



The World Bank

Coordination, Operation, Management, and Information for Delivering Assistance (COMIDA) to Vulnerable Populations (P180092)

Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

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The World Bank

Coordination, Operation, Management, and Information for Delivering Assistance (COMIDA) to Vulnerable Populations (P180092)

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Argentina	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	P180092	
Project Name	Coordination, Operation, Management, and Information for Delivering Assistance (COMIDA) to Vulnerable Populations		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Protection & Jobs	Investment Project Financing	6/2/2023	8/4/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Argentine Republic	General Directorate of Special Projects and International Cooperation (DGPEyCI) - Ministry of Social, Ministry of Social Development		

Proposed Development Objective

The development objective of the project is to improve the effectiveness and traceability of food programs implemented by the Ministry of Social Development.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	400.00

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]



This project will support the food programs combatting food insecurity in a period in which cash transfers are insufficient to fully cushion the impact of negative external shocks like the price increase of food, in a country with pre-existing high inflation rates.

The lending instrument proposed is an Investment Project Financing for an amount of US\$300 million over five years, targeted at economic vulnerable populations. The Project would support three components:

Component 1. Design improvement of food programs run by MDS (US\$10 million): This component aims to improve and strengthen the design, capacity and quality of the two largest food programs in Argentina. Regarding the Food Benefit program, this component will provide technical assistance to MDS in two specific areas: a benefit indexation mechanism and the expansion of coverage to children aged 15 to 17 years old under the AUH program. The indexation mechanism will be linked to the inflation rates but will also serve as a fast shock response procedure by temporarily increasing the amount of the benefit for poor and vulnerable households in the wake of disasters and climate-change related shocks thereby reducing their vulnerabilities and avoiding negative coping strategies to ensure food security, particularly for female-headed households. With respect to the Feeding Community program, this component will support the development and implementation of a new decentralized procurement method for community kitchens, the strengthening of the MDS capacity to manage the planning and implementation of the FC, and the enhancement of the capacity of the community kitchens that will participate in the program.

Activities supported by this component also include the institutional strengthening of MDS in the areas responsible for the implementation of food programs. As such, this component will finance activities including the carrying out of project audits, as well as consultant and non-consultant services, training, goods (IT equipment, hardware, and software) and operating costs. In addition, this component will finance activities aimed at improving environmental and social management as needed as well as grievance mechanisms and citizen engagement related to food programs.

Component 2. Feeding Community program financing (US\$40 million). This component will support the decentralized implementation of the FC program and will finance the expenditures incurred under the new food provision method through monetary transfers in debit cards to be used by community kitchens limited for its use on food. This new method will also replace the discretionary top-down distribution criteria with a bottom-up process that more fairly allocates resources following food demand and CSO effectiveness in catering to it. The nutritional content of meals is expected to improve as fresh food items will be included in eligible locally procured items. Also, reducing the amount of 'dry' food procured centrally will have a positive result in terms of carbon emissions, as fewer items need to be bought, transported to the two MDS warehouses, and transported to the community kitchens. In addition, implementing a decentralized provision method will also reduce the stock of food stored either at MDS warehouses or at the community kitchens, freeing resources to expedite the progressive expansion of community kitchens under this traceable method. Finally, the decentralization of food provision under the CKP is also expected to have a positive effect on gender equality considering that more than 90 percent of the community kitchens are led by women who will increase their agency through access to economic resources and technical assistance, thus strengthening their role as community leaders.

Component 3: Food Benefit program financing (US\$250 million). This component aims to improve the design and coverage of the FB program. A series of improvements in the program are being considered, some as bills to be



passed as legislation. The first is aimed at adopting an indexation mechanism that allows for a period adjustment of the benefit amount of the FB to protect purchasing power or adjust it countercyclically, including as a fast shock response procedure by temporarily increasing the amount of the benefit for poor and vulnerable households in the wake of disasters and climate-change related shocks.

The first component is a traditional investment component. The remaining two components will reimburse the expenditure of the Food Benefit and Feeding Community programs, respectively, through results linked to PBCs.

- a. PBC1: Implementation of a benefit indexation mechanism that regularly adjusts the benefit amount of the FB program.
- b. PBC2: Number of beneficiaries of AUH aged 15-17 years of age that receive a benefit from the FB program.
- c. PBC3: Number of active debit cards used by community kitchens that procure food through the FC program.
- d. PBC4: Number of beneficiaries that participate in the FC program and whose identity is being tracked through digital tools.

The definition of these PBCs will be finalized and validated by the Government during appraisal.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

Component 2 of the Project and activities under Component 1 associated with the FC Program will be implemented in urban and peri-urban areas, while Component 3 and activities under Component 1 associated with the FB Program will have a national scale.. The project will be implemented centrally by the MDS, which will use the different mechanisms already deployed in the national territory to strengthen the articulation with subnational agencies and local actors.

The Project seeks to improve the effectiveness and traceability of food programs managed by the MDS. Specifically, the Project will enhance and expand the Food Benefit Program (cash transfer program directly paid to beneficiaries) through (i) the design and implementation of an instrument that allows the periodic updating of the benefit amount, in a highly inflationary context, to avoid losses in the purchasing power of benefits and (ii) the coverage expansion of the benefit to families with children in the age range 15-17 years; and, the enhancement of the Feeding Community Program through (i) the implementation of a traceable payment instrument specifically designed to buy food items; and the decentralization of food procurement process to the CSOs that cook, process and delivers meals at the Community Kitchens. Activities related to the cash transfer programs will have a national coverage, according to the beneficiaries of such programs: persons in a situation of social vulnerability and food insecurity, prioritizing households with children and adolescents up to 14 years old inclusive (which the proposed Project seeks to expand to include the range 15-17 years old inclusive), pregnant women, households with persons with disabilities without age limit; and who respectively receive through the National Social Security Administration (ANSES) the corresponding non-contributory allowances. Activities will basically comprise digital developments and related technical assistance to put them in practice.



Activities related under Component 1 associated to the Feeding Community Program will be basically linked to the development of information systems for the implementation of the decentralized food procurement modality, and the associated technical assistance activities (strengthening, training, studies) that this implies. The topics to be addressed through training will include, inter alia, administrative management, training in food management, health and safety. These activities will indirectly involve certain new activities in the Community Kitchens, such new food logistics and storage arrangements based on the decentralized procurement of food. As stated above, these Project activities will be implemented in urban and peri-urban areas. The deployment of this new mechanism for decentralization of food procurement will be implemented progressively over time and territory over the course of five years, but it is not expected to reach rural areas within the lifetime of the Project. Considering that the majority of the population that attends the Community Kitchens are children and mothers, these Project activities will have a greater impact on these vulnerable groups.

Project activities do not entail civil works, infrastructure investments or any other kind of physical interventions. Basic IT equipment upgrade is foreseen for the MDS, which would entail the possibility of generating e-waste. In addition, the project will include the purchase of furniture and other equipment (e.g. energy efficient refrigerators) for community kitchens participating in the FC program.

The project will help address the gender gap by prioritizing women as beneficiaries (women are overrepresented among heads of poor households). The expansion of the FB program, now including children aged between 15 and 17, will enhance the nutrition of those children, which in turn is expected to have positive effects on their health and education. These benefits will indirectly contribute to reducing the time women spend on unpaid care work. In addition, the decentralization of food procurement under the Community Kitchens Program (CKP) is also expected to have a positive effect on gender equality considering that more than 90% of the community kitchens are led by women, who will increase their agency through access to economic resources and technical assistance, thus strengthening their role as community leaders. The project is also expected to have a positive impact on people with disabilities. Families with people with disabilities are eligible for the FB, regardless of age. In the case of the FC program, the Project will finance a digital tool to track beneficiaries of community kitchens, which will allow the MDS to better identify beneficiaries with disabilities, allowing to better track their inclusion/exclusion from the program and provide potential outreach where needed. In addition, the tool may also identify people with disabilities without the Unique Disability Certificate (CUD), thus providing assistance to get it and or update it. Finally, the proposed project is also Paris Aligned as it is consistent with the country's climate commitments reflected in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Long-term Strategy (LTS).

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The execution of the Project within the National Ministry of Social Development (MDS) will be under the responsibility of the General Directorate of Special Projects and International Cooperation (DGPEyCI), with organizational dependence of the Secretariat of Administrative Management.

The DGPEyCI is in charge of the operational execution of the Programs (including environmental, social, health and safety risk management aspects, ESHS), and fiduciary functions. Currently, DGPEyCI has professionals in the fields of social work, anthropology, sociology, philosophy and social communication, with experience in the implementation of social programs and projects. The DGPEyCI has a Social Specialist and an Environmental Specialist (covering also health and safety), that will be supported by the multidisciplinary team mentioned above.



For the specific implementation of the Project, the DGPEyCI will coordinate activities with other units within the MDS, in particular with the ones in charge of the FB Program and the FC Program.

The MDS has a positive track record in executing Bank financed operations and basic training in ESF. The Ministry is currently implementing the Children and Youth Protection Project – AUH (P158791 and its two Additional Financing P167851 and P173081), which has been rated “Satisfactory” in safeguards during all the implementation period of the project. The team will include at least one social specialist and one environmental specialist (who will also cover health and safety aspects), supported by a communication specialist. Given that this will be the first operation with the MDS under the Bank’s ESF, the ESCP included a commitment for training relevant MDS personnel, as appropriate, on: (i) mapping and stakeholder engagement; (ii) specific aspects of environmental and social assessment and monitoring; (iii) occupational health and safety; (iv) community health and safety; (v) grievance and redress mechanisms, (vi) gender perspective and interculturality; (vii) prevention of risks of sexual harassment, exploitation and/or abuse.

For this new operation, social and environmental standards are expected to continue being managed by the above mentioned qualified specialists.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating

Low

This operation does not entail serious risks to the environment. The Project does not finance land acquisition. It does not either entail remodeling, rehabilitation or construction of new infrastructure. The actions of the project will be carried out within existing facilities, and will not intervene in sensitive or protected areas, nor will it carry out actions or generate effects that put biodiversity, or cultural heritage at risk. The overall risks to and potential adverse impacts on the environment are likely to be minimal or negligible. Furthermore, the Project would result in valuable outcomes such as: i) reducing the carbon footprint produced by the logistics transport as per the local food procurement versus food distribution from the province of Buenos Aires to the rest of the provinces of Argentina; ii) addressing problems that arise in food purchasing procedures in inflationary contexts. This fact not only causes problems in which purchases are made, but also ends up generating a delay in the distribution of food, as well as an insufficient supply of food that does not end up covering the demand by the community kitchens; iii) strengthening the food management and meal planning capacity of the community kitchens, thus promoting the delivery of meals with higher nutritional content and with adaptations according to the region and its nutritional needs (nutritional content of the meals is expected to improve as the fresh food items are included among those eligible items procured at the local level); and, iv) reducing the stocks of food stored either at MDS warehouses or at the community kitchens, increasing the number of CSOs that could be reached monthly through the use of rotating funds. The Project will finance basic equipment (devices, such as digital scanners, will be used to track records through the bar codes of the national ID for improving the traceability of the funds used by the Community kitchens) and will provide education and training for the use of software and hardware, as part of an upgrade of IT resources (in the MDS). In addition, the project will include the purchase of furniture and other equipment (e.g. energy efficient refrigerators) for community



kitchens participating in the FC program. The potential replacement of obsolete electronic equipment would have then the potential to generate e-waste and, accordingly, the need of its proper handling/disposal.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

As stated above, the proposed project would improve the effectiveness and traceability, of selected Food Programs implemented by the MDS. In addition to the positive outcomes mentioned in the environmental risk section, by improving the traceability of the food programs implemented through CSOs, the Project will introduce a tool to replace the discretionary criteria currently used to distribute the procured goods, by a bottom-up driven criterion, driven by traceable demand at the community kitchens. In this sense, the Project is expected to have only positive social impacts on vulnerable and systematically excluded groups and no negative social effects. The main social risks are associated with the potential exclusion of vulnerable groups from participating in the benefits of the Project and with possible weakness in communication, participation and engagement capacity of the Ministry of Social Development. These risks are being assessed in the draft Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA), which has been developed and will be preliminarily consulted and disclosed by appraisal. The ESA includes mitigation measures and proposes actions to improve Project’s design and/or implementation. Moreover, the draft ESA has informed the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), which covers risks related to exclusion in participation of vulnerable groups through the planning and implementation of proper strategies of information disclosure and consultation in a timely and culturally appropriate manner. A draft SEP is also currently being developed and it will be disclosed and preliminarily consulted by appraisal.

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 . In order to guarantee food security and sovereignty for the most economically and socially vulnerable sectors, the Government launched in 2019 the National Plan "Argentina contra el Hambre" (Argentina against Hunger). In this context, the food assistance policy in Argentina is comprised of a series of programs run by the Ministry of Social Development (MDS) with unequal coverage and budgetary dimensions. The Prestacion Alimentar program (Food Benefit -FB) is the largest. It was originally introduced in late 2019 as a cash transfer program paid directly to the final beneficiary through an independent debit card, and later on, replaced the debit card for an additional cash transfer of the AUH. The second largest food program run by MDS is the Programa de Comedores Comunitarios (or Community Kitchens program -CKP), implemented through civil society organizations (CSO), which follows the rationale of programs designed to address natural disasters; for the CKP, the MDS procures, stores and distributes staple food items, that are later on either cooked and processed in the form of meals or fractioned and delivered as food boxes by the CSOs. Finally, the “Programa de Abordaje Comunitario” under the Secretariat of Social Inclusion of the MDS, accompanies and finances community organizations (the MDS transfers cash to pre-screened CSOs bank accounts with the exclusively purpose of buying food) with the mission of ensuring access to food for the most vulnerable people and/or family groups in the country, promoting coordination with provinces, municipalities, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Public Disclosure



The MDS has developed the ESA to assess the risks associated with the proposed activities under the Project, incorporate mitigation measures and propose actions to improve its design and/or implementation. A draft of this instrument is expected to be disclosed and preliminarily consulted prior to appraisal. The Project design has considered factors of inequality, to ensure they are not exacerbated by the activities of the project and that access for vulnerable groups is guaranteed. The ESA and SEP identify potential barriers that individuals belonging to Indigenous Peoples, Afro descendants, people with disabilities, persons within the LGBTI community, migrants and elderly persons, among others, may face to access Project benefits and looks for ways to ensure that: (i) these groups are afforded opportunities to participate in planning and/or implementation of activities that affect them; and (ii) opportunities to provide such groups with culturally appropriate benefits are considered. The ESA and SEP specify that project information should be disseminated timely, in an accessibly and culturally appropriate manner. Moreover, it will follow existing anti-discrimination protocols. Another important measure considered in the ESA is the direct support of certain populations (such as migrants, indigenous peoples, among other groups) which may have difficulties accessing a National ID get one, for them not to be excluded from the benefits of the Project. In addition, the Project will implement two mechanisms for receiving beneficiary feedback: (i) a satisfaction survey to the community kitchen staff; and (ii) a citizen scorecard for beneficiaries of the Feeding Community program.

Regarding the environmental risks and potential impact related to the potential upgrade of IT resources (in the MDS), an e-waste management procedure is required due to the replacement of obsolete electronic and community kitchens equipment. Aiming at generating a proportionate to the risks / fit-for-purpose instrument, this e-waste management procedure will be based on applicable regulation (as corresponds), built on existing related procedures that the MDS has, and take into account, as necessary, the good practice document “Integrated e-Waste Management Manual” (prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation; Country Office of the International Labor Organization Argentina, 2020).

Although the definition of PBCs will be confirmed during appraisal, it is envisioned that the Performance Based Conditions linked to disbursements of Components 2 and 3 cover the proper execution of activities under all the Components.

The ESCP will include any additional measures that may be necessary to address risks identified in the ESA, the final version of which, following further consultations, will be disclosed within 90 days of project effectiveness (estimated). A draft ESCP is currently being prepared and it will be agreed between the borrower and the Bank. The draft ESCP will be disclosed prior to appraisal and finalized and re-disclosed by negotiations. The ESCP states that retroactive financing will only be eligible for expenses related to activities developed according to the Loan Agreement and the Operational Manual of the new Feeding Community program (elaborated during Project’s preparation) and in a manner acceptable to the Bank.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

This standard is relevant. A SEP has been prepared to ensure the access of all key stakeholders to the relevant information and the beneficiary feedback mechanisms that are available. The SEP has been informed by the findings of the draft ESA and includes the mapping of relevant stakeholders, a strategy for disclosure and a plan for consultations with them, including other government institutions and civil society organizations that represent the



identified vulnerable groups. Risks associated with inadequate communication and dissemination of information are addressed through actions defined in the SEP. The draft SEP will be disclosed by Appraisal, and consulted and redisclosed within 90 days after the Project Effective Date. The final version of the SEP will incorporate inputs received by all relevant stakeholders including representatives from Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups identified above, in a culturally appropriate manner.

It has to be noted that the MDS has carried out a preliminary consultation process as part of Project’s design and diagnostic (with interviews, focus groups and field research), in order to understand the dynamic and organizational aspects of Community Kitchens, modalities of food purchase and distribution to vulnerable people, and in order to assess perceptions regarding the Feeding Community program. These instances included consultations with community kitchens such as Fundación Margarita Barrientos (City of Buenos Aires), Comedor Rayito de Luz (Tigre, Province of Buenos Aires), Diócesis de Orán (Province of Salta), Parroquia San Juan Bosco, Cárcova (San Martín, Province of Buenos Aires) and Cáritas (Mar del Plata Province of Buenos Aires). Some of the feedback received referred for example to the centrality of the role of women as community workers in community kitchens, the benefits that purchasing food in a decentralized manner may have, the need to provide more nutritional food such as meat and vegetables, among other aspects. Stakeholders with experience using cards to purchase food referred to it as a positive experience. Lastly, stakeholders maintained there are usually poor systematization and reporting processes in place, as well as various challenges when incorporating ICTs to register direct beneficiaries (which is currently done manually).

The MDS has an active Grievance Mechanism (GM) in place, described in the SEP, which includes different channels to address questions, complaints, and grievances. It is called Sistema Integrado de Comunicación Institucional (SICOI) and it allows the MDS to have integrated records of the communications received, and the follow-up of each case until it is responded and resolved. The GM for this project will be based on this existing channel, which will be reviewed to be aligned with the Bank’s ESF. For example, it will include relevant SEA/SH considerations and protocols to properly respond and/or refer to the corresponding governmental service that could provide a proper response for the survivors.

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

This standard is relevant. The Project will be mainly implemented by public servants of the MDS. Possible types of project workers would include: i) direct workers: consultants hired by the MDS to support the Project Management Unit; ii) contracted workers, that work for consulting firms to review the financial statements; iii) contracted workers, that work for consulting firms to evaluate project results. In addition, Component 2 will fund activities associated with the process of decentralization of the Community Kitchens Food Program financing that will imply the direct involvement of CSOs and, accordingly, the involvement of community workers as per ESS2 definitions (CSO’s active referents).



Based on the results of the ESA, the Project will prepare Labor Management Procedures (LMP) that will include measures to ensure the compliance with the regulatory framework, and any additional measure required to cover the key aspects of working conditions and occupational health and safety of the different workers involved in the activities implemented under the Project. As relevant and applicable, specific occupational health and safety and working conditions aspects related to the handling/processing of food will take into account the WBG Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines on Food and Beverage Processing (2007). The LMP will be prepared no later than 60 days after the Effective Date, or prior to the recruitment of any project worker, whichever comes first.

The LMP will describe the type of workers involved, identify the main labor requirements and risks associated with the Project, and determine the necessary resources to address Project related labor issues, including sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH), non-discrimination, and health and safety issues. The LMP shall also include measures to ensure that civil servants working on the project, direct workers, contracted workers and community workers have an understanding of occupational health and safety requirements and the protection of employees. For public servants working in connection with the project, whether full-time or part-time, they will remain subject to the terms and conditions of their existing public sector employment agreement or arrangement, unless there has been an effective legal transfer of their employment or engagement to the project. ESS2 will not apply to such government civil servants, except for the provisions regarding protecting the workforce and occupational health and safety. The LMP will also clearly identify the terms and conditions on which community labor will be engaged, including amount and method of payment (if applicable) and times of work. The document will also refer to the training that will also provided to such workers, which will be tailored to their particular needs and the assessed risks and impacts of the project.

The LMP will also incorporate a separate grievance mechanism specifically for project workers. During project implementation, the LMP may be revisited and updated as required, as additional labor-related risks or issues unfold.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This standard is currently relevant. The Project will finance basic computer equipment and will provide education and training for the use of software and hardware, as part of an upgrade of IT resources (in the MDS). In addition, the project will include the purchase of furniture and other equipment (e.g. energy efficient refrigerators) for community kitchens participating in the FC program (Component 2). The potential replacement of obsolete electric and/or electronic equipment would have then the potential to generate e-waste and the need of its proper handling/disposal. Based on this, the MDS will develop an e-waste management procedure (developed as part of the ESA), proportionate to the risks. This e-waste procedure will be based in the applicable regulation that exists in involved jurisdictions as corresponds (there is no national specific national regulation on e-waste management to date), built on any existing related procedures on waste management that the MDS has, and taken into account, as necessary, the good practice document “Integrated e-Waste Management Manual” (prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation; Country Office of the International Labor Organization Argentina, 2020 – which is not a regulatory instrument and mostly provides guidance on implementing circular economy aspects in connection with e-waste).

ESS4 Community Health and Safety



This standard is relevant. Existing Community Kitchens comply with local health and safety requirements for such kind of facilities. People that provide services in those Community Kitchens are currently handling fresh food (with the associated procedures that this implies) since, in addition to the supply currently provided by the MDS, they can receive this type of inputs through different sources such as private donations, their own resources, etc. However, it is expected that the change to the decentralized procurement modality promoted by the Project will encourage the purchase of fresh food of higher nutritional levels.

The ESA identifies and evaluates risks and potential impacts related to the above mentioned community health and safety aspects, and identifies the corresponding mitigation measures as well as any actions that lead to increase benefits. Management measures build on current practices of compliance with applicable regulations on community kitchen habilitation by local authorities and handling of food. As relevant and applicable, community health and safety aspects related to the handling/processing of food are included in the ESA and take into account the WBG Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines on Food and Beverage Processing (2007). The MDS also incorporates a training module on good manufacturing practices (GMP); GMPs, included in the Argentine Food Code, are a series of measures for the correct reception of inputs, storage, handling and distribution of preparations, taking into account the country's existing regulations.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This standard is not currently relevant. There are no risks and/or potential impacts relevant to ESS5. There will be no physical interventions under the Project; activities to be financed will neither require land acquisition, nor restrictions on land use or involuntary resettlement as defined under this Standard.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This standard is not currently relevant. There are no risks and/or potential impacts relevant to ESS6.

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

This standard is relevant. Component 2 and some activities under Component 1 associated with the FC Program will be implemented in urban and peri-urban areas, while Component 3 and some activities under Component 1 associated with the FB Program will have a national scale. In the case of Component 3, the Project will only improve and expand the beneficiaries from an existing cash transfer program (The Food Benefit Program – FB) that has a national coverage. It is important to highlight that the FB Program design rests on the strategies that have been carried out for more than a decade regarding the mitigation barriers for different vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, to access to universal benefits, which involve different institutional actors and representatives of civil society. That said, particularly for this Component, the ESA has assessed that the main barriers that indigenous peoples may face to access its benefits are related to potential challenges when accessing to project's information. For this reason, the SEP ensures there will be specific consultations with indigenous peoples representatives, and



monitoring indicators that will be defined based on such consultation process, with particular focus on ensuring that the dissemination of the information of the project will be done in a culturally-appropriate manner.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This standard is not currently relevant. There are no potential risks and/or impacts relevant to ESS8.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard is not currently relevant. The Project will not involve the use of Financial Intermediaries.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

B.3. Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts

Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework? No

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

None

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Public Disclosure



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Coordination, Operation, Management, and Information for Delivering Assistance (COMIDA) to Vulnerable Populations (P180092)

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Argentine Republic

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: General Directorate of Special Projects and International Cooperation (DGPEyCI) - Ministry of Social

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Social Development

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

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Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Maria Gonzalez de Asis Cleared on 01-May-2023 at 19:46:8 EDT