



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, South Asia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, Thailand	SOUTH ASIA	P181351	
Project Name	Sar Capacity Building For Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, And Response (ppr) With One Health Approach		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Health, Nutrition & Population	Investment Project Financing		3/21/2024
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Concept Review Date	Total Project Cost
			4,000,000

Proposed Development Objective

To strengthen strategic planning, governance, and coordination for integrated regional approaches to support selected countries in South Asia to effectively prevent, detect, prepare, and respond to public health emergencies.

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 Activities

The project comprises four components: (1) improved regional strategic planning for PPR; (2) strengthened coordination on PPR in the region and (3) established key regional platforms for PPR.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

Public Disclosure



This Project is regional in scope and will be implemented in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Adopting a phased approach, the project can start with a small number of countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, etc. that are willing to work together on advancing regional collaboration on pandemic PPR before expanding to include other countries. The objective of this project is to strengthen strategic planning, governance, and coordination for integrated regional approaches to support the selected countries in South Asia to effectively prevent, detect, prepare, and respond to public health emergencies.

D.2 Overview of Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The project will be implemented by the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Secretariat Headquarter based in Dhaka, Bangladesh which will be responsible for coordinating regional strategic planning activities and the regional capacity-building activities. The region has demonstrated its solidarity and cooperation during its response to health emergencies including COVID-19. Even though BIMSTEC lacks expertise and experience in Safeguards or ESF, during the response to COVID-19, Ministries of Health in the respective countries gained experience in implementing ESF in addition to past experience gained working on projects under Safeguards. The Ministry of Health (MOH) of Sri Lanka will lead the Public Health Expert Group among BIMSTEC member states and coordinate most of the implementation activities in line with components I and III under the project, in collaboration with other member states. MoH of Sri Lanka has experience in engaging in World Bank projects for many years implemented under safeguards and ESF.

Public Disclosure

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The Environmental risks associated with the project is rated as ‘low’ as the project doesn’t have a physical footprint and only seeks to provide capacity building of Health Professionals in the SAARC Region and to develop Action Plans to strengthen links between the countries. No construction works will be involved. A majority of activities will be on the development of strategies, and developing plans needed for regional health system resilience, studies training, policy seminars, exercise, study tours and supporting the establishment of a regional observatory for infectious disease early warning and surveillance updating guidelines and standards for regional stockpile, and others. The likely environmental risks and impacts from project activities, if any, will be indirect and downstream that is after project closes which the Bank will not have any say.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Low

The Social risks associated with the project is rated as ‘low. The project is expected to have positive impacts and benefits to the region and to the participating countries as it helps develop regional capacity, country capacity, strategies, and standards that promote and support to effectively prevent, detect, prepare, and respond to public health emergencies. The primary beneficiaries will be government officials, and health professionals working on



pandemic PPR. The project will make sure all involved countries will benefit from the capacity-building activities, gender, and race/ethnicity will be taken into consideration when implementing the capacity-building activities. All provinces/ states will be covered in selecting participants for the above mentioned capacity development programs. There will be set of criteria in place when selecting participants for the capacity building activities to ensure there is no exclusion of priority and eligible healthcare officials. . Post-training surveys will be used to obtain feedback from participants and a grievance redressal mechanism will be in place to respond to concerns of stakeholders.

B. RELEVANCE OF STANDARDS AND POLICIES AT CONCEPT STAGE

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Relevant

This standard is relevant. Given the nature and scope of the project, there aren't any social or environmental risks and impacts anticipated as project activities will comprise of soft interventions to strengthen the regional coordination and capacity building. Selection of participants for training programs will be done in an inclusive manner to ensure representation of all eligible groups. Sri Lanka, Maldives and Nepal under the COVID projects have delivered trainings on health care waste management (HCWM). The project will further explore if similar trainings on health care waste management, CHS and OHS of medical workers and other relevant activities can be delivered as part of CB & training activities of this project in the member countries. Borrower will prepare an ESCP and it will incorporate requirements and commitments for Stakeholder Engagement and Labor Management.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions Relevant

ESS2 is relevant. The activities supported under the proposed Project are not expected to have adverse impacts related to labor influx, but there are potential risks related to workplace SEA/SH. The project workforce will include: (i) direct workers, mainly the staff with BIM Secretariat and Ministry of Health and (ii) Contracted workers, mainly consultants/experts with Third-party Consultancy Firms to prepare relevant strategies and Action plans and to provide technical advice and do capacity building. All direct and contracted, workers will be subject to the requirements of ESS2. Civil servants will remain subject to the terms/conditions of their existing public sector employment & as required agree to the project specific CoC. The contract for contracted workers will stipulate safe working conditions and procedures to be in place and practiced during the preparation phase. . Labour management requirements, including GRM for workers will be established, defined in the ESCP.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management Not Currently Relevant

ESS4 Community Health and Safety Not Currently Relevant

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement Not Currently Relevant

Public Disclosure



ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources Not Currently Relevant

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities Not Currently Relevant

ESS8 Cultural Heritage Not Currently Relevant

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries Not Currently Relevant

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure Relevant

ESS10 is relevant. The project will engage with multiple stakeholders in selected countries in South Asia to implement the PPR activities. A standalone Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will not be prepared since project is low risk and extensive consultations are not required to address any risks linked to the project. However, the stakeholder engagement activities planned as part of the networking, coordination, capacity building and knowledge exchange/dissemination will overall benefit project activities . Therefore the ESCP will include relevant measures for engagement with the key stakeholders of the participating SAR member countries, monitoring of their participation in the process and information disclosure requirements. In addition , post-training surveys will be conducted to gather feedback on the trainings conducted. A GRM will also be functional at the regional and country levels to respond to queries and address any grievances including SEA/SH in regards to the project.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework No

Use of Common Approach No

Public Disclosure



C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by Appraisal?

An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will be prepared and agreed on with the Bank. The ESCP will embed commitments for Stakeholder Engagement and Labour Management requirements. The ESCP will also include commitment to hiring of qualified E&S personnel to oversee the integration of E&S measures in all activities.

III. CONTACT POINTS

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IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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V. APPROVAL

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Public Disclosure