



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 06/14/2022 | Report No: ESRSC02849



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Iraq	MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	P178770	
Project Name	Mosul - Youth inclusion through Cultural and Creative Industries		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Sustainability and Inclusion	Investment Project Financing		7/15/2022
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of Iraq - Ministry of Finance	Ministry of Youth and Sports		

Proposed Development Objective

16. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to promote the social and economic inclusion of vulnerable youth and women in Mosul (i) by offering skills development, access to livelihoods and entrepreneurship support in the cultural and creative sectors, and (ii) through local cultural community development initiatives.

17. To achieve its objective, the project will seek to: (i) enhance the employability of the beneficiary young population in Mosul through the provision of technical, life and soft skills development trainings in the CCI sector; (ii) provide livelihoods support to eligible youth through matching grants and mentoring for micro-entrepreneurship in the CCI sector; and (iii) engage youth and women in the design and roll-out of local cultural initiatives to support community cohesion in Mosul.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	3.15

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 project aims to create opportunities for the forcibly displaced, returnees and host community young people and women, supporting their economic, social and civic inclusion and facilitating the transition to self-employment and entrepreneurship for aspiring entrepreneurs and the access of to the labor market by project beneficiaries. Moreover, the project will contribute to social capital formation by enhancing social cohesion between the displaced, returnees and host community youth and women, while promoting the inclusion of ethnic/religious minorities and people of disabilities. Nineveh is well-known for its ancient sites and cultural assets, it was home to businesses producing ceramics, paint, leather and wool goods and textiles, and this project builds on the potential of cultural and creative industries to create economic activities and employment opportunities for the youth and women in Mosul. Moreover, the fact of reintegrating the local culture into the fabric of the society engaging youth and women in local cultural initiatives will also contribute to building back the sense of identity, reestablishing communities and building community resilience.

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 project will be implemented in Mosul, a major city in northern Iraq, serving as the capital of the Nineveh Governorate. The city is considered as the second-largest city in Iraq in terms of population and area after the capital Baghdad, with a population of over 3.7 million. Mosul is approximately 400 km north of Baghdad.

While Iraq is gradually recovering from years of conflict, thousands of vulnerable families across the country remain displaced and in acute need of protection and livelihood support. As of 31 August 2021, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), almost 2 million IDPs and 4 million IDP returnees resided across all 18 governorates of Iraq. The Ninawa province, of which the historic city of Mosul is the capital, was one of the most affected by the conflict and the city itself was the most severely damaged. As of December 2020, the total number of returnees in the Ninawa Governorate stood at 1.89 million individuals out of 4.83 million nationwide (about 39% of all returns). This is the largest returnee population compared to other governorates, living in severe conditions that worsened due to the COVID-19 outbreak and ensuing lockdown.

The proposed project is structured around 3 main components: Component 1: Supporting skills development for micro-entrepreneurship in the CCI sector. Sub-component 1.1: Life and social skills, and technical and vocational training to increase local engagement employability, and micro-entrepreneurship in the CCI sector. Sub-component 1.2: Start-up support for developing youth micro-entrepreneurship in the CCI sector. Component 2: Fostering civic engagement through local cultural community development initiatives. This component will finance small-scale youth and women-driven community development initiatives in the host communities e.g., cleaning of the street located near cultural heritage sites, awareness-raising forums in relation to cultural heritage, etc. through engaging at least 1,000 young beneficiaries to optimize the results of enterprise and skills development. Component 3: Project Management. This component will support the following activities: (i) project management for the coordination and implementation of activities including some operating costs; (ii) project monitoring and evaluation activities; (iii) preparation of the final evaluation report including lessons learned; (iv) environmental and social risk management; (v) participatory evaluations; and (vi) annual audits.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS) will be the implementing agency for the proposed project. The MoYS had prior experience implementing a World Bank-financed project through the Promoting the Inclusion of Conflict-Affected Youth (P161654) financed by the World Bank through the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF), which is



implemented under Operational Policy (OP) 4.01, and the current performance of the projects is satisfactory. Although the project will be implemented according to the ESF requirements, the Environmental and Social capacity of MoYS to manage the associated environmental and social risks is assessed to be satisfactory at this stage given the moderate potential environmental and social risks and impacts.

The MoYS has in place a Project Management Unit (PMU) with one environmental specialist and one social specialist. The E&S team will be responsible for the preparation of environmental and social instruments and will ensure coordination with different counterparts on environmental and social risk management during the project implementation, including supervision of waste management practices and Occupational Health Safety (OHS) issues related to COVID-19 risks and to handle GM issues.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

There are no significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the project. The project does not include any physical work except the cleaning of streets located near cultural heritage sites under component 2 or any environmental clean-up campaigns. The project activities may result in some community and occupational health and safety risks, in particular exposure to Covid-19 at training events or in an office environment. Other risks OHS risks might come from using sharp tools, materials, and light equipment in activities particularly under components 1 & 2, such as wood, metal, clay, horn, glass, and some tools like a crochet needle, needle, shuttle, and hairpin, however, this depends largely on the specific activity. The other expected environmental impacts associated with the collection of street waste near the cultural heritage sites, their management, and disposal, however, this should be done in close coordination with local authorities such as the municipality, and security authority to get an official agreement to ensure the targeted area is free UXO/ERW. In addition to non-hazardous waste, especially papers and any accessories from workshops, training, and meetings throughout the project. As explained in Borrower capacity, MoYS has good experience with World Bank operation policies (OP), however, this is the first operation under the ESF. Consequently, the environmental risk rating is estimated to be moderate.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The social risk rating is 'Moderate'. There are limited direct adverse social impacts resulting from project activities since there are no civil works except the ones described in the environmental risk rating section; does not involve any land acquisition and do not affect Indigenous Peoples. The project will have mainly positive social impacts through the provision of equally accessible opportunities and skill development to both male and female youth. Key social potential risks and impacts of the project include (i) the risk of inequalities in accessing project benefits, including potential risk of elite capture; (ii) eligibility criteria not well-designed, transparent or appropriately disseminated (iii) the risk of exposure to COVID-19 during the implementation of activities, both in terms of community exposure and exposure of project workers; (iv) risks related to social exclusion in its various forms that would need to be mitigated through ensuring that project benefits, such as access to training and job opportunities can be accessed and optimized for vulnerable groups including youth, ; women, persons with disabilities (PWD), ethnic/religious minorities, and IDPs (v) risks that project activities related to livelihood interventions result in (a) lack of labor force protection, including child labor and the risk of failure to comply with the labor standards of non-discrimination; (b)

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potential risk of economic violence for project benefit captured by family members, particularly intimate partners;(vi) risk of exposure of youth, including vulnerable youth, women, PWD, and IDPs to sexual harassment or exploitation, or poor working conditions, through participating in project activities such as training, jobs, and matching grant application. In this perspective, the social risk associated with the project is rated as moderate.

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 support the economic and social inclusion of youth among forcibly displaced, returnees and host communities in Mosul through activities promoting skills development and micro-entrepreneurship to reduce poverty and make creative and cultural goods more accessible to local communities. Furthermore, the project will support interpersonal skills providing youth with valuable life and soft skills and helping them to recover from war trauma. The project will pilot a locally based approach to provide soft skills training and psychosocial support, youth-led community development activities, and entrepreneurship training to conflict-affected Iraqi youth. It is expected that the above interventions will have limited E&S risks and minor adverse impacts as mentioned above. The ESMF will address risks related to exclusion and beneficiary targeting and selection. The ESMF will include the principles, rules guidelines, and procedures to assess potential environmental and social risks and impacts for beneficiaries, contextual risks – especially on conflict and fragility, as well as the project mitigation measures, including on hazardous work or potential use of hazardous materials (flammable, toxic materials or sharps). The ESMF will also clearly set out the selection criteria for beneficiaries that will receive grants. All these selection criteria will be reflected in the project implementation manual (POM). The ESMF will be in line with the ESSs, the Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). The ESMF will include provisions for the inclusion of trainees living with disabilities.

Given the number of project workers and labor risks, labor risks and impacts will be addressed in LMP, which will entail provisions on OHS and labor conditions, including provisions on child labor. All children under 18 employed in the vocational training program must not be involved in hazardous work. The Borrower will assess labor risks prior to the commencement of activities and conduct regular monitoring of OHS, working conditions, and working hours, in compliance with ESS2, para 17, 18, and 19.

The SEP will ensure proper consultation with project beneficiaries and other stakeholders. The ESMF integrated with LMP will also include appropriate measures to mitigate SEAH risks. The screening tool has assessed a low-risk rating for SEA/SH. The Borrower will need to ensure that the relevant mitigation measures are implemented including but not limited to the signing of codes of conduct by project workers, training and raising awareness of SEA/SH, and having a GM sensitive to SEA/SH-related complaints.

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

“Use of Borrower Framework” is NOT considered under this project.



ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Building on the project design, the implementing agency the Ministry of Youth and Sport (MoYS) will prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that will engage with stakeholders about the nature of the project, its environmental and social risks, inform them about grievance mechanism (GM), as well as it will provide more details on the methods of 2-way engagement with all project beneficiaries including the most vulnerable ones (e.g. refugees and returnees). Given the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual means of communication or any means of minimizing face-to-face interactions will be preferred. Face-to-face meetings will be with a limited number of individuals with appropriate physical distancing and mask-wearing will also be preferred.

The SEP will follow national laws and guidelines as well as guidance and technical notes from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank on consultation and stakeholder engagement in the context of COVID-19. The SEP will allow the implementing agency to engage with stakeholders during the project cycle with (i) an early engagement during the pre-application phase; and (ii) in the post-application phase. The SEP will also ensure to include these vulnerable groups including youth, women, IDPs, PWD, and ethnic/ religious minorities into the engagement plans with stakeholders.

The SEP will allocate necessary resources including staff and budget for the management, implementation, and monitoring of the SEP during the duration of the Project. Finally, the SEP will allow the set-up of dedicated GMs to address complaints and feedback. A GM is already in place at MOYS which will be further assessed during project preparation and any improvements necessary will be agreed upon and reflected in the SEP and ESCP. The GM has several channels available for beneficiaries and other interested parties to register any grievances/complaints. The GM plays an important role in enhancing public trust and can be valued as a means to strengthen the performance and to improve MoYS reputation, administrative and systemic issues related to its projects and programs implemented.

The implementing agency shall maintain, throughout the Project implementation, and publicize the availability of this grievance mechanism, in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank, to hear and determine fairly and in good faith all complaints raised in relation to the project and take all measures necessary to implement the determinations made by such mechanism in a manner satisfactory to the Bank. The GM includes specific procedures for addressing any potential SEA/SH complaints including confidential reporting and ethical documentation of GBV cases. The GRM will be able to receive reports on GBV and refer the complainants to the corresponding support services. Information about the existence of GBV of special referral pathways will be communicated to involved stakeholders during consultations.

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. MoYS will develop and implement Labor-Management Procedures (LMP) as part of the ESMF and will identify the different categories of workers to be engaged in the project and establish and maintain a safe working environment consistent with the national law and ESS2 for all project workers. Provisions for LMP will



be consistent with ESS2, which will be included in the ESCP, and will contain provisions on terms and conditions of employment, nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for employment, worker’s organizations, and restrictions on child and forced labor. Specific provisions will also need to be added to the LMP on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) risks due to COVID-19-related risks as needed. A separate grievance mechanism system will be set up for all direct workers, and contracted workers to raise and resolve any workplace-related concerns including potential SEA/SH-related complaints.

The LMP will be prepared by the Borrower before project appraisal provisions which will be included in the ESCP. Worker categories under this standard that are relevant to the project include direct and contracted workers. Direct workers include civil servants at the MOYS include personnel who will be assigned to work on this project such as Environment, Health, Social and Safety (ESHS) officers in addition to other officers who are appointed to work in the PMU including the head of the unit, procurement specialist, financial specialist, and any other workers/specialists to be employed as needed. Contracted workers include consultants and the trainees to be hired to conduct training and hands-on support. Key risks associated with this standard include (i) exposure of project workers to COVID-19 and (ii) compliance with labor and working conditions.

Finally, although the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse is deemed to be low, the risk of sexual harassment in the workplace cannot be entirely eliminated. including a protocol to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 and manage cases associated with the workforce.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The proposed project is not expected to involve extensive use of resources or significant pollution or waste generation. Hence, potential environmental risks and impacts associated with this ESS are minimal at this stage. However, the project will support some materials, and basic supplies for beneficiaries specifically under components 1 &2. These materials and supplies will generate waste of domestic nature, consumed COVID-19 PPEs in addition to training materials-related waste. Cleaning campaigns might also result in solid waste. The anticipated environmental and social impacts associated with the project activities are likely to be limited. However, the implementing agency needs to address the resulted waste in an appropriate manner, relative to their management and disposal. The MoYS will also promote resource efficiency tools during capacity building and training. The potential issues related to the project components such as water consumption, energy efficiency, and waste management will be mitigated through a detailed section in the POM which also will include. The protocols for assessing the presence of explosives remnants of war (ERW) and unexploded ordnance (UXO), an analysis of alternatives to reduce energy consumed by electronic devices. Further assessment of the effect of project activities on resources and pollution will be covered in the ESMF to be prepared before the appraisal.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The project might involve very small civil work (cleaning of streets located near cultural heritage sites). While significant adverse impacts on local communities are unlikely, project activities could be hazardous for individuals, the project will not induce a labor influx. Other risks include exposure to COVID-19 and traffic incidents for project workers and beneficiaries during the training programs, workshops, meetings with stakeholders, etc. To mitigate these risks, the project will follow the precautions and measures in accordance with the Iraqi supreme committee for



health and national safety and the World Health Organization WHO recommendations. The project will provide adequate facilities and PPEs to the project workers and beneficiaries as appropriate.

The POM will incorporate and make reference to the general and sector-specific ESHGs for those activities to be identified and financed by the start-up funds. Social risk management measures will also be part of the eligibility criteria for the selection of the beneficiaries of the proposed funds; youth and women. Finally, the ESMF and LMP, GAP as part of the ESMF will include measures to address risks related to labor and SH/SEA risks, as necessary. It is not planned that the project hires security personnel due to the scale and nature of the project's activities. No need was identified for developing at this stage a Security Management Plan (SMP).

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

ESS5 is not considered relevant. The project will not acquire any land or result in involuntary resettlement.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This ESS is not relevant at this stage as the project may support small-scale rehabilitation works, but no major civil works or construction activities, and accordingly will not result in any risks or impacts to biodiversity or living natural resources. However, further assessment will be done in the ESMF to evaluate the impacts of project activities on natural resources, particularly the resources of raw materials that might be used in the different handicraft industries.

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

ESS7 is not relevant at this stage. No groups qualifying as Indigenous Peoples are among the beneficiaries of the project.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This standard is relevant. The project will support community initiatives and engagement through the creative and cultural industries, reflecting the diverse cultural heritage (CH) of the city of Mosul, and the cultural groups (including minorities) are represented in the selection of the CH as part of the project. Activities under component 1 include a mixed set of engaging activities from which arts and cultural heritage. The vocational training will prepare the youth for entrepreneurship opportunities with a focus on a range of local occupations in the cultural and creative industries sector, ranging from visual arts, crafts, and intangible cultural heritage (e.g., handicraft, cobbling, tailoring, jewelry, culinary traditions, management of heritage sites, etc.) to design and creative services such as housing-related industries (e.g., furniture, lighting, or home textile). Activities under component 2 promoting cultural heritage could include cultural exhibitions and events targeting youth and women in the various occupations related to the intangible cultural heritage (handicraft, culinary traditions, history of heritage sites, etc.), cleaning of streets located near cultural heritage sites, awareness-raising forums in relation to cultural heritage, etc. A Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) as part of ESMF will be developed to include the assessment of cultural heritage activities



in the project area as described in components 1& 2. The ESMF integrated with CHMP will be consulted upon including this aspect of Cultural Heritage to determine the impacts and implementation of the appropriate mitigation measures.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

ESS9 is not considered relevant. No FIs are expected to be involved.

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

No FIs under this project.

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

- 1- Assess and identify the relevant capacity-building measures relevant to the PMU.
- 2- The Implementing agency (MoYS) needs to prepare and disclose the following instruments prior to Appraisal:
 - (i) Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).
 - (ii) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).
 - (iii) Labor Management procedures (LMP), CHMP, and GBV Action Plan (GAP) as part of the ESMF.
 - (iv) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).

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

- (1) If deemed necessary assign an additional E&S consultant with experience and skills to support the E&S specialists in the preparation and implementation of the E&S instruments.
- (2) Implement and update the SEP if necessary.
- (4) Update and implement GM.
- (5) Deliver ESS-related training programs to the relevant staff as required
- (6) Incorporate and implement the relevant EHS guidelines and waste management requirements in the POM.

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IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Republic of Iraq - Ministry of Finance

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Youth and Sports

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Djeina Issa Kalidi
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Lia Carol Sieghart Recommended on 14-Jun-2022 at 00:33:51 GMT-04:00

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