



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 05/06/2024 | Report No: ESRSC04270



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

| | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Operation ID | Product | Operation Acronym | Approval Fiscal Year |
| P506072 | Investment Project Financing (IPF) | GUEST Project | 2025 |
| Operation Name | Guinea Enhancing Health System Transformation (GUEST) Project | | |
| Country/Region Code | Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient) | Region | Practice Area (Lead) |
| Guinea | Guinea | WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA | Health, Nutrition & Population |
| Borrower(s) | Implementing Agency(ies) | Estimated Appraisal Date | Estimated Board Date |
| Ministry of Budget, Ministry of Economy and Finance | Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene | 20-May-2024 | 18-Jul-2024 |
| Estimated Concept Review Date | Total Project Cost | | |
| 16-May-2024 | 95,000,000.00 | | |

Proposed Development Objective

To improve the quality and utilization of reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health and nutrition services and to strengthen the climate resilience of the health system in selected regions.

B. Is the operation 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 Activities

[Description imported from the Concept Data Sheet in the Portal providing information about the key aspects and components/sub-components of the project]

The Guinea Enhancing Health System Transformation (GUEST) Project will improve the quality and utilization of health services for women, children under 5, and adolescents and strengthen the management and climate resilience of the health system in Guinea. The project will be implemented in seven out of the eight regions of the country (all regions except the capital city, Conakry). In line with the Operational Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Evolution Roadmap of



the Bank (scale, reproducibility, speed) and the Guinea CPF, the new operation will build on the positive outcomes and lessons learned from the implementation of the Health Service and Capacity Strengthening Project (HSCSP, P163140) in Kankan and Kindia and scale them up to five other regions. The proposed operation will be structured around the following components and sub-components: Component 1: Improving the quality and increasing the utilization of health and nutrition services (IDA credit= \$60 million & GFF grant= \$6 million); Component 1.1: Improve quality health service delivery readiness; Component 1.2: Improve the quality and the volume of health and nutrition services, especially RMNCAH+N service delivery; Component 1.3: Increase demand and utilization for health and nutrition services, particularly for the poorest people; Component 2: Climate-resilient Health System Strengthening and Management (IDA credit= \$19 million & GFF grant= \$3 million); Component 2.1: Strengthen the MOH's capacity to develop a climate resilient health system capable of adapting to and mitigating the health impacts of climate change; Component 2.2: Enhance the Ministry of Health's capacity to manage the health care workforce and improve health system regulation; Component 2.3: Strengthen the digital health ecosystem, wider health information system (HIS) and vital statistics from civil registration to support more integrated health-sector management and service delivery. Component 3: Project management, donor coordination capacity and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) (IDA credit= \$6 million & GFF grant= \$1 million). This component will provide support for managing the project and related monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities through the existing Project Coordination Unit (PCU).

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

[Description of key features relevant to the operation's environmental and social risks and opportunities (e.g., whether the project is nationwide or regional in scope, urban/rural, in an FCV context, presence of Indigenous Peoples or other minorities, involves associated facilities, high-biodiversity settings, etc.) – Max. character limit 2,000]

The proposed project is an extension of the Health Service and Capacity Strengthening Project (HSCSP, P163140) in Kankan and Kindia, which will be scaled up in five other regions of the country... Activities will be implemented in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas. The immediate project beneficiaries are women, children, and adolescents, in particular pregnant women, and children under 5 in the targeted regions, which account for around 11.5 million in habitants (80 percent of the population). The project activities focus on improving quality of health services in the targeted area. Infrastructure is expected to be minimal and only consist of possible minor upgrades, thus, given the project's nature, there are minimal to low environmental impacts on the physical environment. Project actions will support interventions to improve the operationalization and efficiency of the existing health financing schemes, targeted free healthcare, and performance-based financing, to increase the access and utilization of a comprehensive package of services, especially for women, adolescents, and children.

D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

[Description of Borrower's capacity (i.e., prior performance under the Safeguard Policies or ESF, experience applying E&S policies of IFIs, Environmental and social unit/staff already in place) and willingness to manage risks and impacts and of provisions planned or required to have capabilities in place, along with the needs for enhanced support to the Borrower – Max. character limit 2,000]

The Program will be implemented by the existing Project Coordination Unit (PCU) that has been established under Bank-financed national COVID-19 Emergency Response Projects prepared under the ESF and the Regional Disease Surveillance System Enhancement Project I, II and III (REDISSE), and the Health Service and Capacity Strengthening Project (P163140) under the Safeguard policies. This PCU will coordinate the execution of activities by ministerial



departments involved in the Project at the national level, and will be responsible for the fiduciary, procurement, and environmental and social risk management requirements.

As reported in the March 2024 ISR, the COVID-19 project (ESF) has been rated Moderately Satisfactory, while the Health Service and Capacity Strengthening Project has been rated Moderately Satisfactory (operational policies). Prior to this time the projects were rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory in the implementation of environmental and social risk management. The PCU is currently staffed with an Environmental Safeguard Specialist, a Social Safeguard Specialist, and a part-time GBV expert. However, these specialists will be replaced after the project approval, as during the implementation of both past and current projects, the PCU was unable to satisfactorily perform E & S tasks. This included the inability to: establish a functional grievance mechanism; provide quality E&S quarterly reports, prepare adequate terms of reference and supervise the preparation of safeguard instruments that met minimum ESF requirements. The same PCU, staffed with qualified environmental and social specialists, a part time medical waste management specialist, a full time gender SEA/SH specialist, will be maintained throughout the implementation of the project and the newly approved Health Security Program in Western and Central Africa Using the Multiphase Programmatic Approach (P179078). The ESCP of the latter will be updated to reflect the change in staffing

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 2,000]

The project's environmental risk rating is Moderate at concept stage. The assessment may be revised or confirmed in the appraisal stage Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS), once additional technical details regarding project financed activities and scope are well known. The main environmental concern is related to the production of infectious medical waste in health centers environment and surround following the increased use of medical health centers, the management of unusable expired products by medical professionals, and the local community health and safety. Others key environmental issues are related to: (i) pollution and noise nuisance ; (ii) occupational health and safety of workers. There will be minimal infrastructure built and it is envisaged that mainly small upgrades to infrastructure will be made to accommodate for various technological requirements to support the building and strengthening of capacity. The minor upgrades will mostly focus on energy-efficient upgrades, including structural improvements, roofing, electrical safety, improvements in lighting, telecommunications, plumbing and water storage as well as the inclusion of ramps to facilitate access for people who are disabled. However, it is noted that the laboratories will be supplied with reagents, chemicals and apparatus that may constitute medical waste once used. The proper storage, handling, use and disposal needs to be carefully incorporated into the design to minimize the impact on both the environment and social spheres

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Moderate

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 2,000]

The social risk rating of the project Moderate at concept stage. The project is expected to enhance health system capacity-building and improve access to quality health services, minor civil works (such as water supply, solar power,



and medical equipment). These civil work will be performed in existing health facilities. So, the project may not require land acquisition or economic and physical displacement. Any civil works that lead to physical and/or economic displacement will be excluded from the project. Key social risks will include the potential exclusion of the disadvantaged and vulnerable to project benefits (mainly health services), as well as community and occupational health and safety risks (exposure to biological, chemical and psychological hazards in healthcare settings), which could increase their vulnerability and undermine the general objectives of the project. Others associated risks could be the exacerbations of existing gender inequalities and ethical considerations regarding informed consent, privacy, confidentiality, and the equitable distribution of resources.

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating. This attribute is only for the internal version of the download document and not a part of the disclosable version – Max. character limit 2,000]

B. Relevance of Standards and Policies at Concept Stage

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

To address the risks and impacts of the project, different measures will be set through the preparation of E&S instruments and the design of the project to ensure they are fully incorporated into the project. The borrower will review, consult upon and adopt the existing instruments from the Health Security Program in Western and Central Africa (P179078), including the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), GBV Action Plan. Regional waste management plans will be prepared for the remaining 6 regions of the country to extend the guidance regarding the management of medical waste to these regions. The ESMF will be cleared by the Bank and disclosed before the project Appraisal. Requirements for relevant ESSs will be assessed during the project preparation and included in ESMF. As part of the Financial Agreement, the Borrower will also prepare an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

Based on the identified social risks and impacts and the projects activities, citizen engagement will have an important role in the successful implementation of this project. Stakeholder mapping will be conducted as part of the SEP to identify key stakeholders that should be involved in the project like ministry, NGOs, vulnerable. Implementing inclusive and participatory engagement is required to effectively manage stakeholder relations and minimize social exclusion. However, the project is incorporating stakeholder and citizen engagement activities, such as community level monitoring and evaluation platforms. The project will use the existing national grievance mechanism managed by the Guinea Support to Local Governance Project 2 (P177095), which installed grievance committees in all Guinea municipalities. Prior to appraisal, the PCU will prepare and disclose the SEP proportionate to the anticipated environmental and social impacts and based on the regional project one.



ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

There are no large-scale construction activities that will be financed by the project. The activities will involve primary supply workers, community workers, contracted workers and direct workers. OHS measures as outlined in WHO guidelines will be captured in the ESMF. This includes procedures for monitoring and measuring entry into health care facilities; procedures for protection of workers and infection control precautions; provision of immediate and ongoing training regarding the precautionary procedures for all categories of workers and clear and accessible signage in all public spaces mandating basic sanitation, hand hygiene and the mandatory use of personal protective equipment (PPE). The Labor Management Procedure (LMP) of the Regional Project will be reviewed prior to appraisal to provide guidance regarding the OHS policies and procedures that will be used to protect project workers and contractors. The LMP will also include a specific worker GM.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

The project is likely to generate negative impacts on human health and the surrounding environment, including the generation of medical waste from the health centers and their respective laboratories. The medical waste management is still to be improved and monitored in the country. The client has developed a medical waste management strategy and regional waste management plans for 2 of the 8 regions and these will be extended to the remaining 6 regions. During the COVID 19 Outbreak, a full Infection Control and Waste Management Plan (ICWMP) was developed. A number of incinerators were installed at country level as part of the implementation of these plans. The laboratories that will receive support for materials and reagents are laboratories that have been previously supported by WB-financed COVID-19 response projects. The Standard Operating Procedures prepared for these projects will be reviewed and assessed during project preparation to confirm that they cover project activities.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This standard is relevant for the project. Given the small-scale nature of civil works, the impact and risk on communities' health and safety is expected to be minor and manageable. However, as the project will be engaging with a variety of stakeholders, all project workers will be required to sign and receive sensitization on Codes of Conduct and expected behaviors. The project will require a country-specific SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan to mitigate the substantial SEA/SH risks. Other community health and safety risks include communities' exposure to biohazard resulting from poorly applied biomedical waste management practices or infectious control protocols.

ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This standard is not considered relevant at Concept stage as the project will not be financing any investments that would require any land acquisition or physical or economic displacement.



ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This standard is not currently relevant. The clearance and loss of areas of vegetation and faunal habitat is not expected.

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

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This standard is not considered relevant as there are no Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities currently identified in the project area. Should the presence of indigenous communities be confirmed through further screening during implementation, the necessary assessments, consultations and instruments will be undertaken per the requirements of this standard.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This standard is not considered relevant at Concept stage. Should any possible negative impacts on cultural heritage be identified during implementation, the necessary screening, assessments, consultations and instruments will be undertaken per the requirements of this standard.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This standard is not relevant as this project does not include financial intermediaries.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

TBD

[Optional explanation – Max. character limit 1,000]



This project will not use the Borrowers' Environmental and Social Frameworks in the assessment or in the development and implementation of investments. However, it will comply with all relevant national environmental and social laws, policies, and regulations. The project will be using the existing National GRM.

Use of Common Approach

No

[Optional Explanation including list of possible financing partners – Max. character limit 1,000]

B.4 Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

[Description provided will not be disclosed but will flow as a one time flow to the Concept Stage PID – Max. character limit 5,000]

At concept stage, both environmental and social risk are Moderate. The project activities are aimed to improve the quality and utilization of essential health services of beneficiaries. There will be minimal infrastructure building related to access to water and solar power systems and it is envisaged that mainly small upgrades infrastructure health commodities. In these activities, any physical and/or economic displacement is not expected. The activities could generate low to moderate direct and indirect environmental and social risks and adverse impacts for project workers, the community surrounding the health centers, beneficiaries in general. Several E&S risks and impacts have been identified like exclusion, community and occupational health and safety risks, exacerbations of gender inequalities, SEA/SH risks, medical waste production, pollution etc.

The PIU has experience with the social and environmental risk management and monitoring requirements under the ESF, however, E&S performance of existing health projects in the country is rating Moderately satisfactory and was Moderately Unsatisfactory before the last supervision mission in 2024. Therefore, new E&S specialists will be hired to manage the risks associated to the project, including operating and managing a grievance mechanism and undertaking a robust stakeholder engagement given the nature and scope of project activities.

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by Appraisal?

[Description of expectations in terms of documents to be prepared to assess and manage the project's environmental and social risks and by when (i.e., prior to Effectiveness, or during implementation), highlighted features of ESA documents, other project documents where environmental and social measures are to be included, and the related due diligence process planned to be carried out by the World Bank, including sources of information for the due diligence - Max. character limit 3,000]

- Revised Environmental and Social Management Framework of ESF Health Security Program in Western and Central Africa Using the Multiphase Programmatic Approach (P179078) prior to appraisal.
- Revised The Stakeholders Engagement Plan including a Grievance redress mechanism of the Health Strengthening and Capacity development prior to appraisal.
- The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan prior to appraisal.
- Regional waste management plans for the 6 remaining regions



- Revised Labor management Procedures of the ESF Health Security Program in Western and Central Africa Using the Multiphase Programmatic Approach (P179078) prior to appraisal.

III. CONTACT POINT

Contact Point

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IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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V. APPROVAL

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