



Additional Financing Appraisal Environmental and
Social Review Summary
Appraisal Stage
(AF ESRS Appraisal Stage)

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BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)
Central African Republic	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA		
Project ID	Project Name		
P180996	Additional Financing to the Central African Republic (CAR) Emergency Food Crisis Response Project		
Parent Project ID (if any)	Parent Project Name		
P176754	Central African Republic (CAR) Emergency Food Crisis Response Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Agriculture and Food	Investment Project Financing	5/24/2023	6/14/2023

Proposed Development Objective

The objectives of the project are to increase food production and to improve resilience of targeted smallholder farmers and food insecure households in affected areas.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Current Financing	50.00
Proposed Additional Financing	0.00
Total Proposed Financing	50.00

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]

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The Central African Republic (CAR) is among the most fragile countries in the world with a history of recurrent cycles of violence. Following a major security crisis in 2013 that displaced over 25 percent of its 4.9 million people, CAR has embarked on a long recovery process. However, despite the signing of a peace agreement in 2019, conflicts and violence continue to affect the country's economic performance. Average GDP growth has been low and not inclusive over the past decades. Poverty remains pervasive with an estimated 71 percent of the population living below the international poverty line (US\$ 1.90 per day, 2011 PPP) in 2019.

The Central African Republic (CAR) continue to face severe food crisis with over 52 percent of the population undernourished, and the COVID-19 pandemic, global food shortages, rising fuel prices, and other import costs are worsening the crisis. The country ranks 120th out of 121 countries on the Global Hunger Index. The crisis is leading to a rise in malnutrition rates and difficulties in accessing enough food, resulting in one of the highest under-five mortality rates in 2021. The crisis is affecting the country's economy as agriculture is a major source of income and employment, and it is projected that the ongoing food insecurity will exacerbate the already high poverty rate.

As per the last Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, during the current period of review (September 2022 to March 2023), 2.7 million people (41 percent of the analyzed population) face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). Nearly 3 million people (49 percent of the analyzed population) are expected to be in high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the April to August 2023 period. This represents a net increase of nearly 300,000 additional people being in IPC3+ in less than one year. By August 2023, the majority of the country's regions are expected to be in either a crisis (IPC3) or emergency (IPC4) state, with regions previously in IPC3 projected to worsen.

The proposed Additional financing to the Emergency Food Crisis response is well aligned with the World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework (CPF) in CAR for FY21–25, as well as with the WBG FCV Strategy. CAR is one of the most fragile countries in the world, where the risk of recurrence of conflict is higher if the level of food insecurity is high. Indeed, improved food security will help mitigate some of the spillovers of long years of conflict in the country.

The project will be implemented through four components:

Component 1: This component will support an accelerated supply response focused on restoring and preserving the productive capacity of farming households to enable continued and expanded production of key staple foods and livestock that is resilient to climate change. It will have three sub-components:

Subcomponent 1.1: Support food production and household nutrition

Subcomponent 1.2: Support to seed protection and linkages to market opportunities

Subcomponent 1.3: Strengthening hydro-meteorological information for early warning

Component 2: Labor-intensive public works for resilience will finance livelihood support programs through labor-intensive public works (LIPW) in six prefectures and in Bangui. The LIPW will provide short-term relief to food-insecure households through cash-for-work activities, while at the same time fostering adaptation to climate change and enhanced resilience to flooding. It will have two sub-components

Subcomponent 2.1: Rehabilitation and maintenance of small-scale agricultural infrastructures

Subcomponent 2.2: Rehabilitation and maintenance of drainage infrastructure in Bangui

Component 3: Project Management and Coordination



Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

The Central African Republic (CAR) is among the most fragile countries in the world with a history of recurrent cycles of violence. Following a major security crisis in 2013 that displaced over 25 percent of its 4.9 million people, CAR has embarked on a long recovery process. However, despite the signing of a peace agreement in 2019, conflict and violence continue to affect the country's economic performance. Average GDP growth has been low and not inclusive over the past decade. Poverty remains pervasive with an estimated 71 percent of the population living below the international poverty line (US\$ 1.90 per day, 2011 PPP) in 2019.

Several factors are contributing to the ongoing food security crisis in CAR, both preexisting and exacerbated. Preexisting factors include underperformance of the agriculture sector, ongoing conflicts that have displaced over 600,000 people, limited access to markets and farms, deteriorating macroeconomic conditions, and the continued impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Exacerbating factors include the global rise in fuel, food, and fertilizer prices intensified by the Russia-Ukraine war. The combination of these factors has led to a recent significant increase in food prices in the country. As a result, an estimated 2.7 million people (44 percent of the population) currently face acute food insecurity and this number is expected to increase to 3 million people (49 percent of the population) by August 2023. Further, it is estimated that 214,000 children under the age of five (40%) and more than 98,000 pregnant or lactating women are suffering from acute malnutrition (a rate considerably higher than the emergency threshold of 30 percent). The magnitude and scale of the food crisis emergency in CAR have overwhelmed the response capacity of the government, whose narrow fiscal space is overstretched to deals with multiple crisis simultaneously. In view of the unmet needs in food and nutrition security, US\$50 million is granted from the IDA Crisis Response Window (CRW) to help alleviate the situation.

The proposed AF will expand the scope of activities of the parent project and will be implemented in both rural and urban areas in 9 of 16 prefectures of the Central African Republic as well as the city of Bangui. The 9 prefectures are namely (Haute Koto, Nana Gribizi, Basse Koto, Ouham, Ouaka, and Mambere Kadei, Lobaye, Mboumou, Sangha Mbaéré). Specifically, some of these beneficial prefectures have indigenous population among their communities (Lobaye and Sangha Mbaéré).

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The Government of CAR has experience in managing the E&S risks and impacts of WB-financed projects implemented under the Safeguards Policies. The country relies on an established legal framework and on established institutions for E&S management. However, there is still limited experience implementing projects under the ESF and experience from other Bank financed projects highlight that the capacity to manage E&S risks and impacts requires considerable improvement in areas of supervision, monitoring and reporting.

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The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's (MARD) Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the parent project CAR Emergency Food Crisis Response Project (EFCRP) (P176754) will continue to manage the project. However, an evaluation of the performance of existing contracts with UN agencies will be conducted to determine their continued involvement in the project since the Parent project has been effective for only 15 months. The PIU will also partner with national and international NGOs where feasible and appropriate to carry out AF activities. Additionally, the PIU will work with the central and decentralized services of MARD, who will provide support to producers through memoranda of understanding with the PIU in implementing these activities.

The PIU's current E&S team includes 1 Environmental assistant, 1 Social safeguard Specialist, 1 GBV specialist and 2 E&S Assistants to manage the E&S risk and impacts of Project activities. The PIU is still looking to strengthen the E&S team with 1 security specialist. In addition, the PIU's E&S team and national and international NGOs involved in the implementation of the project will continue to receive regular capacity building training throughout the implementation of the project, in the form of clinics on specific issues.

At the national level, the Director General for Environment (DGE) is the main institution in the Ministry of Environment (MEDD) that is responsible for conducting and coordinating the E&S assessment process in CAR (e.g., validation of ESIA, ESMPs, analysis of field reports, inspection and E&S audit). At the departmental level, the DGE works in collaboration with local structures of the MEDD. However, its implementing capacity is low, especially as the DGE lacks financial and technical resources.

In the particular case of infrastructure rehabilitation and construction, arrangements already in place will be kept to ensure that appropriate OHS measures are monitored at the local level, as well as community empowerment (CE) processes. This will continue to be done through (i) training sessions for construction companies on the application of occupational health and safety measures, as well as their codes of conduct; (ii) sensitization and training of members of local management committees and local parents' committees to ensure safeguards, access to the various GRM channels, protective measures on the various risks related to vulnerable and accidents, but above all to ensure the sustainability of these measures.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) High

Environmental Risk Rating Substantial

The activities of the additional financing project are a continuation of the activities of the parent project CAR Emergency Food Crisis Response Project (EFCRP) (P176754) and aim to increase the resilience of vulnerable households to current and future food security crises, as well as the resilience and preparedness of the country as a whole to these crises. These activities present risks and environmental impacts that are not expected to be irreversible but still require attention as the AF implementation area expands from six parent project prefectures to nine in addition to Bangui. Under Component 1, activities related to increasing food crop production through improved access to agricultural inputs and provision of required advisory services are likely to result in (i) degradation of agricultural land and decline in soil fertility due to inappropriate land use for certain types of agricultural purposes, poor quality or use of technologies (types of equipment), poor agricultural practices, bush fires, biomass export, lack



of organic amendment, cultivation on the slope, etc.); ii) deforestation or destruction of trees during the opening or cultivation of plots; iii) pollution of surface and ground water by the use of phytosanitary products; iv) work accidents during the rehabilitation of small-scale agricultural infrastructure and waterborne diseases; and v) infectious diseases. Under Component 2, activities related to supporting household livelihoods in the most important areas of Bangui while building community resilience through LIPW that clean, repair, maintain, restore and rehabilitate drainage infrastructure could, among other things, lead to: (i) occupational health and safety risks for workers, including in particular beneficiaries from cash-for-work programs, as well as safety risks related to the works for surrounding communities, (ii) encroachment on crops in the vicinity of work sites, (iii) alteration of air quality by the emission of exhaust gases from construction site vehicles, and (iv) Noise pollution, construction site waste, etc. However, these risks and impacts were identified and assessed during the preparation of the parent project and measures to address them were recommended in the safeguard instruments developed and disclosed prior to project implementation. Within the project management unit that was established, an environmental specialist, a social specialist and two E&S assistants were recruited to ensure the implementation of the measures recommended in the instruments. According to the latest ISR of April 2023, the performance in implementing the project's environmental safeguards is rated as satisfactory to date, demonstrating that the project's E&S team has at least mastered the risks and impacts associated with project activities. Given this narrative, the environmental risk of the additional financing project is considered substantial, even if the additional financing will no longer finance the rehabilitation and maintenance of drainage infrastructures under the component 2. But this component in the parent project will remain with the high OHS risk potential, and also pose the problem of managing the sludge waste from drain cleaning.

Social Risk Rating

High

The social risk is rated as High. While the overall social benefits are expected to be positive, the anticipated social risks and impacts include: (a) complex risks in forced displacement situations, driving up food prices, slow increase or even stagnation of agricultural and livestock production for several years, insufficient food consumption for 40% of the children under age of 5 where people become vulnerable, often with minimal assets and limited access to basic services and employment). (b) High risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) specific to the projects as assessed through the SEA/SH risk rating tool. Children, women and girls in situations of displacement are vulnerable to GVB and exploitation; (c) risks for exclusion, marginalized and vulnerable social groups in both rural and urban areas, and others agricultural practitioners minorities groups which include female heads of households, young people in vulnerable situation (living with disabilities, orphans, associated with armed groups, etc.), unemployed youth, refugees, IDPs and returnees, people from ethnic or religious minorities, including those living in a community with different ethnic and religious majority characteristics who are at risk of discrimination and stigmatization such as Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and the Mbororo Peuhls, being unable to access food and nutrition facilities (e.g., nutrition for children, seed and inputs distribution) in a way that undermines the PDO; (d) risk of exclusion of vulnerable groups in the recruitment for LIPW especially in the cash for work and construction activities; (e) security risks for project workers and beneficiaries given the high presence of non-State armed groups across the territory; (f) physical and/ or economic displacement that is likely to result from permanent or temporary land take to advance activities under component 2.1 related to the rehabilitation of small scale agricultural infrastructures. (g) IPs AKA that are present in the three target prefectures (Lobaye, Sangha Mbaéré and Mambéré Kadei) may be subject to particular disadvantage or exclusions; and (h) minor labor influx. The social risk classification also considered the following aspects: (i) limited capacity on the overall ESF compliance necessary for this project that will be implemented by a PIU with first ESF practical experience; (ii) current COVID-19 related risks of dissemination, and uncertainties on new waves, in relation with the reopening of the markets and also during the LIPW and cash for work; (iii) potential risks related to stakeholder engagement activities of the project and eventual social conflicts that

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could be exacerbated. Overall, the project will have positive impacts given that planned activities aim at improving quality of life for the most vulnerable people, including girls and the disabled victim of the severity of the crisis.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) Risk Rating High

SEA/SH: Due to the nature of the preparedness and response activities to the food crisis that will be provided to communities, especially to vulnerable groups (IPs, IDPs, women, elders, etc.), there are direct risks of SEA/SH that may arise, and indirect risks of GBV/SEA that may be exacerbated by the project activities. Direct risks may include : • SEA perpetrated against women and girls by project personnel in communities, • SEA perpetrated against women, girls, men and boys, in the context of access to cash for work • SEA perpetrated against women girls, men and boys in the the context of access to seeds, • SEA/SH perpetrated against women girls, men and boys in the non application of a Code of conduct for all project personnel, • SEA and SH perpetrated against female technician personnel in the absence of employee’s supervision on project sites ; Indirect risk may include: • Increase or exacerbation of GBV in particular intimate partner violence (IPV) if male community members are not informed nor involved in the project activities design and planning , • Risk of denying access to LIPW and cash for work to women and girls in the absence of a male family member, • Risks of lack of access for women and girls to project information and to the project’s activities and services if their needs and aspirations are not well-catered for in the E&S instruments, • Risks of SEA/SH due to the large scale of the project’ activities implementation and the lack of adequate and regular monitoring of sites. In relation to the screened high SEA/SH risks, the preliminary assessment of the parent project has been based upon the country context and project-specific indicators. The parent project has been given a rating of high risk for GBV/SEA/SH, based upon the critical country context vis-à-vis GBV prevalence and risks factors, and project-specific indicators. The risks identified are exacerbated given the very high prevalence of GBV in CAR, and considering project objectives related to support increased food crop production, rehabilitation of small scale agriculture infrastructures infrastructures and improve household nutrition for the most vulnerable women, including girls and the disabled, and including adolescent boys and girls, in the rural communities. This risk rating is subject to validation following project approval, and GBV/SEA/SH risks will be further assessed and addressed during the implementation phase, which will include a review of the preliminary screening exercise and establishment of the corresponding measures to prevent and mitigate identified risks. This assessment will also explore potential approaches and synergies with SEA/SH analyses and mitigation measures adopted by other Bank-financed projects in CAR. However, to mitigate the assessed risks, the SEA/SH Action plan developed for parent project will be updated by taking in account the new areas of AF with mandatory mitigating measures and an accountability and response plan (Grievance mechanism sensitive to SEA/SH, Code do Conduct, GBV services mapping, SOPs for referrals to GBV services) and a capacity building and community sensitization strategy.

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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:

The environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project are mainly associated with Components 1 and 2. These risks and impacts were identified and assessed during the preparation of the parent project and measures to address them were recommended in the safeguard instruments developed and disclosed prior to project implementation, namely ESMF, SEP, LMP, RPF, IPPF, GBV Plan, SRA/SMP. In addition to these documents, the project has developed an



ESIA of the drainage maintenance and rehabilitation works as well as a waste management plan. The implementation of the measures outlined in these various documents is ensured by a team set up by the PIU made of by 1 Environmental specialist, 1 Social safeguard Specialist, 1 GBV specialist and 2 E&S Assistants to manage the E&S risk and impacts of Project activities. Given the fact that the Project uses national and international NGOs for the implementation of some of its activities, the safeguards team ensures the implementation of the measures outlined in the documents by these NGOs. All of this has made it possible to assess the Project's performance after 15 months of implementation as satisfactory on April 2023. In the framework of the Additional Financing, these different framework instruments were updated prior Appraisal with an emphasis on consultation with stakeholders in the new and previous prefectures where the AF will be implemented. However, site specific plans (ESMP) shall be prepared before any request for proposals is issued for any projects that include in part or in full civil works) which describes the typology of subprojects and defines procedures to screen, assess, address and monitor potential adverse environmental and social risks and impacts.

The updated ESMF ensures that the instruments prepared for subprojects include the commitments made relative to the other standards, as detailed in the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), SEA/SH Action Plan, Security Management Plan (SMP), the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), and the Stakeholder Management Plan. In particular, the updated ESMF will: (i) identify OHS risks and impacts and define measures to protect workers from injury, illness, or impacts associated with exposure to hazards encountered in the workplace or while working; (ii) take into account the World Bank Group's General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and other relevant EHS Guidelines; and (iii) take into account the need for contractors to implement a Code of Conduct to prevent SEA/H risks, as defined in the SEA/SH Action Plan. Thus site-specific plans (RAP, IPP) shall be prepared before any request for proposals is issued for any projects that include in part or in full civil works; (excepted the activities in the exclusion list of subprojects ineligible for financing included in ESMF)

The Ministry of Agriculture and/or any contractor will prepare safety training materials prior to commencement of civil works. If necessary, the Project will activate the instruments developed for the CERC component of EFCRP. The implementation of all activities in this context will be done in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Thus, the impacts and risks associated with these activities will be reflected in the safeguard instruments to ensure that these risks are taken into account during implementation.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

In consultation with the Bank, the Borrower has prepared and disclosed prior to appraisal a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportional to the nature and scale of the project and its associated risks and impacts, to be implemented and updated as needed in the framework of AF and throughout the project lifecycle. The objective of the SEP is to establish a systematic approach for stakeholder engagement, maintain a constructive relationship with them, consider stakeholders' views, promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with stakeholders and beneficiaries throughout the project life cycle, and ensure that appropriate project information is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, culturally accessible and appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. To ensure this, there is an ongoing process by



the Borrower to engage in meaningful consultations with all stakeholders while paying attention to the inclusion of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including IPs

The Borrower will undertake meaningful consultation in a manner that provides an opportunity for IPs to provide input on the risks, impacts and mitigation measures of the project, and for the Borrower to consider and respond to them in a culturally sensitive manner. These consultations will be carried out on an ongoing basis, as issues, impacts and opportunities evolve. If potential adverse effects on IPs are identified, those adverse effects are avoided, minimized, mitigated or compensated. However, IPs' Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be required if the project will have a significant impact on the social norms/practices of the indigenous peoples concerned and especially once project specific sites and activities are determined.

Given the COVID-19 crisis, measures will be put in place to prevent or minimize the community spread of COVID-19 during households and technical support activities, and other various awareness or training sessions. These measures will include, among others, respecting social distancing measures as stated by the government in its press release of March 13, 2020 and updated in January 2023. The concerns and needs of identified stakeholders would be related to their full participation in project activities and information sharing. The Borrower will maintain, and disclose, a documented record of stakeholder engagement, including a description of the stakeholders consulted, a summary of the feedback received, and a brief explanation of how the feedback was considered, or the reasons why it was not. Community consultations with (women, young girls, and women and female heads of households) that are related to SEA/SH risk mitigation will be conducted in safe and enabling environments, such as in sex-segregated groups and with female facilitators. The project will need to identify and consult with relevant stakeholders who could promote increased adherence and encourage retention of young girls, women leading households, female workers within the agricultural activities. Such consultations will be focused on understanding women and girl's risks and vulnerabilities, understand girl's enrolment and engagement experience in food, agriculture and nutrition concerns in relation to the project. Furthermore, the consultations will need to include the disabled groups, disadvantaged groups and minorities within project's targeted communities, and be carried out in an accessible and appropriate manner, with information provided in accessible formats.

The project will extend to new zone a project-specific Grievance Mechanism (GM), sensitive to SEA/SH issues, and the ethical treatment and resolution of such complaints that is proportionate of the potential risks and impacts of the project.

In relation to seed distribution, nutrition support and enrolment of IPs and other vulnerable groups with respect to measures to reduce various violence including exclusion and discrimination against IPs and especially on children, young girls and women, establishment of a GBV-sensitive GM will also consider inclusion of IP counselor systems within the community workers committee and other community platforms. The GM will also serve as a platform for continuous feedback from project-affected communities, other interested stakeholders and implementing partners. The project specific GRM will be outlined in the SEP for people to report concerns or complaints.

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 implementation of the CAR-Emerging Food Crisis Response Project AF is likely to involve various workers ranging from the PIU and government to specialized personnel for consulting, service providers and construction firms as well as unskilled laborers and community workers. In sum, a considerable workforce will be required, and the project will face difficulties in promoting sound worker-management relationships and to guarantee safe and healthy working conditions. The borrower developed, under the parent project, Labor Management Procedures (LMP) which were updated, approved and disclosed prior to appraisal, to manage labor related risks and impacts link to the additional financing Project. This LMP provides an overview of national labor law, types of personnel to be hired under the AF project, and measures to comply with ESS2, including:

Working conditions and management of workers relationship: The Borrower shall describe how the project workers will be managed in accordance with the requirements of this standard and national laws. He will still ensure to communicate in clear language and understandable by each worker of the project, information and documents (such as code of conduct and internal regulations) which describe their rights under national law (which will include the applicable collective agreements where applicable), their rights to wages, overtime, remuneration and social benefits as well as any other rights mentioned in the requirements of Standard 2. The Borrower shall base employment relationship on the principle of equality of opportunity and treatment.

Protecting the work force: The Borrower emphasize compliance with the minimum age for employment and recruitment of project workers, which shall be at least 14 years unless the Borrower's legislation determines a higher age. The Project will not hire people younger than 18 years old for hazardous work; those between the national legal minimum age and 18 could do non-hazardous work in line with ESS2 provisions and will comply with CAR labor law. To ensure the health and safety of workers during project implementation, the updated ESMF address Occupational Health and Safety, in line with the WBG's EHS Guidelines and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including WHO guidance particularly for the COVID-19 virus. The measures will include requirements for the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), planning of training activities, and investigation/reporting of accidents, a worker Code of Conduct, and other labor issues such as labor influx, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, and prevention of all forms of forced labor. A set of Environment, Social, Health and Safety requirements, as detailed in the updated ESMF will be included in bidding documents for all activities, and serve as the basis for the development of specific Contractor ESMPs that will be required for all site-specific subproject. The Client will then require contractors to prepare and implement Occupational Health & Safety Plans (OHSP).

The project will also include a grievance mechanism for labor disputes of project's workers and the roles and responsibilities for monitoring such workers. The establishment of a labor GRM as developed in detail in the LMP will allow workers to quickly inform management of labor issues, such as an unreasonable overtime, non-distribution PPE, any violence, etc.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This standard is relevant because the project is expected to use resources and materials for all proposed construction works. Risks and impacts have been identified regarding the release of pollutants, waste generation, management of disposal materials and hazardous waste, impacts on adjacent communities, workers and resource use efficiency. . The



parent project's ESMF set out technical and financial measures to improve the efficiency of energy, water, raw material and other resource consumption. The updated ESMF also includes generic mitigation measures for the anticipated types of impacts resulting from rehabilitation of infrastructure.

Detailed site-specific mitigation measures will be identified and included in site-specific ESIA's and/or ESMPs that will be developed based upon the scale, location, and detailed technical specifications of the infrastructure to be rehabilitated/constructed become available.

Although the project does not envisage the purchase and use of pesticides, the design of agricultural activities funded by the Project will have to integrate cultural practices and provisions aimed at reducing the risks of pollution, by adopting varieties and technical itineraries that reduce the dependency of crops on phytosanitary products, and by reducing the transfer of pesticides through the establishment of grassy areas in the case of sloping fields. A good practice procedure for pesticide use was developed, inserted into the updated ESMF and will be used to raise awareness among project beneficiaries in order to prevent the potential risks and impacts associated with poor pesticide management.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

This standard is relevant. Specific measures to protect the health and safety of communities in the project implementation areas are necessary, as agricultural activities, rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure and even nutrition are likely to have direct and indirect impacts on the communities.

Community health and safety: The use of phytosanitary products in agricultural activities—in particular poor management of packaging, improperly adjusted sprayers, improper emptying of rinse water, drift of spray droplets during application if it is carried out without taking into account the weather conditions—can be dangerous for communities when it is abundant and uncontrolled. As indicated above, a good practice procedures for pesticide use will be developed and inserted in the updated ESMF to help protect communities and ecosystem services.

Infrastructure maintenance and rehabilitation could generate road accidents, especially in areas where the road network is already limited and which are generally occupied by pedestrians. The updated ESMF will include measures to reduce road accidents involving project vehicles during construction. Site-specific Contractor ESMPs will include traffic management measures to ensure pedestrian safety, as well as requirements for the adoption of safety signs and barriers in or near work areas and safe storage arrangements for machinery and equipment.

The SEA/SH Action Plan of parent project was updated consulted upon and disclosed prior to Appraisal. It has been prepared, and mitigation measures have been defined on the basis of an analysis of SEA/SH risks for Labor Intensive Public Work (LIPW) workers, and project beneficiaries to mitigate the risks. These measures propose, among others are: the elaboration and signing of a code of conduct, the setting up of a GRM sensitive to SEA/SH, the training of workers, supervisors and beneficiaries including vulnerable groups (Indigenous People, IDPs, etc.), mapping of GBV services, and recruiting service providers for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of field activities.



A Security Risk Assessment (SRA)/Security Management Plan (SMP) developed for parent project has shown that the security risk is high. It was updated prior to Appraisal by integrating risks assessed in new zones and the mitigation measures. Violence and insecurity increased throughout the country after the recent presidential election in December 2020. Non-state armed groups are present in many parts of the country, causing terror, theft, aggression, killings and massive internal displacement. The SMP defines measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate the identified risks for workers, beneficiaries and project assets.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

ESS5 is considered as relevant to the Project: The Parent project will finance LIPW to clean, maintain, and rehabilitate drainage infrastructures in greater Bangui (in urban area); and small scale agriculture infrastructures (warehouse, irrigation schemes, etc.) will be finance in the targeted rural areas in six prefectures plus the three new areas of AF. While rehabilitation works were prioritized with a view to minimize resettlement implications, some activities may involve land acquisition in the Parent project that would lead to the involuntary resettlement, loss or the disruption of income or livelihood activities for individuals or groups of people. To date, some sites of these expected realizations are not known with certainty. Other site-specific locations in rural and urban areas will only be known with certainty during project implementation. More specifically, the impacts of the anticipated works in rural areas (warehouses, irrigation schemes, etc.) may include encroachment on agricultural land or require land acquisition that could lead to the involuntary resettlement, loss or disruption of income or livelihood activities for individuals or groups of people. In urban areas, drainage rehabilitation works that would require land acquisition or permanent resettlement will not be eligible under this project. However, the rehabilitation of drainage canals in urban areas may cause temporary economic displacement of people with small commercial activities along the sections. Therefore, a social risks assessment will be conducted and RPF for parent project prepared, consulted upon, cleared by the Bank and publicly disclosed was updated and, publicly re-disclosed prior to appraisal. The RAPs shall be prepared before any request for proposals is issued for any projects that include in part or in full civil works. This will be reflected in the ESCP. In addition, it's important to mention that a screening tool is being developed as part of the updated ESMF, and there will be a requirement to screen all sites/facilities to ensure economic or physical displacement does not occur once the site-specific activities are identified; this will especially apply in cases where decision is taken for an infrastructure to be built.

At this stage of project development, the land for the construction of some infrastructure (e.g., community warehouses, irrigation schemes) will be made available by the municipalities. While in the new areas the rehabilitation concerns irrigated rice production areas or vegetable production areas; the focus of the rehabilitation will mostly be on the irrigation system. These are sites that already exist and will mostly be in operation. In principle, this will be unoccupied land. A voluntary donation of land is foreseen in rural areas, but the risk of land being taken from indigenous people is not envisaged. The works in rural areas will adopt a community approach that is well established in CAR and land issues are expected to be addressed through voluntary land donations and will need to meet relevant requirements set out in ESS5. However, after the screening of specific intervention sites (if occupied), the possibilities for resettlement or compensation will be analyzed and determined. In all cases, the basic principle will always be to avoid resettlement.



ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This standard is considered relevant. In Component 1, activities related to increased food crop production are likely to result in significant conversion or degradation of natural habitats through the creation of new cropland.

The updated ESMF provides guidance on biodiversity screening to ensure that project activities do not alter or cause destruction or degradation of any critical or sensitive natural habitats, especially forests and wetlands or any legally designated protected areas. The updated ESMF also includes generic biodiversity related mitigation measures that will serve as a basis for subsequent development of site-specific ESIA's and ESMPs. Potential risks and impacts on natural habitats will be assessed in detail upon the definition of the location, type, and scope of infrastructure work to be financed.

For activities under the nutrition component, where natural resource products—including food products, wood products and fibers—could come from regions where there is a significant risk of conversion or significant degradation of natural or critical habitats, or pressure on fauna, the updated ESMF includes an assessment of the verification systems and practices used by suppliers.

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

ESS7 is considered relevant to the project. Indigenous Peoples communities are present in CAR and are considered vulnerable and disadvantaged. The project will be implemented in Bangui plus 9 prefectures including the 3 new prefectures of AF. IPs are present in some of those areas in particular Indigenous People (Aka/Bayaka) - namely in Lobaye, Sangha-Mbaéré, and Mambere-Kadei prefectures.

The Social Assessment will, among other things, examine potential risks, impacts, and benefits for the IPs. Using a consultative approach, the Social Assessment will identify measures to mitigate risks and to ensure culturally acceptable benefits to IPs. However, no activity under this project is expected to have an adverse effect on Indigenous Peoples (displacement, land, cultural heritage, habits & behaviors). The updated Stakeholder Engagement plan will then include outreach programs to ensure that indigenous communities, especially those living in remote areas, are aware of the availability of new or expanded access to food and nutrition activities, seed and other inputs distribution, as well as labor intensive public works and cash for work activities, training sessions under the project. The potential social impacts can be adequately managed/ mitigated through the development, implementation and monitoring of appropriate measures. This means that the borrower should proactively engage with the IPs to ensure their ownership and participation in project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. In addition, some measures provided under the project to ensure that IPs and other groups will be able to share in project benefits are: Possibility to enroll beneficiaries without distinction and without discrimination in agriculture, food and nutrition activities, participation in agriculture workers' committees, employment of animators and/or community workers, LIPW, cash for work recruitment, etc. within the framework of the program for the rehabilitation and construction of infrastructures, the distribution of jobs, the provision and distribution of inputs (seeds, materials, etc.) to all peasant etc. in the most equitable way. Here, particular attention will need to be paid to additional disadvantages that some specific vulnerable groups including IDPs, Peulhs Mbororos, etc., may face in terms of impacts and/or exclusion from project benefits.

Public Disclosure



The Social Assessment will also explore the appropriate consultation methods for these groups and examine culturally appropriate grievance mechanisms. These measures will be detailed in an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) and will be incorporated into the project design including, but not limited to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the grievance mechanism. It is also essential for all ethnic groups (IPs and others, including the Peulhs Mbororos where they exist), without exception, to be able to access the complaints management mechanism. Project activities will not cause relocation or impact resources or cultural heritage of IPs groups.

The Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) prepared for the parent project, taking into account project-specific activities; consulted upon, cleared by the Bank and disclosed will be updated and redisclosed prior to appraisal. Once project sites and activities are determined, if needed, The PIU will prepare an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) depending on locations and timing, acceptable to the Bank that sets out measures through which the project will ensure that: (i) IPs affected by the project receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits; and (ii) if potential adverse effects on IPs are identified, those adverse effects are avoided, minimized, mitigated or compensated. IPP will be prepared prior to implementation of any activities (not just works) in areas where IPs are present. At this stage of project development, the site-specific locations for civil works are not yet known. No activity will have significant impact social norms/practices aspects of the affected Indigenous Peoples. The Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of IPs will not be required.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This Standard is relevant since the creation of new agricultural plots could possibly affect cultural sites. The updated ESMF will include provisions for site-specific screening and assessment of any known sites of cultural or historic importance which may be impacted locally, as well as identification of any sites of cultural/social importance for local communities. The updated ESMF include: (i) a generic Chance Finds Procedure for all construction or works contracts, requiring civil contractors to take proper protective measures in case cultural heritage sites are discovered, including to stop construction activities if cultural property sites are encountered during construction.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

N/A

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways	Yes
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:

Due to its current weakness, reliance on Borrower E&S Framework will not be considered in this project.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Laurent Corroyer, Senakpon Aurelia Larissa Dakpogan, Sossena Tassew
 Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Pia Peeters Cleared on 08-May-2023 at 16:50:50 EDT

Public Disclosure