

The World BankScaling up the Digital Procurement Application for CDD: SOL Project (P175988)

Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary Concept Stage (ESRS Concept Stage)

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Jun 30, 2021 Page 1 of 12

Public Disclosure

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Brazil	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	P175988	
Project Name	Scaling up the Digital Procurement Application for CDD: SOL Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Governance	Investment Project Financing		6/30/2021
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
State of Rio Grande do Norte	Secretariat of Planning and Finance		

Proposed Development Objective

The Project Development Objective is to improve communities' capacity to carry out procurement in accordance with standards and rules by making available to them a Procurement Application that digitizes and automates the procurement process.

Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost

0.10

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]

Community-driven development (CDD) is an approach to development that emphasizes community control over planning decisions and investment resources. In Brazil, current World Bank financing includes five 'Full CDD Project' tagged operations and two 'CDD or sub-component' tagged ones for a total of US\$838.8 million. However, it is widely recognized that one of the major challenges for the successful implementation of CDD projects is the communities' capacity to carry out procurement.

Jun 30, 2021 Page 2 of 12



Scaling up the Digital Procurement Application for CDD: SOL Project (P175988)

The SOL is a system that covers all procurement steps for CDD projects from advertising to signing contracts in only a few clicks. The app can be used to prepare, create, and launch tenders to procure goods, works, and services. With translation and further customizations to implement the internationalization of the SOL, the app can be replicated in any other CDD projects that rely on community-led procurement.

To achieve this, the project will have a single component aiming at further customizing, upgrading, and internationalizing SOL, and the following activities are being proposed to be implemented through the procurement of consulting and non-consulting services: (i) To make required modifications to implement the internationalization of the application; (ii) To implement enhancements to the MVP version for better user experience (UX) and easier customization and installation by other users; (iii) To translate the application into a Bank's official language (possibly French); and (iv) To foster the growth of the sharing community in GitHub, by setting out an outreach program and professionally managing the GitHub community, including the preparation of a comprehensive governance framework.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

Under Community-driven development (CDD) projects where beneficiary communities receive project funds, CDD projects follow simplified procurement procedures set out in the project's operating manual. In such projects, performance in terms of executing each step in the procurement cycle, i.e. on the market search for bidders, tendering, tender opening, and evaluation is usually considered poor. It is widely recognized that one of the major challenges for the successful implementation of CDD projects is the communities' capacity to carry out procurement. To overcome those challenges faced by the communities, the Online Bidding Solution ("Solução Online de Licitações – SOL", in Portuguese) is a system that covers all procurement steps from advertising to signing contracts in only a few clicks. The app can be used to prepare, create, and launch tenders to procure goods, works, and services. The system was developed and piloted by the Brazilian states of Rio Grande do Norte and of Bahia, under the c and the Bahia Sustainable Rural Development (147157) Projects respectively.

The project will be hosted by the procurement team of the PMU of the project RIO GRANDE DO NORTE: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE (P126452). Although the location of the PMU is in the state of Rio Grande do Norte this is a technology project and therefore will be executed remotely by the future winning company, and cannot be precisely located at this stage. The system upgrade will benefit all the current users of the SOL (both community associations of rural producers and governments) including other projects (BR Bahia Sustainable Rural Development – P147157 and Ceará Rural – P167455); it can be expanded to other projects in Brazil, Latin America, and other regions that show interest in the use.

The following activities are being proposed to be implemented through the procurement of consulting and non-consulting services: (i) to make required modifications to implement the internationalization of the application; (ii) to implement enhancements to the MVP version for better user experience (UX) and easier customization and installation by other users; (iii) to translate the application into a Bank's official language; (iv)to foster the growth of the sharing community in GitHub, by setting out an outreach program and professionally managing the GitHub community, including the preparation of a comprehensive governance framework.

There are no environmental risks or impacts posed by proposed project activities. The project will not finance any civil works, and its activities will not aim to advise on any issues pertaining to environmental does not advise any environmental measures that contradict NAS, on the contrary, positive results are expected in adopting the SOL

Jun 30, 2021 Page 3 of 12



Scaling up the Digital Procurement Application for CDD: SOL Project (P175988)

System, either in the reduction of time and resources such as paper or in the prior identification of environmentally sustainable products that can be primarily acquired in the processes of bidding (sustainable procurement). The project is expected to have positive social impacts, as it will increase the capacity of organizations to carry out acquisitions and, consequently, improve the technical capacity of family farmers and the achievement of the Project's final objective achieved through acquisitions - improving economic and social inclusion. Any social risks will be easily managed through the appropriate implementation support, as well as the operationalization of the actions provided for in the project's ESCP.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The State of Rio Grande do Norte through the Secretariat of Planning and Finances, (Secretaria de Planejamento e das Finanças, SEPLAN), will be the Recipient for this project. SEPLAN, through the existing Project Management Unit (Unidade de Gerenciamento do Projeto, UGP), will be responsible for the overall management, planning, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of all project activities, as well as for project financial management, procurement, disbursements and accounting.

The Rio Grande do Norte Regional Development and Governance (P126452) has faced many challenges. as it is a project of multi-sectoral, complex operation and uneven institutional capacity. More recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has curbed project field operations, TA and training, as well as other critical support and oversight activities. Progress has nevertheless been observed since the new State Administration took office in January 2019, with the establishment of, and their commitment to, a credible Project Action Plan. Despite the limitations imposed on normal project activities by COVID-19 and the State's fiscal difficulties, the Project has regained momentum, and the Borrower is implementing the Plan while maintaining safety protocols for project teams, including consultants and contractors. The role of SEPLAN, together with the State Secretariat of Strategic Projects Management and External Affairs, has been pivotal in this regard. SEPLAN has tightened the coordination and monitoring of all involved sector agencies, and this close follow-up has been beneficial to the acceleration of activities; helped strengthen relationships between project executive and support agencies; and, improved project monitoring and implementation mechanisms and systems.

The overall environmental and social safeguard policies are being addressed adequately during the implementation of the Rio Grande do Norte: Regional Development and Governance (P126452). An Environmental Impact Analysis, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) a Social Assessment, and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) were prepared by RN State. A broadly consulted Indigenous Peoples Policy Framework was also prepared. Overall compliance with Environmental Safeguards (EA) is considered satisfactory. EA procedures, including prevention and mitigation measures, are being properly implemented across all project components, despite the team's inability to conduct field work due to Covid 19 pandemic. The PMU prepares semiannual reports on environmental and social compliance, which includes information related to compliance with established measures, the progress of training actions, communication and registration of complaints and other demands.

The social and environmental risks of this operation are considered to be LOW.

The PMU has an executive management structure, legal advisory services, information and communication, internal control, financial management (procurement and bidding, financial instrument unit, development and administration), monitoring and evaluation, coordination and planning, capacity building and events, and socio-environmental management. The Sectoral Executing Units are located in the executing agencies with a technical manager in charge and a planning, control and technical support structure. These teams are further divided into contract follow-up, monitoring and control, dissemination and training, social and environmental management, supervision and engineering, and project management.

Jun 30, 2021 Page 4 of 12

Public Disclosure

The state has also adopted several virtual strategies for engaging with beneficiaries, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, and has proved to be good information and communication assurance practices. The Project developed a series of channels (website, social media: Facebook, Instagram; YouTube), as well as WhatsApp service to ensure continued service.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low

Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The environmental risk of the Project is Low. The project consists of the software upgrade for the procurement system (SOL) that is already in operation. This activity will be carried out remotely by a technology team. The activities are restricted to desk work such as computer programming and translation and they can be carried out remotely from the firm's office. The risks and environmental impacts are considered to be minimal or negligible. The risks and impacts linked to the procurements made through the SOL system are already considered in the environmental and social management framework of the Rio Grande do Norte: Regional Development and Governance (P126452) project that receives the upgrade of the SOL system,. When creating technical specifications for goods, works, and services, the cadaster of materials and services will include a tag to indicate they are "green". One option that will be assessed for feasibility is to include a specific module for the management of the cadaster of materials and services, allowing suppliers to propose their own greener products and services to the ones registered in the system. A more complex approach that can be considered is to implement a rating system to compare normal against green products, and which would have to start with small pilots for more standardized products and services for which the comparison is more straightforward. In parallel to this action, during training, users such as family farmers' organizations should receive informative material on the risks and mitigation measures related to different types of activities and acquisitions, as well as awareness of the choice of sustainable products and practices, as a way of expanding the possibility of choosing sustainable practices compatible with the Project.

Social Risk Rating Low

Due to the nature of the actions that this project proposes to support - The improvement of the procurement system that is already in operation (upgrade) the risks and social impacts are considered to be minimal or insignificant. SOL brings social benefits to user communities, which include those of vulnerable social groups, by significantly facilitating and simplifying their procurement processes, which, as an ultimate result, improve their businesses, income, and social inclusion, in addition to adding more transparency to the use of the funds received and promoting more efficient procurements. In order to achieve these positive social results, the Project will include in all training, materials, manuals, and guidelines and values shared, especially those related to socio-environmental risk management, adoption of sustainable practices, social inclusion especially of vulnerable groups, as well as topics such as sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, including code of conduct, victim services, and complaints mechanisms in place to raise awareness. These guidelines will be reflected in SOL to the extent that the registration of suppliers and products incorporates these requirements, giving users the opportunity to choose suppliers and products that are in line with the values of sustainability and inclusion. In order to ensure that the social inclusion benefits resulting from the Project are expanded, it is expected that the SEPLAN continues and increases support to beneficiaries for internet access, as well as keeps sound worker-management relationships with its direct and contracted workers and adopts measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among workers and

Jun 30, 2021 Page 5 of 12



Scaling up the Digital Procurement Application for CDD: SOL Project (P175988)

direct project beneficiaries; ensuring that SEPLAN keeps proportionate channels of communication (information, feedback, and grievance redressing) about the SOL upgrades with communities and also internal grievances in SEPLAN.

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:

No adverse environmental risks and impacts are envisaged from the proposed Project. As such it does not require further Environmental and Social assessment following the initial screening. However, the SOL will include a green tag to indicate in the technical specifications of goods, works, and services, the registration of materials, and practical services considered sustainable. Family farmers' organizations should receive informative material on the risks and mitigation measures related to different types of activities and acquisitions, as well as awareness of the choice of sustainable products and practices, as a way of expanding the possibility of choosing sustainable practices compatible with the Project.

Nevertheless, the risks related to COVID-19 which are external risks, independent of the Project will be. This risk will be mitigated by full adherence of SEPLAN to current national and WHO guidelines on COVID-19 precautions, including the provision of PPE to protect workers and the priority of virtual events (meetings, workshops, consultations, learning classes, etc.). In addition, the adoption of SOL will eliminate the need for face-to-face interactions to prepare tenders and to receive and evaluate bids.

Areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered:

None.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

SOL already exists and it is already being used under the Rio Grande do Norte Regional Development and Governance (P126452) and the Bahia Sustainable Rural Development (P147157) projects.

The Grant will finance technological enhancements so that SOL can become a more universal software to be used by other governments under other CDD-type projects, financed by the Bank or not. Part of the enhancements will also improve user experience. When SOL is made available by a government, it is uploaded to Google Play, so that it can be then downloaded by end-users (e.g. communities).

The development of SOL used feedbacks collected by PIUs from end-users (e.g. communities) where the project already being used, to improve the application and make it simpler.

The stakeholders (communities and other end-users) can obtain information about SOL and provide their feedback through the continued engagement carried out by the Rio Grande do Norte Project (meetings, visits, dissemination materials, websites and social media). In addition, users can also report feedback on the use of the application on Google Play (where they download it).

The procedure of continuous dialogue and feedback with users was used in the initial development of SOL and will be continued for this Grant. One round of consultations will be carried with stakeholders, including beneficiaries (and

Jun 30, 2021 Page 6 of 12

Public Disclosure

indigenous people communities) before starting the procurement of the upgrades. The consultation process (information and feedacks collected) throughout the Grant implementation will be reported in a semi-annual report.

The Grant will provide resources for software upgrades aiming at making it a more universal system. As such, training will be limited the software upgrades, focusing on the IT staff of the government that is responsible for software installation and maintenance.

On the other hand, for training to end-users, the P126452 project has a subcomponent for training community associations to carry out procurement processes through SOL.

Due to the nature and scale of the risks and impacts of the project, the preparation of a stand-alone SEP is not necessary (as envisaged under ESS 10, footnote 3). As part of the commitments and in order to ensure that the actions guarantee the best benefit and stakeholders engagement (according to ESS10), the following actions will be included in the Grant ESCP:

- (i) Devise and implement an information dissemination and engagement campaign about the benefits of using the SOL System in bidirectional engagement, preferably carried out through social media and digital platforms, due to the
- (ii) Provide training on software updates, with a focus on government IT staff who are responsible for installing and maintaining the software;
- (iii) To elaborate and disseminate materials for the use of SOL, in culturally appropriate and accessible language, including the elaboration of videos, animations, etc. These materials should include, in addition to the use and management of the SOL (the application itself) also information, guidance on screening social and environmental risks, sustainable practices and practices for social inclusion, respect for diversity and non-discrimination.
- (iv) advertise and publicize the Grievance Redress used by Grant that users can address their concerns and complaints;
- (v) Collect feedback from users regarding the SOL update and report them in a semi-annual report before the U/X requirements are finalized.

For providing information on its services to the users, SEPLAN will rely on toll-free phone lines, a virtual agency in its website, social media, and the APP http://www.governocidadao.rn.gov.br/?pg=fale conosco;

https://twitter.com/rnsustentavel; https://www.facebook.com/rnsustentavel SEPLAN.

Due the pandemic, the envisaged engagement with the community and civil society organizations will avoid public hearings and community meetings as well as minimize direct interaction between project agencies and beneficiaries. These activities will and rely mostly on social media, online channels, dedicated online platforms and virtual workshops.

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 standard is relevant. The project will involve SEPLAN's IT and PIU staff (consultants and public officials) and contracted consultants from the IT consulting firm, who can work remotely. Project workers (consultants) will be subject to provisions related to workplace safety as well as the principles of fair treatment, non-discrimination, non-

Jun 30, 2021 Page 7 of 12



Scaling up the Digital Procurement Application for CDD: SOL Project (P175988)

harassment, and equal opportunity of project workers; protection of project workers as appropriate and promotion of occupational health and safety; freedom of association and collective bargaining in a manner consistent with national law and the requirements of the Bank's ESF ESS2; and prevention of the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor.

It is expected that the project will involve hiring 4 people (initial forecast, should not exceed 10 people) through a consultancy work regime for the development/adaptation of the application and for the multiplier training -IT development part.

The communication actions/preparation of materials and management of the complaint mechanism described above will be attributed to the existing team available in Project Rio Grande do Norte: Regional Development and Governance (P126452), the current team is formed by a multidisciplinary team that includes social and environmental risk management, communication and GRM team (8 professionals), a bidding team, IT, a rural productive inclusion team, and a water access team. The entire UGP team has more than 30 professionals (consultants and public officials).

The contracting principles and requirements are detailed in the Rio Grande do Norte: Regional Development and Governance (P126452) Project's Operational Manual - MOP, approved by the Bank, which includes a code of conduct and a complete description of the GRM channels, processing flows, and procedures. The procedures adopted by SEPLAN and available in the Project's Operational Manual for the P126452 Project are in line with ESS2, and they will be adopted under the Grant.

The Project will support activities to address the gender gap within the labor force (reviewing the recruitment process and providing recommendations to improve gender neutrality in job advertisements as well as to improve human resource policies, facilities, and working-hours arrangements).

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, SEPLAN will set and distribute to all its contractors a clear and straightforward set of procedures to address key issues associated with COVID-19 in the workplaces and in the contact with local communities and Project's beneficiaries and partners. These procedures shall be followed by direct and contracted workers. They will ensure adherence to both national and WHO current guidelines to OHS and COVID precautions. SEPLAN will also consider the potential need to provide PPE to workers. These procedures shall be improved as necessary throughout the Project life cycle and their observance by direct and contracted workers must be supervised, monitored, and documented.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This standard is currently not relevant. The project aims to upgrade a procurement system by information technology. Project activities will not increase waste generation or overload the existing waste management system. When creating technical specifications for goods, works, and services, the cadaster of materials and services will include a tag to indicate they are "green" that are aligned with the strategy of Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management, as described in the ESS1.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The standard is relevant. Due to the Covid-19 pandemics, SEPLAN will also exercise appropriate precautions against introducing the infection to local communities through the activities carried out by its workers and contractors.

Jun 30, 2021 Page 8 of 12

Scaling up the Digital Procurement Application for CDD: SOL Project (P175988)

SEPLAN will ensure adherence to both national and WHO guidelines to COVID precautions and will consider the potential need for the provision of PPE to workers at its service dealing with the communities. However, the IT consultants will not have physical contact with PIU and IT staff nor with the communities, as the software upgrade and translation work can be done remotely.

Stakeholder engagement actions and training activities will follow measures that also address risks related to the contagion of COVID-19. Thus, virtual meetings shall have a preference to in presence events. Whenever the latter are unavoidable, they shall convene a small number of people and ensure the participants wear individual protection equipment and keep a physical distance. These events may also be used to raise awareness about preventative measures, follow emergency legislation to the extent that these are mandatory or advisable as well as relevant guidance provided by national authorities, WHO, and other organizations. The adoption of these measures must be documented.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This standard is currently not relevant as this Project does not involve any land acquisition, restrictions on land use or any involuntary resettlement are needed in any Project activities.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This standard is currently not relevant. SOL can be a vehicle to foster awareness and encourage the use of sustainable procurement, by tagging sustainable procurement items included in the catalog as "green." The SOL user Manual will be revised to include guidance on how to classify those items as "green".

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

The Standard is relevant. Despite the main result is to enhance governments' capacity to monitor and audit community-level procurement in real-time and the primary beneficiary of the Project is the State of Rio Grande do Norte along with any other government that uses or will use the SOL App. The Rio Grande do Norte: Regional Development and Governance (P126452) has among the potential beneficiaries' indigenous peoples.

Community involvement (included potential beneficiaries' indigenous peoples) will only be expected when and if a

Community involvement (included potential beneficiaries' indigenous peoples) will only be expected when and if a government adopts SOL under other projects or programs that transfer resources to them.

The project's implementation is not expected to have any negative impact on these indigenous peoples. Instead, if SOL System serves indigenous peoples, the Project's activities will contribute to improving the technical capacity and sustainability of the investments made by the Rio Grande do Norte Project.

In Rio Grande do Norte, beneficiary indigenous people communities did not use SOL because they had already completed implementing their subprojects. In Bahia, however, SOL was tested from July-December 2019, with the participation of nearly 100 communities, of which 7 were composed by indigenous people groups. All these communities received training before testing SOL. Feedback from current users of SOL (e.g. 1,200+ communities from Bahia registered as buyers in the App) has been collected and transformed into requirements for the upgrades to the App user experience (U/X).

Many positive feedbacks have been received by the social and environmental team during supervision missions in the Bahia and Rio Grande do Norte Project, where SOL is already used by communities. Especially the indigenous

Jun 30, 2021 Page 9 of 12



Scaling up the Digital Procurement Application for CDD: SOL Project (P175988)

communities that already use it report that the SOL has simplified the procurement process. Before the SOL, many indigenous communities (who live in areas far from the urban area) could not find companies interested in carrying out small face-to-face purchasing processes because the cost of sending a representative/products in the communities was not viable.

SEPLAN have a long experience of engaging with self-declared indigenous groups in the state. There are 6 self-declared indigenous communities according to 2010 census data in the state. In the state is no group that does not speak/read Portuguese. These communities are located in areas close to urban centers, with access to water, electricity and internet. In this sense, will be unlikely that any and Indigenous Peoples eligible for the use of SOL (namely, those benefited by the Rio Grande do Norte Project) will be excluded from adopting this technology due to digital exclusion.

To ensure that potential users identified as indigenous can receive information about the SOL update and provide feedback. Grant will use all opportunities (consultations/meetings/visits/prepared materials) as it has used in a continuous process of engagement and consultation, as used during initial development. The activities carried out in this continued process of consultation and engagement will be reported semi-annually.

The Grant will develop culturally appropriate material for indigenous groups that agree to use the application to benefit adequately from the initiative.

Under the Grant, the ESCP will include guidelines for engaging and consulting with Indigenous Peoples in a culturally adequate manner, benefiting from the experience and instruments available under the P126452 project. The ESCP will include a requirement that IP's choice to participate in the SOL Projects activities will be on a voluntary basis and free of any type of coercion.

The SOL User Manual will provide guidance on how to engage with Indigenous Peoples and /or IP organizations (that may be users of SOL) in a culturally appropriate way and in line with the requirements of ESS 7. The Sol User Manual will be disclosed and will incorporate the feedback received from these IP organizations – SOL users.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This standard is currently not relevant.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard is currently not relevant as this Project does not involve any FI.

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

Jun 30, 2021 Page 10 of 12

A. Is a common approach being considered?

No

Financing Partners

There is no indication of another financing partners

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan will be prepared before Appraisal. The ESCP will contain the actions to be developed for ensuring information disclosure, communication, and feedback as well as grievance redress under the project; training actions to ensure that both the technical capacity to use the Application itself is provided, as well as knowledge about the screening of social and environmental risks related to acquisitions is knowledge, as well as the related mitigation measures, especially those of ESS 1 and 4, when relevant or applicable. With regard to ESS 2, ESCP will mention the application of the existing rules in the Rio Grande do Norte Project in line with ESS 2 to be extended to new specific hires for this Project, with specific care related to COVID-19 that are applicable. The ESCP will include the development and dissemination of the SOL user Manual which will provide guidance on how to engage with Indigenous Peoples and/ or IP organizations in accordance with the requirements of ESS 7.

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

The ESCP may include the following measures:

- 1. Actions to ensure information disclosure, engagement with key stakeholders, and effective and effective processes for training and adopting new technologies
- 2. Actions with concrete milestones and time-frames for ensuring information disclosure, communication, and feedback as well as grievance redress under the project;
- 3. Provide training on software updates, with a focus on government IT staff who are responsible for installing and maintaining the software;
- 4. Elaborate and Disclosed SOL user Manual;
- 5. Prepare regular monitoring reports on the implementation of the ESCP.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: State of Rio Grande do Norte

Implementing Agency(ies)

Jun 30, 2021 Page 11 of 12

Scaling up the Digital Procurement Application for CDD: SOL Project (P175988)

Implementing Agency: Secretariat of Planning and Finance

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Luciano Wuerzius

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Valerie Hickey Recommended on 29-Jun-2021 at 16:12:3 GMT-04:00

Jun 30, 2021 Page 12 of 12