its project implementation by publicly sharing all its manuals and directives as well as status of projects through its website. The practice will continue under the proposed project in that any enhanced guidelines/manuals/plans, including those related to ESS, shall be disclosed through various venues of consultations and the 4Ps/DSWD public website and other Information, Education and Communication (IEC) platforms throughout the project operations.



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

The 4Ps staff is comprised of 14,051 staff of whom 394 are regular or permanent staff while the rest are on contractual positions which are also considered as tenured staff under Government. Given the passage of the 4Ps law in 2019, institutionalizing and adopting the 4Ps as a regular program, the DSWD has prepared a plan to convert contractual positions to regular plantilla. The recruitment, performance evaluation, promotion and benefits/compensation policies for the 4Ps staff are in accordance with the Civil Service Code, Salary Standardization Laws and other national laws on government employees. As government employees, the 4Ps staff have access to the Personnel and Human Resource Services, the Internal Audit Services and the Legal Service as the internal recourse for grievance redress. Likewise, the staff can also engage the Civil Service Commission and the Sandiganbayan as the major agencies for civil service strife or complaints. The DSWD employees also has a duly registered Social Welfare Employees Association as the mechanism for free association, feedback to management as well as grievance settlement.

With regard to child labor, studies have shown that the Pantawid have contributed to the reduction/prevention of child labor among project beneficiaries and/or has reduced the number of hours that children/youth spend in work which are mostly part of family production. Moreover, the DSWD is the prime or lead agency for SP whose mandates include protection of children and women against exploitation, abuse or discrimination, thus the Department is one of the regulatory government bodies that ensures protection of children, women, IPs and other vulnerable groups.

The 4Ps does not engage with contractors except for its household survey for impact evaluation thus an influx of labor is not expected. Neither does it involve any civil works that involves community labor. However, the project may expose workers to COVID-19 related risks in situations where face-to-face interactions are required. Thus, the DSWD has limited or restricted face-to-face monitoring and/or meeting with the grantees. In instances where staff conduct field monitoring or interact with grantees, they are provided with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The ESCP will include provisions to monitor project compliance with Philippines laws for voluntary, non-harmful or non-hazardous work, just compensation, avoidance of child and forced labor, and provide GRM for labor issues consistent with ESS2.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This standard is not relevant for the proposed project actions. The Project does not include activities that would consume natural resources and/or generate wastes or pollutants. The enhancement of the social protection delivery system that will include payment modernization delivery (digital payments) not only significantly enhance the speed, accuracy, and transparency of cash transfers but but also promotes efficient and effective use of resources that could lead to reduced consumption of materials and waste generation compared to non-digital, paper-based transactions.



This positive impact may not be amenable for measurement as the impact would take place over a period of time and the benefit is indicative.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The project does not entail any activity that will result in labor influx. Although the 4Ps involves the conduct of the FDS with a group of 25 grantees gathering for learning or knowledge sharing, this usually involves the entry of 1 or 2 resource persons from the municipality.

The FDS is currently suspended due to the pandemic. Instead, the project actually promotes the use of digital technologies to minimize face-to-face contact in the delivery of services and cash assistance to affected families taking into consideration future shocks. Various alternative schemes for conducting the FDS have been initiated or being tested across the country (e.g. e-learning in selected areas, school-on-air using the radio) that would not require physical contact. The resumption of the face-to-face FDS will be allowed only once the quarantine has been lifted and will still follow protocols for physical distancing and use of PPEs. The SEP and IPPF will include measures to manage these risks, particularly in areas where the project benefits IPs.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The project does not involve any civil works or activity that will require acquisition of land. It will not create disruption in natural resources or economic displacement nor resettlement of households.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This standard is currently not relevant for the proposed project activities and, hence, not considered. The Project does not include activities that involve any civil or rehabilitation works that would affect biodiversity or natural resources. Conditions for 4Ps beneficiaries to receive the grants are related to education and health. The Project does not include conditions for 4Ps beneficiaries to receive cash grants that could potentially affect biodiversity or habitats, either positively or negatively, directly or indirectly, or that depend upon biodiversity for their success, and involve primary production and/or harvesting of living natural resources.

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

As earlier mentioned, about 17 percent of the grantees belong to IPs. The 4Ps has identified the IP-grantees and maintains an updated profile. The proposed project will not have adverse impacts on land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation, cause relocation of IPs from such land and natural resources or have significant impacts on IPs' cultural heritage. Thus, ESS7 provisions for free, prior and informed consent are not relevant.

The IPPF prepared for SWDRP II serves as a declaration of policies and standard procedures in promoting full and meaningful indigenous people participation; promotion of the IP rights; and protection from any adverse results



during the whole cycle of the 4Ps. The major strategies include: a) screening of IP household grantees through the Listahanan; b) ensuring IP-responsive program design which includes the adoption of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) as part of the education conditions, development of IP-related modules for the FDS; c) popularization of information materials for use of IP grantees; d) regular focused group discussions with IP grantees and adoption of alternative payment scheme to improve accessibility of IP grantees to cash transfer; e) use of indigenous system for feedback from grantees and/or as grievance mechanism; f) representation of IPs in all 4Ps structure from national to municipal level; g) monitoring and evaluation of IPPF implementation which involve semestral meetings with IP representatives and conduct of studies related to 4Ps implementation in IP communities. All these commitments have been provided sufficient staff and budget.

The preparation of the project provides an opportunity to enhance the IPPF particularly in terms of the adjustments or innovations that were adopted or will be adopted to sustain IP participation in the context of the pandemic. The enhanced IPPF will be prepared in accordance with both the ESS7 as well as the IPRA and will be shared with the Bank in time for negotiation.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

The project will continue to cover existing household-grantees for the past 5 years thus all key operational features are in place or will continue except for some adjustments due to the pandemic. The proposed project does not entail any activity that will affect tangible or intangible cultural heritage.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

The project will not engage any financial intermediaries that would influence the design of 4Ps. The engagement of LandBank and other financial intermediaries are basically for purposes of cash transfer from DSWD account to the personal account of grantees.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways	No
OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas	No

III. BORROWER’S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

DELIVERABLES against MEASURES AND ACTIONs IDENTIFIED	TIMELINE
ESS 1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	
Environmental and social risks assessment will be captured as part of the ESCP.	08/2020

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Detailed commitment on preparation, implementation and monitoring of SEP and enhanced IPPF; Establishment and designation of team who will ensure implementation of commitment; Capacity building plan for the project team at national and sub-national levels; Monitoring plan for tracking ESCP compliance; Grievance redress mechanism;	08/2020
CERC ERM, as annex to the SP Systems Manual/POM of the Beneficiary FIRST Social Protection Project, to include CERC ESMF	12/2020
ESS 10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	
Consultations and monitoring/evaluation of SEP to ensure meaningful feedback and participation.	08/2020
ESS 2 Labor and Working Conditions	
As part of ESCP, commitment to monitor Project compliance with PH laws for voluntary, non-harmful or non-hazardous work, just compensation, avoidance of child labor/force labor, and provide GRM for labor issues consistent with ESS2.	08/2020
ESS 3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	
This standard is not relevant for the proposed project actions.	
ESS 4 Community Health and Safety	
The Project promotes the use of digital technologies to minimize face-to-face contact during project activities. In addition, protocols for physical distancing & use of Personal Protective Equipment will be included in the SP Delivery Systems Manual.	10/2020
ESS 5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	
This standard is not relevant for the proposed project actions.	
ESS 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	
This standard is not relevant for the proposed project actions.	
ESS 7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	
Enhanced IPPF to ensure full participation in 4Ps and sustain responsiveness to indigenous grantees in accordance with the ESS7 and IPRA.	09/2020
ESS 8 Cultural Heritage	
This standard is not relevant for the proposed project actions.	
ESS 9 Financial Intermediaries	

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This standard is not relevant for the proposed project actions.

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:

The ESF will apply for all relevant environmental and social risks and impacts. The project will apply relevant national legislation as required but will not rely solely on the Borrower’s framework for any areas

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

Contact:	Yoonyoung Cho	Title:	Senior Economist
Telephone No:	5776+2632 / 63-2-84652632	Email:	ycho1@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Republic of the Philippines

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Department of Social Welfare and Development

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):	Yoonyoung Cho
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Mona Sur Cleared on 31-Aug-2020 at 00:17:51 EDT

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