



# Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 01-Feb-2024 | Report No: PIDA36911



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country Zambia	Project ID P181391	Project Name Girls' Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods for Human Capital Project	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 29-Jan-2024	Estimated Board Date 28-Mar-2024	Practice Area (Lead) Social Protection & Jobs
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Zambia	Implementing Agency Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Gender Division of the Office of the President	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To promote human capital development and productivity among poor and vulnerable girls and women, while strengthening adaptive social protection delivery systems.

Components

- Component 1: Foundational Social Cash Transfer and Nutrition
- Component 2: Keeping Girls in School and Beyond
- Component 3: Supporting Women’s Livelihoods for Climate Smart Productive Inclusion
- Component 4: Institutional Strengthening and Systems Building for Cash ‘Plus’ Delivery

**PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**

**SUMMARY**

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	157.00
<b>Total Financing</b>	157.00
<b>of which IBRD/IDA</b>	150.00
<b>Financing Gap</b>	0.00



DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	150.00
IDA Grant	150.00

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	7.00
Global Financing Facility	7.00

Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Moderate

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. **Zambia in recent years has experienced significant macroeconomic downturn, reducing its growth prospects.** Between 2000 and 2010, the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) experienced an average annual growth rate of 7.1 percent, which declined in the following decade to an average of 3.6 percent. In November 2020, Zambia entered a recession, and inflation soared from 7.6 percent in 2019 to 27.6 percent in 2021. While inflation levels have recently dropped to 9.9 percent in 2022, they are still expected to remain higher than the targeted bound of 6–8 percent over the next two years.<sup>1</sup> Further, the Zambian kwacha depreciated by over 50 percent against the US dollar in 2020, and total expenditures increased from 32.2 percent of GDP in 2019 to 37.1 percent in 2022, largely from coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) related expenditures, fuel and agriculture subsidies, and grain marketing interventions.<sup>2</sup> However, in a recent positive turn, Zambia successfully agreed on a debt restructuring process with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a critical step toward fostering sustainable growth and safeguarding the well-being of its citizens. Going forward, the economic outlook remains positive and is expected to strengthen but is subject to elevated risks. The economy is now in the recovery phase, with the 2022 growth rate estimated at 5.2 percent and that in the first half of 2023 at 4.7 percent.

2. **Weak economic performance has reversed income gains and exacerbated already high poverty rates and inequality in the country.** Zambia’s strong performance in the decade following 2010 led to a reduction in poverty levels from 61 to 54 percent between 2010 and 2015. However, following the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, combined with more recent price shocks, the poverty rate has been estimated to have returned to 2010 levels of 60 percent in 2022, with 48 percent of the population experiencing extreme poverty.<sup>3</sup> About 79 percent

<sup>1</sup> International Monetary Fund. 2023. *World Economic Outlook*.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> ZAMSTAT (Zambian Statistics Agency). 2023. *Zambia Living Conditions and Monitoring Survey (LCMS) 2022*.



of Zambia's rural population live below the poverty line, stemming largely from low levels of economic growth and agricultural productivity, lack of value addition, and limited employment opportunities. Poverty incidence is 2.5 times as high in rural areas as in urban, demonstrating spatial divides in prosperity.<sup>4</sup>

3. **Zambia is highly vulnerable to climate-induced and other shocks, further deepening poverty and vulnerabilities.** It ranks among the countries highest in vulnerability and lowest in resilience to climate change,<sup>5</sup> increasingly experiencing more frequent and acute weather events. These have a significant negative impact on agriculture—the main source of livelihood for over 60 percent of the population—reducing crop yields, resulting in decreased incomes and food shortages, including of nutrient-diverse foods, which can lead to child undernutrition and stunting, among other adverse impacts. It is estimated that climate change could reduce Zambia's GDP by approximately 6 percent by 2050.<sup>6</sup> Assessments carried out by the World Bank also estimate that about 58 percent of the population would require additional assistance in the event of a shock, rising to 94 percent in rural areas, with only 4.1 percent of adults in Zambia having had risk insurance in 2020.<sup>7</sup> Unfortunately, the poor have limited capacity to cope with these shocks, which can threaten their food security and force them to resort to climate harmful negative coping mechanisms.

4. **Consequently, human capital accumulation and human development outcomes remain low in the country.** Zambia's Human Capital Index is 0.4, implying that children born today will only be 40 percent as productive as they would be if they enjoyed full education and health.<sup>8</sup> Although the country achieved close to universal access to primary education, the quality of education has not improved commensurately, and secondary school coverage is much lower at 45 percent,<sup>9</sup> and about 98 percent of poor households in Zambia are considered food insecure. Unsurprisingly, the country's human development index value decreased by 1.8 percent from 0.575 to 0.565 between 2019 and 2021, largely due to inequality in health, education, and income.<sup>10</sup>

5. **Of particular concern is the low nutrition status of the poorest children and mothers in Zambia for human capital accumulation, exacerbated by climate-induced shocks that negatively affect food security and nutrition outcomes.** In 2022, 70.6 percent of children in Zambia experienced multidimensional poverty, pointing to inadequate access to water and sanitation, education, and health and nutrition, among others. The 2018 Zambia Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) revealed that average stunting rate among children below five years of age stood at 35 percent in 2018, worsening to 40 percent for the lowest wealth quintile, and minimum dietary diversity among all infants (children ages 6–23 months) stood at 23 percent nationally, worsening to 11 percent for the poorest. In addition, 10 percent of women in the reproductive age group were underweight, which can lead to low-birth-weight babies and poor maternal outcomes, including maternal mortality.<sup>11</sup>

6. **Women and girls in Zambia continue to be disproportionately affected by worsening poverty and vulnerability.** Zambia ranks 138 out of 170 countries on the Gender Inequality Index in 2021.<sup>12</sup> Although Zambia has reached gender parity in primary school enrollment, completion of primary school remains a challenge for

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index (ND-GAIN). <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>.

<sup>6</sup> Mirzabaev, Alisher, et al. 2023. "Severe Climate Change Risks to Food Security and Nutrition." *Climate Risk Management, Volume 39*.

<sup>7</sup> Zambia FinScope 2020.

<sup>8</sup> World Bank. 2020. *Human Capital Project*.

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Education. 2020. *Zambia Education Statistics Bulletin*.

<sup>10</sup> UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 2022. *Human Development Report 2021–2022: Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World*.

<sup>11</sup> ZAMSTAT and Ministry of Health. 2020. *Zambia DHS Survey 2018*.

<sup>12</sup> UNDP. 2023. *Gender Social Norms Index. Breaking Down Gender Bias: Shifting Social Norms towards Gender Equality*.



girls, with teenage pregnancy remaining as one of the major contributing factors. At the secondary school level, only 31.4 percent of girls enroll and graduate from secondary school compared to 36.4 percent of boys, due to early pregnancy (47 percent), household economic constraints (18 percent), and early marriage (13 percent), with only 41 percent of primary school students who dropped out due to pregnancy being readmitted.<sup>13</sup> Not surprisingly then, female-headed households have higher poverty levels than their male counterparts, at 63.4 percent and 58.8 percent, respectively.<sup>14</sup> Men also have an advantage over women in financial inclusion, such that it is much harder for women to access credit. The lack of access to land and assets and input and output markets, as well as to good quality business development services, are the key constraints.<sup>15</sup>

**7. Going forward, Zambia must prioritize investments in human capital to minimize the impact on vulnerable populations.** The recently brokered IMF Extended Credit Facility and debt restructuring process is expected to further stabilize the macroeconomic environment and improve the Government's fiscal space, but requires Zambia to take a contractionary fiscal approach, which could have an adverse impact on the most vulnerable populations in the short term. There is therefore an urgent need in the immediate term to maintain investments in human capital to protect and bolster the well-being of the most vulnerable.

### Sectoral and Institutional Context

**8. Zambia has a strong enabling policy environment and commitment to human capital in recognition of its strategic role in addressing poverty and vulnerability and promoting economic development and growth.** Policies such as the National Social Protection Policy (2014–2018) highlights the key role social protection (SP) plays in reducing poverty, boosting food security, and building human capital. In 2019, this was further advanced in the Integrated Framework of Basic Social Protection Programs, which prioritized layering basic social assistance with livelihoods and empowerment for greater impact. The foundation of this cash 'plus' approach is the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) program, which provides regular cash transfers to smooth the consumption of poor and vulnerable households and enables them to make human capital and livelihoods investments and build resilience. The Seventh National Development Plan sets targets to increase social assistance coverage from 40 to 70 percent of the poor and spending from 0.7 to 1.7 percent of GDP, which the Eighth National Development Plan (8NDP) for 2022–2026 reinforces by further outlining SP and human development as one of the four key pillars of the Government's development strategy.

**9. A key aspect of the Government's commitment to human capital is its focus on nutrition, particularly for children and mothers, in terms of ensuring a strong legal framework and coordination mechanism.** Proper nutrition is crucial, as it protects against malnourishment, helps maintain a healthy immune system, prevents obesity, reduces the risk of chronic disease, and supports developmental growth and reproductive health. In 2020, the Food and Nutrition Act (2020) was enacted, replacing the previous Act of 1967 and focusing on the implementation of a national food and nutrition program, as well as continuing the National Food and Nutrition Commission (NFNC) and redefining its functions and financing. The NFNC has the mandate to coordinate nutrition plans and actions across multiple relevant government institutions and nongovernmental organizations.<sup>16</sup> The

<sup>13</sup> World Bank. 2023. *Zambia Gender Assessment Report*.

<sup>14</sup> ZAMSTAT. 2023. LCMS 2022.

<sup>15</sup> World Bank. 2019. *Zambia Enterprise Survey*.

<sup>16</sup> The NFNC is a statutory body that was established in 1967 by an Act of Parliament under the MoH as an advisory body to the government on matters concerning food and nutrition. Its broad objective is to promote and oversee nutrition activities in the country, primarily focusing on vulnerable groups such as children and women. See National Health Strategic Plan (NHSP) for Zambia 2022–2026.



act clearly defines children under five years of age, adolescents, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers, the elderly, and individuals with special nutritional needs as vulnerable groups at risk of nutritional deficiencies.

10. **The Government's commitment to human capital has translated to increased budget allocations for SP since 2014, especially to cash assistance, although nutrition has been largely invisible.** The share of social assistance increased from 0.14 to 0.8 percent of GDP between 2014 and 2022, with the share of the SP budget increasing from 4.9 percent of the total budget in 2023 to 5.4 percent in 2024. That being said, SP financing comprises the smallest portion of overall human development (education, health, and SP)<sup>17</sup> and has in fact been declining in real terms due to the rising inflation.<sup>18</sup> Further, SP funding continues to be dominated by social assistance, namely the SCT, and financing for nutrition and related expenditures (i.e., water, sanitation, and hygiene [WASH]) is largely invisible in the 2024 national budget, even though nutrition is identified as a key priority in the NHSP for Zambia 2022–2026. In fact, the NHSP commits to allocating about 14.8 percent of its total budget to reproductive maternal, child, and adolescent health and nutrition among the priority areas, representing the third largest share of its total planned expenditure.

11. **The International Development Association (IDA) has been progressively increasing its investment in the SP sector in Zambia, together with cooperating partners, and is now exploring entry points on nutrition.** Through the Girls' Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods (GEWEL) Project (P151451) and the Scaling Up Shock Responsive Social Protection (SSRSP) Project (P179095), IDA, together with bilateral donors,<sup>19</sup> have invested approximately US\$519 million (US\$467 million IDA credit and about US\$51.54 million donor grant) in the SP sector. IDA support to the SP sector is complemented by the United Nations Joint Programme on Social Protection (UN-JPSP), led by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

12. **To date, GEWEL and SSRSP have contributed to significant results.** GEWEL supports four key interventions under a cash 'plus' approach, namely the SCT as the foundational social assistance program, as well as the Keeping Girls in School (KGS) and Supporting Women's Livelihoods (SWL) interventions that are layered on the SCT to support education outcomes of vulnerable adolescent girls and improved economic welfare of poor women, respectively. It also invests in establishing SP systems for more effective and accountable delivery of services. The SSRSP also supports the SCT, but mainly to become more adaptive in response to climate induced and other shocks. The SCT currently reaches a little over 1.3 million households nation-wide, supporting about 34 percent of the population and 57 percent of the poor<sup>20</sup> and representing one of the best safety net coverages in the region with strong pro-poor elements. In fact, expansion of the caseload and increase in transfer value is estimated to have reduced poverty by six percentage points in 2021.<sup>21</sup> Under the KGS, support for enrolment of about 148,616 vulnerable girls from SCT households in secondary school helped to overcome barriers to education, while the provision of livelihoods package under the SWL have improved economic independence of some 116,000 poor rural women from SCT households. Enhanced SP systems for better beneficiary management,

<sup>17</sup> Education represented 15.4 percent of the total 2024 budget, while health was 11.8 percent, and SP was 5.4 percent. See *2024 Government of Republic of Zambia National Budget. 2023*.

<sup>18</sup> For example, the nominal and real value of the SCT budget was ZMW 3.7 billion in 2023, while the nominal value of the SCT budget is ZMW 4.1 billion in 2024, with the real value declining to ZMW 3.6 billion, when adjusted for inflation. See UNICEF. 2023. *2024 National Budget Presentation*.

<sup>19</sup> The GEWEL multi-donor trust fund comprises of the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Irish Aid, German Development Cooperation through the KfW, and the Swiss Development Cooperation.

<sup>20</sup> Based on the World Bank SP task team's calculation based on 2022 census data on Zambia's population and average household size and 2022 LCMS survey national poverty rate.

<sup>21</sup> World Bank 2021. Social Protection and Jobs Public Expenditure Review.



digital payments, grievance redress, and gender-based violence (GBV) response have also contributed to effective and accountable delivery of assistance.

**13. Effort is now required to not only protect human capital gains to date against emerging risks but also advance the sector to enable a 'big push' to unleash girls' and women's potential for growth and development.**

As GEWEL comes to an end in 2024, there is a critical need to protect the human capital gains made to date, particularly against the deteriorating poverty and vulnerability context. At the same time, opportunities exist to move toward more social and productive inclusion activities aimed at strengthening girls' and women's empowerment and human capital in support of their sustainable climate-smart pathways out of poverty for longer term development outcomes. In particular, there is a need for IDA investment for nutrition targeted at poor and vulnerable Zambians who disproportionately experience low nutrition outcomes, a critical determinant of human capital accumulation throughout life.

### C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

#### Development Objectives

To promote human capital development and productivity among poor and vulnerable girls and women, while strengthening adaptive social protection delivery systems.

#### Key Results

14. The progress toward achievement of the PDO will be specifically measured by the following outcome indicators:

(a) Promote human capital development

- Percentage of children living in households receiving the SCT nutrition top-up that achieve a minimum dietary diversity.
- Percentage of KGS girls who progress to the next grade.

(b) Promote productivity among women.

- Percentage of eligible SWL beneficiaries with an ongoing income-generating activity one year after SWL has ended.

(c) Strengthened adaptive social protection delivery systems

- Dynamic Social Registry established and institutionalized.

### D. Project Description

15. **The proposed project is a US\$157 million equivalent grant and will support four components over a four-year period.** The components are: (a) Foundational Social Cash Transfer and Nutrition (SCT); (b) Keeping Girls in School and Beyond (KGS); (c) Supporting Women's Livelihoods for Climate Smart Productive Inclusion (SWL); and (d) Institutional Strengthening and Systems Building for Cash 'Plus' Delivery (ISSB).

16. **GEWEL 2 will build on the results achieved and lessons learned from the design and implementation experience of the first phase of GEWEL to promote greater productivity and human capital growth.** It will use a life-cycles approach with a focus on girls' and women's empowerment, and will serve as an anchor for a more



comprehensive multisectoral human capital program in the future by providing a foundation with national scope upon which additional activities can be layered. Project implementation will follow a gradual approach based on prioritization, sequencing, and convergence of activities for leveraged results to maximize development impacts, starting small and scaling up based on evidence. It is noteworthy that the ambition of the project will exceed the current available financing.

### Component 1: Foundational Social Cash Transfer and Nutrition (SCT)

17. **This component will aim to ensure the continuity of the foundational SCT program for a cash ‘plus’ approach, with complementary activity for improved nutrition outcomes for improved nutrition outcomes** among poor households in the *first 1,000 days of a child's life*, building on on-going nutrition work.<sup>22</sup> The SCT serves as a useful entry point to support the poor that have the worst nutrition status. Implementation will follow an integrated approach focusing on enhancing purchasing power, as well as demand creation and improved nutrition service provision. While the SCT delivery will be supported nation-wide, nutrition activities will be implemented in a few districts, recognizing the complexity inherent in engaging on nutrition given the multiple actors and interconnected activities, starting small and learning from experience to demonstrate proof of concept of a multi-sectoral convergence approach and serve as a catalyst for future IDA investment and scale up. Nutrition activities will be jointly financed by IDA and the Global Finance Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF).

#### Sub-Component 1.1: Nutrition Sensitive Foundational Social Cash Transfer

18. **This component will continue to ensure predictable and reliable cash transfers to all SCT households, with gradual phase out for full government financing within the project period.** Currently, government financing to the SCT in 2023 was 65 percent of the total caseload, with budget allocation increasing to 70 percent in 2024. Under GEWEL 2, IDA investment will be utilized to scale up the SCT to 1.5 million households (about 62 percent of the poor)<sup>23</sup> in the first two years of implementation, and will be fully financed by the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) by 2027 (third year of project implementation barring worsening macroeconomic and domestic revenue environment).

19. **It will also provide additional support to enable eligible households to invest in their nutrition through increased purchasing power and enhanced awareness of role of nutrition in human capital growth.** Specifically, a nutrition cash top up will complement the regular SCT payments to select SCT households with pregnant and lactating women and children under two years, supported by regular SMS based nutrition-sensitive messaging at relevant stages of the SCT delivery, learning from the nutrition messaging pilot planned under the SSRSP.

#### Sub-Component 1.2: Nutrition-Specific Activities for Demand Creation & Service Provision

20. **With a view towards demand creation for nutrition services and prevention of malnutrition, focus will also be given to enhancing the understanding of good nutrition practices to promote positive behaviors.** Activities will include in-depth training and social and behavioral change interventions by community-based volunteers (CBVs) on relevant nutrition issues, together with family visits and nutrition counseling to identify and refer children and women at risk of malnutrition to relevant primary health care (PHC) facilities.

<sup>22</sup> On-going work includes, but not limited to, the 1,000 Days Nutrition Pilot implemented by MCDSS, supported by UNICEF and bilateral donors, the First 1000 Most Critical Days Program Phase 2, and Scaling Up Nutrition Phase 2, Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience program, and Scaling Sustainable Nutrition for All, among others.

<sup>23</sup> World Bank calculation based on latest census data and 2022 LCMS.





21. **In complement, efforts will be made to improve health service provision at the community and health care facility levels for enhanced preventative and therapeutic nutrition services.** At the community level, capacity building measures will be undertaken to identify and adequately train CBVs in the selected implementing districts to effectively undertake their responsibilities. Related, efforts will be given to reviewing and updating all relevant guidelines, protocols, communication, and training materials. Investments will also be made to complement gaps in the national Growth Monitoring and Promotion service package delivered through health facilities, as appropriate. Further, PHC facilities will be supported with anthropometric equipment, supplies, and commodities, as required. Support will also be given to improving sanitation at PHC facilities and surrounding areas with provision of water and sanitation services, minor renovation/rehabilitation of relevant facilities, and access to clean water. Lastly, attention will be given to establishing digital solutions for improved reporting, and enhancing coordination at all levels, in line with established government structures.

### **Component 2: Keeping Girls in School and Beyond (KGS)**

22. **GEWEL 2 will scale up KGS nationally through the provision of financial assistance to eligible adolescent girls for associated education costs<sup>24</sup> to enable their enrollment in upper primary and secondary schools.** With the current available finances, 107,321 girls are expected to be supported under this component, 63,000 of whom will have transitioned from the first phase of GEWEL, while 44,321 will be new girls, with scale up to more new girls planned based on the additional financing. In complement, efforts will continue to be given to scaling digital solutions for more effective delivery of the Education Grant and other payments. To address high dropout rates among adolescent girls in Zambia, this component will continue to also scale up the KGS Case Management System (CMS)<sup>25</sup> across all KGS schools nationally, with attention given to linking the CMS with the Ministry of Education's Home Grown School Meals (HGSM) program to strengthen adolescent nutrition. This component will also continue to strengthen and scale up on-going efforts to address key drivers of school dropout and early marriages, such as regressive gender norms and school related GBV.

23. **Lastly, GEWEL 2 will extend the KGS component to also establish linkages and referral mechanisms in support of transition from secondary school to work** by connecting participating KGS girls to appropriate training, internships, and active learning opportunities, and facilitating networking and information events, as well as fully government-funded university scholarship for KGS girls.<sup>26</sup> Efforts will be made to upskill older and graduated KGS girls to serve as mentors and role models. Lastly, options for collaboration with relevant initiatives, such as the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), will be explored to support relevant project expenditures (i.e., boarding fees, skills training) envisioned under this component.

### **Component 3: Supporting Women's Livelihoods for Climate Smart Productive Inclusion (SWL)**

24. **GEWEL 2 will expand SWL nationally and make transformative enhancements through a step-and-ladder approach that can support sustainable climate smart pathways out of poverty.** With the current available finances, it is expected that this component will support 58,000 new beneficiaries across all the 116 districts, expanding also to urban areas, with scale up planned based on additional financing. Beneficiaries will receive (a) a productivity grant; (b) training and mentorship on life and business skills; with an explicit focus on

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<sup>24</sup> While education tuition fees are free for primary and secondary schools in Zambia, other costs, such as school uniforms, books, stationary, transportation etc., which can prevent poor girls from attending school. KGS provides these girls with an annual Education Grant, as well covering their boarding facility, examination fees, and other costs to address these challenges.

<sup>25</sup> The CMS identifies either girls at-risk of dropping out and strives to retain them in school, or girls that have already dropped out and aims to bring them back to school.

<sup>26</sup> The program on university scholarship to KGS girls was introduced in 2022 and provided scholarships to 673 girls in 2023.



digital literacy and climate resilience and adaptation for diversification of livelihoods; (c) additional training on climate-smart agriculture practices, in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); and (d) support on savings groups formation and digitization. Lastly, efforts will be given to also support nutrition activities by both supporting SWL beneficiaries to engage in the production of nutrition rich crops.

25. **Attention will be given to enhancing resilience of SWL and facilitating access to inputs through a strategic linkage with the Food Security Pack (FSP) program to promote productivity of agricultural enterprises.** As such, once beneficiaries conclude the SWL program, those eligible will be absorbed into the FSP<sup>27</sup> for longer term and more in-depth agricultural support, including a weather-indexed risk insurance to protect against climate-induced shocks, pests, and diseases. Efforts will also be given to supporting select SWL women to access markets and link with value chains to grow their enterprises for increased profits, in close collaboration with Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) to access CDF grant and with the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSME), as feasible.

#### **Component 4: Institutional Strengthening and Systems Building for Cash 'Plus' Delivery (ISSB)**

26. **To ensure continued effective and accountable delivery of SP services and achievement of project results, investments will be provided to strengthen adaptive SP systems and institutional capacities.** Focus will be concentrated on two broad strategic areas: (a) girls' and women's empowerment and (b) digital solutions. In addition, investments will also continue to be made to support effective project implementation, particularly in terms of overall SP sector coordination through improved collaboration between GEWEL 2 and the UN-JPSP, as well as project governance and coordination of cross-cutting project activities and capacity building.

27. **To enhance girls' and women's agency, attention will be given to deepening citizen engagement and addressing negative social norms that give rise to unequal gender practices and GBV,** with a focus on strengthening social accountability and continuing to enhance the functionality of the existing project grievance redress mechanism (GRM). Further, on-going efforts to enhance GBV prevention, mitigation, and response will be scaled up. Lastly, support will also be provided to continue strengthening the national Gender Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System, including operationalization of the Gender Policy (developed under GEWEL) and the Gender M&E Framework.

28. **To strengthen adaptive SP systems, digital solutions will be operationalized to support effective and accountable services delivery and promote greater coordination and collaboration in SP programming.** Under GEWEL 2, the design and conceptualization of key digital solutions and IT systems finalized under the current phase of GEWEL, namely the Digital Strategy for the Social Protection Sector, Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan (BCP), and a Single/Social Registry, will be established and operationalized. Further, continued high-level advisory support on the functionality of the ZISPIS will also be provided.

29. **Lastly, investments will be made to strengthen capacity for overall SP sectoral coordination and project implementation, with particular focus on improved collaboration between GEWEL 2 and UN-JPSP.** Priority will be given to supporting the reporting functions to the Human and Social Development Cluster, operationalization of the SP coordination strategy, and strengthening oversight and reporting capacity of an inter-ministerial body within the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) to report to the Presidential Delivery Unit in the Office of the President. Support will be provided to hold regular meetings of the GEWEL Project Steering Committee (PSC) and Project Technical Committee (PTC) which will also feed updates to the proposed

<sup>27</sup> Given the FSP is fully funded by the GRZ, the project can leverage the existing structures in place without the need to provide additional IDA funds.



SP Sector Coordination Committee,<sup>28</sup> with focus on coordination/collaboration between for GEWEL 2 and UN-JPSP, as well as ensure effective coordination of cross cutting project activities.

Legal Operational Policies

	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

30. **Key environmental and social risks and impacts identified** include: (a) generation of biohazard waste from use of menstrual hygiene kits, waste debris from rehabilitation works and wastewater pollution from domestic and school sanitation; (b) generation of e-waste from improved service delivery; (c) Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) risks to Pay Point Mangers (PPMs) during SCT activities; (d) downstream environmental risks from technical assistance activities; (e) increased incidence of GBV/Sexual Exploitation Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) risk; (f) exclusion for eligible vulnerable households, including Persons With Disabilities; (g) elite capture; (h) labor risks; and (i) lack of meaningful consultations. To mitigate against these risks, the Environmental and Social Management Plan will include guidelines for menstrual waste management and wastewater management, e-waste management plan and OHS risks assessment and security management plan for PPMs. Further, other relevant mitigation measures will be documented in appropriate instruments, including Labor Management Procedure, SEP, GRM, as well as an updated GBV/SEA/SH Action plan, already developed under GEWEL. To further manage these risks and impacts associated with the project, dedicated Environmental and Social, GBV/SEA, and nutrition experts will be recruited and/or assigned, as appropriate. In particular, the role of the current GRM officers for each component under the GEWEL will be extended to include GBV issues and stakeholder engagement. Details of the risks, impacts and mitigation measures are detailed in the Environmental and Social Review Summary and the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

31. **GEWEL 2 will use existing institutional and implementation arrangements from the current phase of GEWEL, with adjustments based on learning and new activities.** The GEWEL PSC will provide strategic guidance and oversight, while the PTC will support on project-specific governance, coordination, technical, and operational issues. The PTC will also be responsible for reporting to the PSC on key GEWEL 2 progress and challenges, as well as for updating the proposed SP Sector Coordination Committee. Moreover, the MoH Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be responsible for updating the NFNC and other partners on GEWEL 2-specific nutrition activities. Existing PIUs within MCDSS will implement the Nutrition-Sensitive SCT (Subcomponent 1.1) and SWL (Component 3), while the MoH will be newly engaged as an implementing agency for Nutrition-Specific Activities (Subcomponent 1.2). The current KGS PIU within the

<sup>28</sup> This committee has not yet been established but is under discussion by the World Bank and UNICEF to support improved coordination of activities under GEWEL 2 and UN-JPSP, learning from previous coordination experiences.



MoE will implement KGS (Component 2), and the Gender Division will take the lead on ISSB (Component 4) related to girls' and women's empowerment, as well as support project-specific governance, coordination, and cross-cutting activities. MCDSS Department of Planning and Information (DPI) will support overall SP sector coordination under ISSB (Component 4), while the MCDSS Department of Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) will support digital systems strengthening (Component 4). The current institutional arrangements at the province, district, and community levels will remain unchanged, with districts to be capacitated to take a more effective implementation role.

32. **Given the multisectoral nature of the proposed GEWEL 2 activities, implementation will prioritize close collaboration and coordination with key government institutions and cooperating partners.** For example, besides MoH and the GFF, engagement with partners such as the NFNC, UNICEF, and the World Food Programme will be critical for the design and implementation of nutrition activities, as well as for activities envisioned under KGS and SWL. In addition, close collaboration with relevant ministries such as MLGRD and MSME will be key, as will be the private sector, among others. Lastly, established relationships with current bilateral donors that are co-financing the first phase of GEWEL will still be maintained.

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