



Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet Identification / Concept Stage (ISDS)

Concept Stage | Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 26-Feb-2019 | Report No: ISDSC24952



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Project ID	Project Name	Environmental Category	Country
P167786	Strengthening agriculture sector capacities for evidence-based policy making	C - Not Required (C)	Serbia
Team Leader(s)	Estimated Date of Approval	Managing Unit	Financing Instrument
Jeren Kabayeva, Svetlana Edmeades		GFA03	Investment Project Financing

Public Disclosure Copy

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	1.80
Total Financing	1.80
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	1.80
Japan Policy and Human Resources Development Fund	1.80

B. Project Development Objective(s)

The objective of the proposed project is to “to strengthen the M&E capacity and systems of the MoAFWM and its decentralized services for evidence-based strategic planning in agriculture and rural development”. Government ownership of the evidence-based policy process is viewed as an important outcome of grant support, along with better prioritization of programs and beneficiaries, and sector impact.

C. Project Description

The project is provisionally planned to begin operating in late-2018 and continue until the end of 2021, with an estimated total cost of US\$1.8 million. The project has two components that are described below:

Component 1: Capacity Building for Evidence Based Policy Making (US\$1,640,000)



Sub-component 1.1. Diagnostic work, development of agricultural sector performance indicators, and staff training (US\$180,000). At the onset of the project, a diagnostic work will take place to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the existing M&E system, including but not limited to the following:

- Governance structure of M&E system, including who is responsible for collecting, collating, validating and reporting data.
- The use of data including links with the budget process and performance evaluation.
- Champions and key political events that play key roles in mainstreaming M&E.
- M&E tools already applied at project, program and policy levels.
- Extent of existing donor support in the field of M&E capacity development.
- Gaps and duplications that hinder the effectiveness and efficiency of M&E.

The project will also identify a set of agricultural sector performance indicators that can guide evidence-based decision making. The diagnostic and the work on the agricultural sector performance indicators, will provide the basis for the training program. The training needs for building M&E capacity will be identified by an International Expert. A series of short (2-4 day) training programs will be implemented regularly during the life of the project. In addition to relevant Ministry staff, training will also be provided for staff of subnational sector public agencies, the national institute of statistics, relevant staff of regional government administrations, and university staff, as deemed appropriate. Possible areas of training will include building skills in: the selection, design and use of appropriate M&E approaches; how to review existing and prospective sources of information; the development and management of data bases; the design and commissioning of evaluations to support evidence-based policy making; techniques of policy analysis; the design of mechanisms to build citizen engagement into the process of policy evaluation; and the alignment of M&E outputs with strategy implementation and budget formulation. To ensure sustainability, the project will seek possibilities to reflect this training in domestic training institutions curriculum and in train the trainers' programs.

Sub-component 1.2 Manuals and Protocols for Data Collection, and Specific Evaluations (US\$1,460,000). To further build skills in the development of M&E for evidence-based policy making, the project will support development of manuals and protocols for data collection, frequency of reporting, and roles and responsibilities of the MoAFWM and relevant departments, including pilot testing of selected indicators. In addition, the project will launch a small number of surveys and analyses to be commissioned and implemented by staff in the Ministry or other relevant agencies. Potential activities include: analysis of the Agricultural Census; the development of templates for farm enterprise analysis (gross margins), which can be updated quickly and easily with secondary data on an annual basis as the basis for monitoring trends in on-farm incomes and profitability; and a program to review and improve the current survey instruments used for agriculture and rural areas, to render them better suited to evidence-based policymaking. Skills for



development of program baseline will also be provided to enable the assessment of impact of policy interventions.

Further, the project will fund specific, detailed economic evaluations on topics agreed with the Ministry's leadership. These evaluations would typically take a few months to complete, often involving a small ad hoc working group comprising of staff from the relevant departments. They will focus on different issues, such as impact analysis of existing policies, including socio-economic impact, environmental impact and regulatory impact assessment. The project will also build a mechanism that will link the evidence and findings generated by the evaluations to the regular policy formation processes within the Ministry. Each kind of evaluation would have its own issues and approaches, which could be conducted in a peer-learning environment by engaging short-term international consultants to build capacity, guide, and support the Ministry as they do their first evaluations. It is important for the Ministry to gain their own experience in carrying out such evaluations, to help them prepare Terms of Reference and better assess the reports that they receive. In addition, the international experts will provide support with any specific evaluations based on the sector's emerging needs (e.g. assessment of the livestock sub-sector policies, national direct subsidies, ongoing implementation of the IPARD program, etc.).

The project will carry out information campaigns and workshops about the M&E initiative to improve the knowledge between central and local governments; appropriate training to staff working on M&E approaches, roles and functions, indicators, methodologies, etc.

The project will provide limited support for computers and software for data base management and judicious use of new and promising remote sensing technologies. The project will also explore the ways to include various digital platforms to help the newly established M&E Unit process big data more expeditiously and efficiently.

An international advisor with demonstrated experience in capacity building for evidence-based policy making will be recruited to guide and support project activities in the Ministry. Areas of support include: review of the current institutional base within the Ministry for M&E and evidence-based policy making, including its links to other ministries and public agencies, followed by recommendations and guidance on ways to strengthen their institutional base; an assessment of the human resource base for policy M&E and the design of a training program for building and strengthening relevant skills; a review of the current system of M&E, its capacity to evaluate policy and its links to implementation of agriculture sector strategy and design of the agriculture budget, and support for adoption of the principles and techniques of evidence-based policy making -- including statistical analysis, commissioned research, citizen engagement and the use of administrative information; a review of the current evidence-base for agricultural policy monitoring and the development of recommendations on ways to strengthen its contribution to evidence-based policy making for agriculture; a review of the need to build capacity for independent policy monitoring outside the Ministry (e.g. universities, think tanks) as a further input to evidence-based policy making and the design and implementation of appropriate training and support programs; and the development of appropriate fora for sharing the outcomes of evidence-based policy making with other government ministries and public agencies. As capacity building of this nature is a gradual process, and will initially need support and



reinforcement, the International Expert will be appointed full-time in the first year of project implementation. However, his/her presence will be reduced to 50 percent in the second year and to 25 percent in the third year of project implementation, as the national capacity for M&E will be strengthened and the program work will be institutionalized within the Ministry.

Component 2: Project Management and Administration, Monitoring & Evaluation, Knowledge Dissemination (US\$160,000)

This component includes the provision of goods, technical assistance and training to a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for the implementation of the project (including the areas of financial management, procurement, disbursement, monitoring and evaluation), financing of incremental operating costs and costs related to knowledge dissemination. The component will comprise three sub-components: (i) Project Management and Administration; (ii) Monitoring and Evaluation; and (iii) Knowledge Dissemination.

Sub-component 2.1 Project Management and Administration (US\$118,000). The sub-component will: (i) support operation of the PIU, and finance overall project management, as well as contract administration, procurement, and financial management.

Sub-component 2.2 Monitoring and Evaluation (US\$25,000). The sub-component will arrange for data collection and reporting on key performance output and impact indicators through baseline survey and final evaluation. This subcomponent will finance the costs of the Implementation Completion Report. The project M&E framework will be developed during appraisal and its implementation will be reviewed regularly by the Ministry and PIU.

Sub-component 2.3 Knowledge Dissemination (US\$17,000): The sub-component will carry out knowledge dissemination activities on the building and maintaining agriculture sector M&E systems for evidence-based policy making to the relevant stakeholders. Specifically, this subcomponent will fund activities related to the project launch, expert round tables and web-based and paper copy dissemination of the project's key reports. The Ministry's and PIU's websites will be used for a virtual discussion of the project's studies. The project will finance printing and distribution by direct mailing 100 of the final project reports in Serbian and English to all key counterparts in the Government's key ministries and agencies, think tanks, NGOs active in this sphere, key public libraries and higher educational institutions (faculties of economics and rural development/agriculture).

Project Cost and Financing

Project cost by component and financing are summarized in the table below:

Project Components	Project cost (US\$)	Grant Financing (US\$)	% Financing (inclusive of taxes)

Public Disclosure Copy



1. Capacity building for evidence-based policy making	1,640,000	1,640,00	100
2. Project management and administration, monitoring & evaluation, knowledge dissemination	160,000	160,000	100
Total Project Costs	1,800,000	1,800,000	100

SAFEGUARDS

D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

n/a

E. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

n/a

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Nikola Ille, Environmental Specialist

Ifeta Smajic, Social Specialist

G. Policies that might apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	No	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	

Public Disclosure Copy



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

H. Safeguard Preparation Plan

Appraisal stage ISDS required? No

APPROVALS

Team Leader(s):	Jeren Kabayeva
-----------------	----------------

Approved By

Safeguards Advisor:	Nina Chee	25-Feb-2019
Practice Manager/Manager:	Julian A. Lampietti	25-Feb-2019

Public Disclosure Copy

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) by the Bank and (ii) in country by the Borrower/Recipient, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.