



# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

### **(ESRS Concept Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 05/03/2021 | Report No: ESRSC02022



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Iraq	MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	P176590	
Project Name	Iraq Household Socioeconomic Survey III		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Poverty and Equity	Investment Project Financing		6/25/2021
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Ministry of Planning, Government of Iraq	Central Statistical Organization, Kurdistan Region Statistics Office		

**Proposed Development Objective**

The PDO of this grant is to support the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) and the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) of the Government of Iraq in implementing the third round of the Household Socioeconomic Survey (IHSES III). The national survey measures almost all elements of household welfare and provides the basis for monitoring economic and governance reforms as well as designing, targeting and monitoring of the government’s programs and policies and the Bank’s operations. It is foundational in enhancing the capacity to bringing a poverty and equity lens to all the Bank’s operations.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>4.11</b>

**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]**

Iraq implemented two large household surveys (IHSES) in 2007 and 2012 with the technical assistance from the World Bank. The surveys have been instrumental in supporting both the government’s reform agenda and the Bank’s



operations. The 2014 continuous household survey (CHS) implemented on a sub-sample of IHSES and with comparable questionnaire was discontinued halfway through because of the rapid deterioration of security situation due to the ISIS conflict. The continued security and budget crises in 2017 meant the planned IHSES III could not be implemented. Instead, a light survey, the Rapid Welfare Monitoring Survey (SWIFT), was conducted to provide interim estimate of wellbeing till the next round of IHSES could be implemented. The survey provided information on a small set of key monetary and non-monetary indicators and by design was not comparable to the IHSES both in coverage, 14 of the 120 districts were not covered due to insecurity, and questionnaire design. Therefore, the IHSES 2012 remains the most up-to-date comprehensive household survey in the country. The country, however, has since experienced series of severe economic crises (2014, 2020), conflict and displacement (2014 onwards), and the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it is in the midst of operationalizing an ambitious economic reform agenda. Therefore, there is an urgent need to monitor and capture the current socioeconomic conditions and avoid the risk of data deprivation at a time when it is most critical.

This grant will provide financing for implementation of the third round of the Iraq Household Socioeconomic Survey (IHSES III). Building on the previous experiences, the third round will utilize international best practice on survey design, sampling, and data collection, like Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) and data cloud. It will provide comprehensive information on measure of poverty, drivers of household welfare, health and education, employment and job search, displacement, disability, housing and access to services, and many other socioeconomic indicators. It will meet the data needs for updating the national accounts, and allow to monitor the implementation of the previous national Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and update with a new strategy. The sample will cover both displaced and non-displaced population. Data collection will last for 12 months and will cover all governorates to be representative at the district (qhada) level. The IHSES survey was envisioned to be implemented every five years starting in 2007. The third round of the survey, however, is already late by four years since its original planned date of 2017. Therefore, there is a growing sense of urgency within the country and among international development partners to implement it as soon as possible and fill the current data gap. Given the current fiscal and budgetary crisis, the government do not have adequate resources to finance through its budget like in the previous rounds. Both CSO and KRSO have demonstrated ability to collect high quality data, and strong track record of implementing household surveys including the previous rounds of IHSES and the SWIFT surveys. Both agencies will be ready to start the fieldwork as soon as resources are made available.

#### **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

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

This is a repeater third round of the Iraq Household Socioeconomic Survey (IHSES III). Based on the model of the Living Standards Measurement Surveys, this is a representative national survey of households and individuals and will collect detail data on all aspects of household income and expenditures and other wide range of socio-economic indicators. The proposed survey will cover all governorates in the country and will have qhada/district level representation. The proposed activities include i) survey preparation and design, ii) hiring and training of survey personal, iii) purchase of goods and equipment required to conduct the survey, iv) survey implementation and data collection and v) data processing and dissemination.



D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The Ministry of Planning (MOP) through the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) at the federal level and Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) for KGR territory have conducted two large household surveys (IHSES) in 2007 and 2012 with the technical assistance from the World Bank. The Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey conducted in 2006-2007 (IHSES 2007) (P095588), was Iraq's first nationwide income and expenditure survey since 1988. Based on the model of the Living Standards Measurement Surveys, it covered more than 18,000 households, collected detailed data on all aspects of household income and expenditure and generated information on a wide variety of socio-economic indicators. Six years later, in 2012, the second round of the IHSES was completed (P158492). Learning from past and international experience on survey design, implementation and sampling, IHSES 2012 also incorporated additional modules on areas of evolving interest. In both previous projects no environmental and social safeguards operational policies were triggered, neither the ESF applied. Thus, the human and infrastructure capacity of CSO and KRSO on environmental and social risk management is limited, and they lack experience in planning and implementing environmental and social standards requirements. However, the extent of environmental and social risks and impacts are rather limited, and the required interventions are also expected to be simple and straightforward. To manage the anticipated impacts, the proposed project will support CSO and KRSO, in building their capacity in managing environmental and social risks and impacts (in addition to technical and FM/procurement expertise). The implementation experience and lessons from earlier projects will inform the capacity building approach to this project. This includes helping in the training and awareness creation on social and environment risk management including GRM, basic OHS including road safety measures, and consultations.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The project will not finance any civil work, however there will be some procurements to conduct the survey such as tablets, computers, phone and internet cards and other accessories, printing and translation of questionnaire, manuals and other documents, survey implementation and data collection. These activities may include some community and occupational health and safety issues such as those related to covid-19, in addition to use of some resources, tools, accessories to conduct the survey which could results some EHS impacts and risks. The other expected environmental impacts associated with the installation and use of electronic equipment are e-waste at end life of equipment in addition to domestic waste especially papers which might result from workshops, training and conducting the survey. Furthermore, road accidents during travelling to different locations might be happened when doing the filed survey.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

There are no direct adverse social impacts related to civil works resulting from project activities. The project does not involve any land acquisition and does not affect indigenous peoples. The social risks are limited to possible labor issues and working conditions, including gender and GBV risks, in recruitment and management of project workers, such as project management staff and contracted workers of CSOs in conducting the survey activities. There could also be security risks for the project teams in carrying out the field survey. But overall, the risks are rather limited in nature and scale.. The government teams in Iraq have experiences implementing the previous two large household

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surveys (IHSES) in 2007 and 2012 with the technical assistance from the World Bank. Their implementation performance is quite good in managing such social issues.

## **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:***

This standard is relevant to the proposed project as it involves wider communities who will take part in the survey. The issues anticipated include possible labor issues and security risks due to post conflict situations in different parts of Iraq, inadequate awareness of communities regarding the purpose of the survey and data privacy. The electronic equipment and material will be used are expected to include tablets, computers, phone and internet cards and other accessories, printing and translation of questionnaire, manuals, documents, and data collection. The environmental impacts associated with the using of these equipment are the aspects of solid waste management, management of e-waste at end of life of equipment, and occupational health and safety.

The client will prepare an ESMP proportionate to the potential risks and impacts identified and related to ESS1, ESS2, ESS3, ESS4 and ESS10. The assessment will include potential environmental and social risks and outline proportional risk management commitments and actions in the ESMP, ESCP, LMP and SEP.

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

None.

#### **ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

The project is expected to involve various stakeholders at Federal, KGR, state and locality levels. Given the nature of the project, it is expected to have quite limited adverse environmental and social impacts and therefore stakeholders to be affected under the project are rather limited, particularly communities involved in the survey. There would be other stakeholders as well. These would include government agencies at various levels who would be involved in the project management and those development agencies and ministries who will benefit from the survey output of the project in the formulation of government development and poverty reduction strategy. Other stakeholders include project teams who are responsible for the project design and implementation, the various CSOs and consultants who would be involved in the conducting of the surveys as well as community households who would directly participate in the surveys.

Specifically, the key Stakeholders in this project include: Organization for Statistics and Information Technology (COSIT), Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO), local authorities of the neighborhood or village authorities and communities, consultants and staff who work for the COSIT and KRSO as well as the selected community households to participate in the survey. The project activities themselves are not expected to have any direct adverse impacts on vulnerable households. But the survey design will take into consideration factors of vulnerability for its household selection, survey data to be collected, survey methodology and survey data analysis to ensure that the project output



can inform the formulation of government development and poverty reduction strategy, particularly in view of vulnerable and disadvantaged population.

During project preparation the Borrower will develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including simplified procedures for grievance redress, in accordance with the provisions of ESS10. The project will ensure adequate stakeholder consultation at different levels to (i) create awareness about the purpose and implementation modality of the survey, (ii) explain on the use of the survey data including data privacy and consent, (iii) train various stakeholders who will undertake and participate in the survey. The CSO and KRSO will establish/strengthen a grievance mechanism that will enable communities and other stakeholders to seek for information, provide feedback and lodge their complaints, if any.

## **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 project implementation will engage the CSO and KRSO staff at federal and KGR levels, consultants, survey administrators at community. The CSO and KRSO staff at federal and KGR level will be working for the project as civil servants maintaining their terms and conditions of employment at federal and KGR levels. The project will prepare a labor management procedure (LMP) as apt of ESMP proportionate to the level of risks involved as per the country legal frameworks and the requirements of ESS2. The LMP among others will cover issues related to, (i) promote the fair treatment, nondiscrimination, equal opportunity of project workers, (ii) protect project workers, including women, persons with disabilities, contracted workers, community workers and primary supply workers, as appropriate, (iii) prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor, (iv) support the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining of project workers in a manner consistent with national law; (v) provide project workers with accessible means to raise workplace concerns. There are ongoing discussions to determine the number and type of workers who will be involved in the survey. The LMP will provide (i) estimated number of different types of workers required for the project, (ii) on diversity/non-discrimination/participation of women as workers, (iii) provisions on child labor/minimum age and on forced labor, as well as on OHS, (iv) information on security and/or GBV risks of project workers (assessment, mitigation measures. The LMP outlines how these provisions will be operationalized in the context of the proposed project. The project social risk rating will be revisited before appraisal upon further collection of security and GBV risks.

### **ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

This standard is relevant as the project electronic devices, after their lifetime, will generate some e-wastes in addition to consumed covid-19 PPEs. The anticipated environmental impacts associated with the project activities are likely to be limited. However, the implementing agencies need to address the e- waste and consumed covid-19 PPEs, and other domestic waste especially paper waste in an appropriate manner. The PIAs will also promote the resource efficiency tools during the capacity building and training. The potential issues related to the project components such as air emissions, water releases, energy efficiency and waste management (if any) at the sub-project level will be



mitigated through implementation of ESMP which should include analysis of alternatives to reduce energy consumed by electronic devices and subsequently eliminate the EHS impacts.

**ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

The relevance of this ESS comes mainly from risks of exposure to COVID-19 for counterparts during the field surveys. For the trainings, capacity-building support, technical assistance, and advisory services activities, the counterparts 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 project will also propose necessary measures to manage security risks to staff as well as possible gender and GBV risks. These measures will be described in the project ESMP.

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

This ESS is not relevant. The project will not support activities that require land acquisition or land use restrictions.

**ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

This ESS is not relevant at this stage as the project will not support rehabilitation, construction activities, civil works or procurement of major equipment and accordingly will not result in any risks or impacts to biodiversity or living natural resources.

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

There are no Indigenous Peoples as defined under this standard in the project area, and therefore this ESS is not considered relevant to the project.

**ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

This ESS is not relevant at this stage as the project will not support activities that might affect cultural heritage. However, during field surveys, the project will ensure that local values, beliefs, and traditions are considered.

**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

Not relevant at this stage.

**C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

**OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways** No

**OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas** No

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III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered?

No

Financing Partners

None.

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

An Environmental and Social Management Plan including measures to address risks of GBV/SEA, e-waste and solid waste management procedures, road safety procedures, Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and Security management Procedures will be prepared, cleared and disclosed to the satisfaction of the Bank prior project appraisal.

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will also prepared as a stand-alone document to cover all stakeholders aspects and should be prepared, cleared and disclosed also prior project appraisal.

In addition, an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will be prepared and agreed on with the Bank.

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

All the instruments noted above will need to be implemented by the borrower to address any impacts and risks might result from project activities and to suggest the proportionate mitigation measures through integrated environmental and social management and monitoring plans.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

29-May-2021

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

Contact:	Lokendra Phadera	Title:	Economist
Telephone No:	+1-202-473-3120	Email:	lphadera@worldbank.org
Contact:	Matthew Grant Wai-Poi	Title:	Lead Economist
Telephone No:	+1-202-473-6440	Email:	mwaipoi@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Ministry of Planning, Government of Iraq

Implementing Agency(ies)

Public Disclosure





Implementing Agency: Central Statistical Organization

Implementing Agency: Kurdistan Region Statistics Office

#### **V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

The World Bank  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
Telephone: (202) 473-1000  
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

#### **VI. APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s): Lokendra Phadera, Matthew Grant Wai-Poi

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Lia Carol Sieghart Recommended on 29-Apr-2021 at 16:02:34 GMT-04:00