



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 03/24/2020 | Report No: ESRSA00579



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Sao Tome and Principe	AFRICA	P173783	
Project Name	STP COVID-19 Emergency Response Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Health, Nutrition & Population	Investment Project Financing	4/13/2020	5/29/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Ministerio do Planeamento, Financas, e Economia Azul	Sao Tome e Principe Ministry of Health		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness in São Tomé e Príncipe.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	2.50

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]

After the emergence of the new coronavirus, called COVID-19, in China and its spread outside China, on January 30, 2020, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 as a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), based on the opinion of the International Emergency Committee and within the framework of the International Health Regulations (2005). This Declaration implies that all countries must increase their preparedness for detection and containment of cases, including active surveillance, early detection, isolation and case management, follow-up contacts and prevention of the spread of COVID Disease 19. The proposed project aims to reinforce and maintain the country capacity to: (i) limit the transmission of COVID 19 in the population including



health workers, (ii) strengthen early detection notification and confirmation of cases of COVID-19, (iii) effectively manage isolation and case management for all suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19, (iv) support health promotion and community mobilization for the protection and prevention to COVID-19, and (v) reinforce the multisector coordination of partners to improve preparedness and response and to minimize the socio-economic impact of a potential outbreak of COVID-19.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Project location(s) and salient characteristics relevant to the ES assessment [geographic, environmental, social] The Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe (STP), located in the Gulf of Guinea, is a small low-middle-income country comprised of two main islands. It has a total population of approximately 200,000 people, 42.6 percent of whom are 14 years of age or younger. The project will support the Government of STP on a national scale in its preparedness for detection and containment of COVID-19 cases, along with support for the longer-term strengthening of International Health Regulations (IHR).

Under 'Component 1. Case detection, case confirmation, contact tracing, case recording and reporting', risks associated with Occupational Health and Safety and hazardous and medical wastes can be expected within interventions such as strengthening Rapid Response Teams in-country to respond to public health emergencies and implementing International Health Regulations core capacities and contingency plans for COVID19 at point of entry. Under 'Component 2. Risk communication and community engagement including social distancing measures', risks related to labor and working conditions are associated with interventions such as establishing, producing, and training risk communication and community engagement strategy materials. 'Component 3. Healthcare systems strengthening, procurement of medical equipment and supplies' and 'Component 4. Project management, M&E, and institutional strengthening' are also associated with risks to labor and working conditions.

Project activities, including case detection and testing (Component 1), as well as upgrading and equipping 20 intensive care units (ICUs) and training on infectious hazards (Component 3) are anticipated to be implemented through existing health facilities (HFs) that have yet to be identified. Suitability of HFs will be determined during implementation. No greenfield works will be supported under this project.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The Ministry of Health (MOH) will be responsible for the overall implementation of project activities. [add a sentence on whether the MOH will have a PCU and when it will be stood up]. The MOH will work closely with other health and non-health agencies, including the Ministry of Finance and AFAP (spell out). This is the first engagement between the World Bank and the health sector in São Tomé and Príncipe, and the Borrower is not familiar with the requirements of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Thus, the Borrower's institutional capacity to supervise and implement the project's environmental and social aspects can be considered weak in this regard. The MoH will ensure to appoint an environmental and social (E&S) Specialist within one month of effectiveness to be suitably trained to coordinate and supervise the preparation and implementation of E&S instruments in the project to manage the project's overall environmental and social risks. Further, the World Bank team will prepare and implement a capacity building and training program to help the Borrower manage environmental and social risk throughout the project timeline.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial



Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

Environmental Risk is Substantial. There is a potential for the public, patients and healthcare workers (including their families) to suffer exposure from engagement with people and samples contaminated with COVID19 that are managed under the project’s activities. Given the highly infectious rate of spread, containment efforts will require exercising special care to avoid or minimize their exposure by designing and implementing adequate measures that take into account, particularly in relation to (a) managing health care waste (b) identification of potential risks to healthcare workers and the public; and (c) provision of preventive and protective guidelines, including undertaking health awareness and education initiatives.

Greenfield civil works are not envisaged under the proposed project, thus, it not expected that proposed project activities will directly or indirectly endanger natural habitats or cultural sites. The upgrading of existing health facilities will happen on existing footprints and be moderate in their risk; these risks relate to the occupational health and safety risks undertaken by project workers and contractors, and construction waste management.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

Social Risk is Substantial. Although the project is anticipated to have positive social impacts (namely, the strengthening of surveillance systems and preparedness to respond to a global public health crisis), planned interventions may present risks to project workers – specifically to health care workers potentially exposed to COVID-19 and also more generally to project workers whose working conditions may be adversely affected due to the need to address the COVID-19 emergency. Some workers may be affected by changes in working hours necessitated by measures introduced to contain the pandemic. The government’s low capacity for managing environmental and social risks and impacts represents an additional contextual risk. Currently, STP does not have robust legal and institutional frameworks to identify and manage social risks. Relevant PCU capacity-building measures will be proposed within the ESCP.

The project will also ensure that potential medical isolation of individuals does not increase their vulnerability (for example, to gender-based violence, GBV) especially in rural areas of the country. Handling of quarantining interventions (including dignified treatment of patients; attention to specific, culturally determined concerns of vulnerable groups; and prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) as well as meeting minimum accommodation and servicing requirements) can also be listed as issues that will require close attention while managing the social risks of the project.

Given the current civil society context resulting from recent measures put in place to address the pandemic and the timeline in which the project is being prepared, there are limited opportunities available to engage and consult with stakeholders during project preparation, but stakeholder engagement is mainstreamed in project design under Component 2. Restrictions on social gatherings, which limit face-to-face social interactions, will constrain the project’s stakeholder engagement processes and require the implementation of virtual and non-traditional, face-to-face communication and consultation methods. Given the wide range of stakeholders (potentially affected people and other interested parties) in this project, a robust stakeholder engagement and communication strategy will be needed.

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:

Public Disclosure



Key environmental risks are related to: health and safety due to the dangerous nature of the pathogen (COVID-19) and reagents and other materials to be used in the quarantine facilities and screening posts. The public health facilities or quarantine centers which will be used for diagnostic testing and isolation of patients can generate biological waste, chemical waste, and other hazardous waste. To mitigate against these risks, the project will develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) within one month of effectiveness that will include an Infection Control and Medical Waste Management Plan (ICWMP) to adequately propose measures and procedures for the safe handling, storage, and processing of COVID-19 materials including the techniques for preventing, minimizing, and controlling environmental and social impacts. It will also clearly outline the implementation arrangements to be put in place for environmental and social risk management; training programs focused on COVID-19 laboratory biosafety, operation of isolation centers and screening posts, as well as compliance monitoring and reporting requirements. The relevant part of COVID-19 Quarantine Guideline and WHO COVID-19 biosafety guidelines will be included in a Healthcare Risk Management Plan to be annexed in the ESMF so that all relevant risks and mitigation measures are adequately identified and addressed.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

COVID-19 presents unique and considerable challenges for stakeholder engagement and information disclosure, as stakeholder engagement and consultation processes cannot be conducted following established methods and procedures due to the timelines of an emergency operation and in the light of limitations on social gatherings and other forms of personal contact put in place to address the pandemic. Nevertheless, the approach to stakeholder engagement should be based on the principles of meaningful consultation and disclosure of appropriate information – with consultation and communication methods adapted in the light of the pandemic. The World Bank team will provide advice to the client on managing stakeholder engagement in these constrained circumstances. Identification of project stakeholders and analysis of their needs and levels of influence has been done during preparation in a draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), with the identification of vulnerable people affected by the project requiring special attention as early as possible. The SEP will be updated within one month of effectiveness with as more information from stakeholders as becomes available, and the engagement and consultation processes should be continuous throughout the life of the project. Project-affected people should have access to a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) to raise concerns and grievances as well as to request clarifications on various aspects of the project and its potential impacts. This GRM is identified and described in the SEP.

Further stakeholder engagement more broadly on the virus is mainstreamed as a project component.

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

ESS2 is considered relevant to this Project. Most activities supported by the project will be conducted by direct workers of the Project such as health and laboratory workers, i.e. civil servants employed by the Ministry of Public Health. The project may outsource minor works to contractors. While the number of workers may not be estimated at the current stage, no large-scale labor influx is expected. The key occupational health and safety risk is in relation to the contamination with COVID-19 (or other contagious illnesses as patients taken seriously ill with COVID-19 are likely to suffer from illnesses which compromise the immune system, which can lead to illness and death of



workers). In line with ESS2, the use of forced labor or the use of child labor for any person under the age of 18 in hazardous work situations (e.g. in health care facilities) is prohibited. As mitigation measures, the Borrower will implement adequate occupational health and safety measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures) in line with the ESMF and WHO guidelines on COVID19 in all facilities, including laboratories, quarantine and isolation centers, and screening posts. Measures relating to occupational health and safety, to protect workers from injury, illness, or impacts associated with exposure to hazards encountered in the workplace or while working, will be documented in labor management procedures (LMP) that will be included in the ESMF. The OHS measures will take into account the World Bank Group's General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), the EHSGs for Health Care Facilities and other Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). The OHS measures will include the provision of infection control precautions, adequate supplies of PPE, etc. The Borrower will also ensure a non-discriminatory, decent work environment; including ensuring that all health workers adhere to the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional conduct. A worker Grievance Redress Mechanism will be established and operated through a grievance hotline and assignment of focal points to address these grievances within the MoH which will be outlined in the LMP.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

ESS3 is considered relevant to the Project. Highly infectious medical waste is expected from the handling of COVID-19 patients. Hazardous chemical wastes are expected to be generated from medical facilities and laboratories. The improper handling and disposal of these hazardous waste streams may result in adverse impacts to human health and the environment. An Infection Control and Medical Waste Management Plan (ICWMP) for health facilities will be developed as an annex to the ESMF and implemented. The ICWMP will follow WHO guidance documents on COVID-19 and other GIIP.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

ESS4 is considered relevant to the Project. Inappropriate handling of COVID-19 can expose the community health that could lead to further spread of the disease. Lack of provision of medical services to disadvantaged or vulnerable people is also a potential risk under the project interventions. Laboratory accidents and/or emergencies such as fire incident or natural phenomena event is also an associated risk. Some project activities may give rise to the risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), in particular, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) risks. As mitigation measures, the Borrower will put measures in place to prevent or minimize the spread of the infectious disease/COVID-19 to the community. Emergency preparedness measures will also be developed and implemented to manage unlikely cases of laboratory accidents/ emergencies e.g. a fire response or natural phenomena event. Measures will be taken place to ensure that individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project. The Borrower will operate quarantine and isolation centers in line with WHO guidelines on “Key considerations for repatriation and quarantine of travelers in relation to the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV” as well as the Africa CDC guideline on “Africa CDC Guidance for Assessment, Monitoring, and Movement Restrictions of People at Risk for COVID-19 in Africa”. Such guidelines will be included in the ESMF. The Borrower will ensure the avoidance of any form of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by relying on the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for all workers in the quarantine facilities as well as the provision of gender-sensitive infrastructures such as segregated toilets and enough light in quarantine and isolation centers. In case quarantine and isolation centers are to be protected by



security personnel, it will be ensured that the security personnel follow a strict code of conduct in line with ESS4 and avoid any escalation of the situation, taking into consideration the above-noted needs of quarantined persons as well as the potential stress related to it.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

ESS5 is not currently relevant. No adverse impacts relating to land acquisition, restrictions on land use or involuntary resettlement are anticipated as a result of proposed project activities.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

ESS6 is not currently relevant. No adverse impacts on natural resources or biodiversity are anticipated as a result of project activities.

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

ESS7 is not relevant to the project as there are no IP/SSAHUTLCs in STP.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

ESS8 is not relevant to the Project at this time as the limited civil works are unlikely to affect cultural assets. In the unlikely event of construction or the movement of earth in connection with any project activities that have not yet been identified, for example, the ESMF will include measures for “Chance Finds” of archaeological or other cultural heritage.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

ESS9 is not relevant to the Project for the suggested project interventions.

B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks

None

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No

The project will not act on international waterways.

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

The project will not act in disputed areas.

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	
Establish a PIU under the MoH, including appointing and maintaining an environmental and social specialist (E&S)	07/2020
Prepare, disclose and implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)	07/2020
ESS 10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	
Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.	06/2020
ESS 2 Labor and Working Conditions	
ESS2 will be adhered to through adequate occupational health and safety measures (including emergency preparedness and response), a grievance mechanism for workers, and incorporating labor requirements into procurement documents.	07/2020
ESS 3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	
An Infection Control and Medical Waste Management Plan (ICWMP) for health facilities will be developed as Annex to the ESMF and implemented.	07/2020
ESS 4 Community Health and Safety	
In the ESMF, include measures to minimize exposure to disease, ensure vulnerable parties access to benefits, manage risks of security personnel and labor influx, and prevent/respond to sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment.	07/2020
ESS 5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	
ESS 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	
ESS 7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	
ESS 8 Cultural Heritage	
ESS 9 Financial Intermediaries	

Public Disclosure

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 Borrower Framework is not being considered to be relied on in whole or in part.



IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

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Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Sao Tome e Principe Ministry of Health

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

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