



Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 05/22/2019 | Report No: ESRSC00416



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
India	SOUTH ASIA	P169497	
Project Name	National Programme for Improving the Quality of Statistics in India		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Poverty and Equity	Investment Project Financing	1/8/2020	3/25/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of India	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To improve the efficiency and user relevance of statistical production at MOSPI, and enhance its role in statistical coordination across states and sectors.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	30.00

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]

The project will support efforts by the Government of India to modernize the national statistical system. Project activities will focus on improving the enabling environment for statistics as well as strengthening selected subject domain areas. The project will finance investments ICT and technical assistance to strengthen human resources management and skills development, technology and ICT services, data quality assurance frameworks, systems for measurement of statistical performance, data sharing and integration including platforms for data dissemination. Technical assistance will also be provided across a host of specific subject domain areas within economic, social and environment statistics such as support for the economic census, statistical business registers and business statistics, the system of national accounts, environmental statistics and natural resource accounting, price statistics, geospatial



data and more. Finally, the project will include a set of reviews of the institutional and governance framework for statistical and statistical business processes and development of a change management strategy. The reviews will lay the foundation for a package of policy reforms, which will be supported by one or more development policy operations to be prepared and presented to the Board in due course.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Project location(s) and salient characteristics relevant to the ES assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

The Project is substantially focused on Technical Assistance and various components and activities described above are likely to have minimal environmental and social impacts. At concept stage, activities relevant to environmental and social assessments are (a) investments to leverage technology for data collection, storage, analysis and dissemination; (b) strengthening of human resource base, through training of existing staff and expanding resources through outsourcing and hiring of contractual staff; and (c) engagement with stakeholders and respondents. Investments in technology will include the setting up of data warehouses and acquiring IT equipment for data capture. Data warehouses will be established on MOSPI premises – no land or building acquisition or construction is planned under the Project. Thus, focus will be on management of solid and E-waste to be generated in existing office buildings due to acquisition and use of this new equipment.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The project’s key functions would be strengthening MOSPI’s current capacity of data collection, analysis and interpretation capabilities to best practices. It would thus be important to understand how perceived environmental and social risks of the project are handled by the Ministry at present and how its capacity can be improved in future. The E&S screening will help understand the capacity of MoSPI and its related regional offices to address environmental and social issues. The need and capacity to implement Bank’s ESSs will be assessed during preparation period prior to the project appraisal and institutional strengthening plan will be suggested and agreed upon accordingly and included in the design of the project.

Public Disclosure

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) Low

Environmental Risk Rating Low

The current scope and activities of the project indicate a “Low” risk project from the environmental and social safeguards perspective. The emphasis on TA for statistical production methods and processes, upgrading of human resource skills and institutional reviews is consistent with this assessment.

The disposal of IT equipment to be acquired for the data warehouses and data capture will have environmental management implications. While environmental risks are not expected at the time of IT procurement and adoption, appropriate procedures will need to be in place for disposal of equipment as per best environmental practices. The quantity of such equipment and associated cycle of replacement or upgradation will be identified during project preparation. A priori, associated environmental risks appear to be low as India has guidelines for the disposal of electronic waste under E- Waste Management Rules, 2016 (amended in March 2018) and Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 for solid waste management.



The Bank team will undertake Environmental Screening and due diligence as part of preparation to understand; (a) current rules and practices of handling electronic and solid waste management, (b) staff capacity to handle such issues, and accordingly (c) develop E-waste management awareness guidelines in line with India’s electronic and solid waste management Rules for implementation and supervision within project.

Social Risk Rating

Low

With regard to social aspects relevant to this project, standards considered relevant apply to labor management and procedures (ESS 2) for direct workers, contracted workers and primary suppliers. No construction or land acquisition is envisaged and the project is neither constructing nor setting up new buildings.

Relevant social aspects include:

1. Stakeholders Engagement Plan, including indigenous peoples and Grievance Redressal
2. Labor Management
3. Gender Analysis

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:

ESS 1 is relevant to understand and assess potential environmental and social risks associated with the Project in addition to assessing the overall capacity of the client to mitigate and manage potential environment and social risks. Based on components identified at Concept stage, overall risks are expected to be low. Capacity and processes to manage disposal of E-waste are identified as key environmental risks. Social risks are mostly related to labor management and stakeholder engagement, including that with indigenous peoples and setting up a Grievance Redressal Mechanism (See ESS 10).

Areas where reliance on the Borrower’s E&S Framework may be considered:

The assessment will be through a screening of environmental and social risks and impacts envisaged under the various proposed activities of the project. This E&S screening under ESS1 will help to understand current practices of the Ministry to handle environmental and social risks identified and will be addressed through relevant environmental and social best practices to be developed during the project. India has disposal guidelines for electronic waste under E- Waste Management Rules, 2016 (amended in March 2018) and Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 for solid waste management. The screening will help to create a simplified guideline for MOSPI on electronic wastes and management. An ESCP will be developed with the borrower. The Bank will also use E&S screening to understand implications of standards; like; ESS2, ESS3, ESS7 and ESS10 and will include relevant guidelines for the client to be included in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) during the preparation. An E&S Risk Screening Report will be prepared to cover both environmental and social section .The E&S screening will thus assess and understand current practices adopted by MoSPI to handle environmental and social risks and will explore opportunity to see how borrower’s practices can be aligned with country’s existing rules and laws in the ESCP to be finalized for implementation with the Ministry during the project preparation. Any other E&S guidelines relevant to project activities, identified by the screening, will be proposed in the ESCP.



ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The consultation and disclosure of information with stakeholders will be core for planning and implementation of the project. The key stakeholders which include relevant Ministries, state planning departments, survey and census takers, researchers/respondents will be identified with the support of borrower. The borrower will map all stakeholders, prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) during preparation and this SEP will be a part of the ESCP agreed with the borrower. The SEP so prepared during preparation will be updated proportionate to the nature and scale of project during implementation. Engagement with Indigenous Peoples will also be part of this comprehensive SEP.

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 involve: a) direct workers; b) contracted workers engaged in consultancy services firms (for developing data systems, undertaking studies, etc.) or data enumeration; and c) primary supply workers (e.g., suppliers of primary equipment necessary for the project functions). Accordingly, the Project will document existing labor management procedures and incorporate aspects such as : applicability of labor laws and, non-discrimination and equal opportunity, grievance mechanism to all workers, occupation health and safety aspects, among others. Given the low risk of this project this Labor Management Plan will be incorporated in the ESCP.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

This standard is relevant. The project intends to use modern technology and IT equipment to improve efficiency of data collection, processing, integration and dissemination. The use of IT/modern technology is encouraged in this project which is resource efficient. However, e-waste and solid waste management at time of disposal will require attention.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

This standard is not relevant. Since no construction or infrastructure development activity is envisaged under the project, project activities are not expected to cause risks and impacts to local communities.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This standard is not relevant. The project activities do not envisage any land acquisition.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This standard is not relevant. The project does not envisage any activities which have either direct or indirect impacts on bio-diversity or any living natural resource areas.



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

This standard is relevant. As the nature of surveys undertaken by MOSPI involve reaching out to remote, indigenous communities, an assessment will be undertaken of the current practices and protocols while reaching out to these groups for data collection. Based on this, guidelines and actions related to indigenous peoples will be incorporated in the ESCP.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This standard is not relevant for the project as cultural assets are unlikely to be impacted by the activities currently envisaged. The project will not support any works or activity that would impact cultural heritage.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Given the nature of the project, this standard is not relevant.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered? No

Financing Partners

Not applicable

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Actions to be completed by Appraisal:

1. An E&S screening Report will be prepared for both Environment and Social Risks. Screening during preparation will focus on: (a) understanding current practices of handling electronic and solid waste management, (b) assessing staff capacity to handle such issues, and (c) developing waste management awareness guidelines in line with India’s electronic and solid waste management Rules for implementation and supervision. Any other E&S guidelines relevant to project activities, which the E&S risk Screening may identify, will be proposed in the ESCP.
2. Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP) including engagement with indigenous peoples and GRM
3. Labor Management

Public Disclosure



4. Gender Analysis

The ESCP will be finalized with the borrower.

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

1. A simplified e-waste and solid Waste Management awareness guidelines for MOSPI
2. Stakeholder (including IP) engagement, GRM, and Gender
3. Implementation of the LM Procedures

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

18-Nov-2019

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Republic of India

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Public Disclosure



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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Rinku Murgai, Johannes G. Hoogeveen
Safeguards Advisor ESSA Maged Mahmoud Hamed (SAESSA) Cleared on 22-May-2019 at 07:38:51