



Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 21-Jun-2018 | Report No: PIDISDSA23791

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Niger	Project ID P164563	Project Name Niger Refugees and Host Communities Support Project	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 11-Jun-2018	Estimated Board Date 12-Sep-2018	Practice Area (Lead) Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Ministère du Plan	Implementing Agency Cabinet du Premier Ministre, Projet de Gestion des Risques de Catastrophes et de Développement Urbain, Stratégie de Développement et de Sécurité dans les zones sahélo-sahariennes du Niger (SDS-Niger)	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objective is to improve access to basic services and economic opportunities for refugees and host communities in select areas.

Components

Community infrastructure for improved access to basic public services
 Economic opportunities through support for agriculture production and other income-generating activities
 Coordination and institutional development
 Project Management

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

Total Project Cost	80.00
Total Financing	80.00
of which IBRD/IDA	80.00



Financing Gap	0.00
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DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	80.00
IDA Credit	32.50
IDA Grant	47.50

Environmental Assessment Category

B-Partial Assessment

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. ***Niger is one of the world’s poorest and least developed countries in the world.*** With a per capita income of US\$390 in 2015 and almost half of Nigeriens living beneath the poverty line (45.7 percent in 2014). In 2014, Niger ranked second to last of 188 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index. The Nigerien economy is highly dependent on its agricultural sector and a few commodities (uranium, oil and gold), making it vulnerable to climate and price shocks. With a variable and changing climate, the country suffers from recurrent drought and food crises. Niger has one of the highest population growth rates in the world (4 percent in 2015) and the youngest population in the world, with a dependency ratio of 113 in 2015.

2. ***Niger meets the very definition of a country at risk of fragility, conflict, and violence.*** The country has managed to remain stable in a difficult regional environment. This is due to a relatively strong social cohesion and a political settlement in which the elites manage to solve their disputes in a regulated manner. However, several factors are risk factors for fragility. First, demographic trends are not boding well for a country already lacking economic opportunities. Second, institutional deficits remain significant, with Niger ranking 99 of 168 countries in the 2015 Corruption Perceptions Index. Finally, external stresses play a large role in potential instability. Since 2011, there has been an increasing number of attacks on Niger’s territory. Niger is part of internationally-supported military efforts against Boko Haram (through the Multinational Joint Task Force and the G5 Sahel Cross-Border Joint Force), but increased military spending is putting a severe strain on public finances.



3. **Two regional conflicts, the crisis in Mali and the Boko Haram regional crisis, are causing major displacement towards and within Niger.** The country is at present hosting over 280,000 people displaced by conflict: approximately 158,000 refugees, 109,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and 16,000 Nigerien nationals who returned from Nigeria as a consequence of the conflict (see Box 1). The 2016 Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) highlights the security and economic impacts of regional conflicts and forced displacement on Niger. The crises in Libya and Mali as well as the expansion of Boko Haram from Northeast Nigeria into Niger have had an adverse impact on economic activities.

4. **The security and displacement situation remains in flux.** Despite a recent slowdown, new displacement flows are caused by Boko Haram and conflict in Mali. On both borders, the authorities are eager to demonstrate the normalization of the situation, but insecurity remains very high. On the one hand, there may be pressures to eventually encourage the return of forcibly displaced people in the Diffa area, on the other hand there seems to be a degree of acceptance that the situation along the Mali-Niger border may last.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

5. **The inflow and extended presence of forcibly displaced puts additional pressures on already poor hosting regions.** Lack of access to basic services, especially education and health, as well as limited economic opportunities already characterized these border regions previous to the current crises. The pressure posed by an additional influx of people concurrent with a deterioration in the security situation is rendering conditions unsustainable for both displaced and host populations. Across all forced displacement situations, the conditions for women and girls are even more difficult. Gender-based violence and survival sex are relatively prevalent and economic opportunities and access to education are very limited for women and girls. Unless the gender dimension of the situation is effectively dealt with, progress is likely to remain elusive.

6. **The overall legal and protection environment in Niger is conducive to an effective socio-economic response to the forced displacement crisis.** Niger is a party to applicable international conventions on refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and stateless persons, and it has domesticated most of these instruments (see Box 2). Refugees are to be treated equally under the law with respect to key socio-economic rights: property ownership, security, access to the courts, access to basic services, and freedom of expression and movement. This progressive approach is a lived reality which is demonstrated by the solidarity of host communities, especially in the Diffa Region. Efforts are underway to also strengthen the legal framework applicable to IDPs given the prevalence of mixed situations.

7. **Several government institutions work closely with UNHCR to process status determinations for refugees,** including the *Comité National d'Eligibilité* (CNE), the *Comité d'Appel*, the secretariat within the *Direction Générale de l'État Civil et des Réfugiés* (DGECR), and the *Comité de Recours Gracieux* (CRG). Regional administrations such as those in Diffa are also key partners to the national government and international NGOs. The DGECR oversees administrative protection to refugees and asylum seekers.

8. **However, the Government relies heavily on external partners, including UNHCR, WFP, and ECHO to manage the situation and provide assistance to refugees** due to lack of fiscal resources and limited administrative capacity available in remote border regions. Overall, the Government's approach reflects a focus on the security and humanitarian aspects through short-term crisis management.



9. ***Newly available resources under IDA18 create an opportunity to support the government commitment to move towards a socioeconomic approach to inclusion of refugees in a more sustainable manner.*** Under IDA18, Niger is eligible to access funding both from dedicated resources for refugee hosting countries as well as from a risk mitigation allocation. These significant resources can support the Government's intention to move out of a short-term management of crisis situations towards a medium-term socioeconomic approach to forced displacement. There is currently a window of opportunity for this, given Niger's own favorable stance towards hosting and integrating refugees compared with other countries in the region.

10. The project is fully aligned with the three objectives under *CPF Focus Area II: Improved Human Capital and Social Protection* as it directly addresses the ability to manage forced displacement (objective 5) and increase access to quality health (objective 3) and education services (objective 4). The project will further contribute to *CPF Focus Area I: Increase Rural Productivity and Incomes*. The project will intervene in two of the four focus regions identified in the CPF: Diffa and Tillabéri.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

The project development objective is to improve access to basic services and economic opportunities for refugees and host communities in select areas.

Key Results

11. Project key results are:
- Beneficiaries with improved access to community infrastructure
 - Beneficiaries with improved access to productive assets and income-generating opportunities
 - Number of municipal annual investment plans incorporating specific needs of the refugee population and host communities.

D. Project Description

12. ***The project will implement focused interventions that will provide select households and communities affected by crises, with income support for self-sufficiency and stabilization in the select project sites*** in 15 communes in the Diffa, Tahoua and Tillabéri regions, with regional differences between Diffa versus Tillabéri and Tahoua¹. These short-term interventions will deliver benefits to the wider community by creating small infrastructure as community assets for improved access to basic service delivery, and by providing access to agricultural and other income-generating activities to enhance socio-economic opportunities for beneficiary refugees and host communities, including IDPs and returnees.

13. ***The project takes a spatial approach by providing support to all populations groups residing in the select project sites, irrespective of their status, and focuses on enhancing people's portable skills for current and***

¹ Project sites include 10 (out of 12) communes in Diffa, 5 (out of 10) communes in Tahoua and 1 (out of 9) communes in Tillabéri, as core communes affected by refugees, while a total of 23 communes are considered at risk – for the latter, analytical work is conducted to allow flexibility for the project's possible scale up.



future opportunities regardless of their eventual settlement. The administrative boundary of the “commune” is the catchment area which is further refined by site-specific definitions of catchment per investment. Project sites are selected through transparent and objective criteria², while beneficiary individuals and groups are selected through a vulnerability assessment³, combined with community based methods, existing interventions to maximize complementarity, and beneficiaries’ interest in project participation. Hence, project activities are determined through a combination of demand-driven approaches and geo-spatial analytics for locally-owned investment realities and opportunities⁴. The project will also provide institutional support to select local, regional and central government entities in the Diffa, Tahoua, Tillaberi, and Agadez regions to strengthen their capacities to manage current and future crises, including through effective and efficient coordination among all stakeholders. The project will give special attention to youth and women through its agricultural and off-farm income-generating activities. The project will be implemented through four components.

Component 1: Community infrastructure for improved access to basic public services - SDR XX million (US\$40.0 million equivalent)

14. **The component will finance labor intensive, small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation and construction**, provided through the contracting of local private sector construction firms and temporary employment opportunities for beneficiaries. Investments may include, but are not limited to:

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): Constructing and repairing of water supply facilities, latrines and other sanitation infrastructure (in line with sector strategies), including behavior change communication to use and manage infrastructure.
- Education: Construction and repairing damaged school infrastructure, in line with sector strategies.
- Health: Constructing or rehabilitating health center buildings, in line with sector strategies.
- Market and other commercial and economic infrastructure: Constructing or rehabilitating of rural markets, and community storage facilities.
- Transport: Constructing or rehabilitating of rural roads, small bridges, and culverts.
- Agriculture infrastructure: Constructing or rehabilitating of water mobilization infrastructure, development/rehabilitation of irrigation schemes, water infrastructure for livestock, ponds, storage facilities and gardening/small production.
- Community centers: Constructing or rehabilitating centers to offer various community activities, including provision of psychosocial support.

15. **The above provided infrastructure will be fully functional with access to energy (e.g. via solar facilities) and access to digital services, where necessary and feasible.** Project activities are determined through a combination of beneficiary priority assessments and geo-spatial analytics of existing and required community infrastructure, as well as in close collaboration with local governments.⁵ The selection of investment sites is based on the location of host villages and forcibly displaced within the selected communes. The choice of these investments considers communities’ ability to operate and maintain the supported infrastructure, using Niger’s

² See details in section ‘Project Beneficiaries’

³ The project will align its targeting mechanism with the Bank’s Social Safety Net Project (P123399) by adapting the vulnerability approach already established in Niger to identify the most deserving beneficiaries for Components 1 and 2 activities regardless of their status. The PIU, SDS, with oversight of the Bank’s Social Protection staff, will oversee the implementation of this assessment (to be conducted by a consulting firm).

⁴ Geo-spatial analytics including geo-tagging of infrastructure, market opportunities, socio-economic assessments, vulnerability assessment, etc.

⁵ Regional governments may also be involved if the proposed investment has a regional dimension (benefits several local governments and/or operation and maintenance is the responsibility of the regional government).



approach of creating community committees that have locally manageable technical expertise to do so. Technical specification of these investments will comply with national standards, sectoral strategies, and local government plans. Beneficiaries of labor-intensive works will be selected through a vulnerability assessment, community-based methods, and the individual's interest in participation. Wage intensity of each investment will have to respect the vulnerability assessment results and meet the requirement of 35 percent or above of each investment costs, which will be specified in the contracts of each local private sector construction firms. This subcomponent will create approximately 1,350,000 work days of employment, about 10,500 beneficiaries are expected to participate in labor-intensive works, while overall 411,882 individuals are expected to benefit from improved access to basic public services. Beneficiaries will also receive skills development through local NGOs to further enhance their project benefits. The subcomponent will be implemented by SDS Sahel-Niger with contracting of local private construction firms. NGOs/CBOs will assist with the mobilization of beneficiary communities to participate in investment identification, implementation and monitoring, as well as execution of the vulnerability assessment to identify the beneficiaries of labor-intensive works. This component will also finance an assessment of digital service needs of refugees and host communities. This subcomponent will finance works, goods, consultants' services, training, non-consultant services, including capacity building for beneficiary communities for operation and maintenance of investments.

Component 2: Economic opportunities through support for agriculture production and other income-generating activities - SDR XX million (US\$25.0 million equivalent)

16. The component objective is to improve access to economic opportunities for refugees and host communities in selected areas of the country. Component 2 will deliver an integrated package that tackles key constraints for agriculture production and off-farm income-generating activities: capital and savings, skills, and access to markets. Focus is on stimulating private investments, restoring productive assets for refugees, increasing productivity, diversifying livelihoods, and increasing resilience to shocks. Beneficiaries will be selected through a vulnerability assessment and the individual's interest in participation. The component will align its targeting mechanism with UNHCR/WFP and the Bank's Safety Net Project (P123399). It will build one proven tools developed by the Bank's CAP3, PRAPS and the Climate-smart agriculture support project. The component will target beneficiaries with the potential to achieve self-reliance.⁶ This complements transfers provided by humanitarian actors and the WB Safety Net Project to the most vulnerable groups of the population. It is expected that women will constitute 50 percent of the beneficiary group and 30 percent will be youth. The component will be implemented through two subcomponents:

Subcomponent 2.1: Support for agriculture production (agriculture, livestock, fisheries) in rural areas: SDR XX million (US\$15.0 million equivalent).

17. The sub-component builds on the experience of World Bank operations in the agricultural sector. It is expected to benefit about 31,250 direct beneficiaries through the following set of activities:

- i. *Agriculture production support:* The project will finance vouchers for a selected number of eligible small equipment, technologies, and inputs, which will be delivered by local private agro-dealers. The set of options offered will be based on consultations with the respective regions and communes and adapted to the economic potentials and constraints in each commune. Beneficiaries will be given a of choice which activity they want to pursue (demand-driven approach). Although vouchers will be provided to

⁶ This corresponds to the group of "moyen", i.e. those with medium vulnerability as defined in the UNHCR/WFP exercise.



individual households, beneficiaries will be encouraged and incentivized to pool their grants for group economic activities. The grants will be provided for the following key production activities:

- a. *Crop production*: The project will support both rainfed and irrigated crops. The main existing crops are pepper and vegetables in Diffa region; and millet, rice, cowpeas, vegetables and moringa in the Tahoua and Tilabery region. Based on the need assessment, the voucher for crop production would include certified seeds and agriculture equipment.
 - b. *Livestock*: The project will support cattle and ram fattening and animal restocking (based on adapting local traditional beneficiary multiplication chain. To this end the project will finance provision for animal acquisition, targeting only Nigerien high potential breeds (Maradi red and Sahel goat, balami/bali-bali sheep, Azawad, Bororo and Kouri cow), veterinary kits and feed supplement. As per animal health security procedure, this activity will be supervised by the General Directorate for Pastoralism and Animal Industry (DGPIA) and will also involve private veterinary services for initial quarantine and routine health monitoring. Only agro-dealers complying with these standards will be selected and paid with the vouchers.
 - c. *Poultry*: The voucher provision for this activity will target only women groups. In addition to the animal, the voucher will include vaccines for most frequent disease (Newcastle) and supplemental feeds. This activity will also be supervised by the DGPIA and involve private veterinary for daily monitoring. Only agro-dealers complying with the standards will be able to be paid with the vouchers.
 - d. *Agro-processing*: The project will provide vouchers for acquisition of agro-processing equipment that can add value to the crop and livestock production. The Project will partner with the ongoing West Africa Agriculture Production Project (WAAPP – P122065) to support dissemination of proven technologies for pepper drying technologies, moringa, vegetables and cereals processing as well as fish and meat drying.
 - e. *Fisheries and aquaculture*: Based on local potential and resources, the project will support development of fisheries and aquaculture. The provision will include equipment, fries, feed supplement and improved technologies.
- ii. *Awareness and sensitization efforts*: This aims at raising awareness among various stakeholders to facilitate beneficiaries' engagement in agriculture production activities. This will be kicked-off with a radio/video-based campaign at community level, regarding voucher enrollment and removing barriers for refugees to become economically active. This effort will target especially women and youth and will provide them with the relevant information on accessing project financing. The project will support consultations (through NGOs) to reach local arrangement for refugees' access to land. The project will also raise awareness among private agro-dealers to serve the markets in the three regions of the project, which are suffering from closed borders and disrupted trade flows due to security reasons.
- iii. *Capacity building and support to advisory and extension service delivery*: In addition to the voucher for production activities, the project will finance capacity building and technical advisory services for the beneficiaries with the objective for them to have the necessary skills and assistance to run their business. This includes a large range of activities, including (i) hands-on training on selected agriculture best practices; (ii) training on animal health and nutrition (cattle, sheep, goat and poultry); (iii) training on aquaculture equipment maintenance and fish feeding; (iv) financial literacy training and coaching of village savings and loan associations; and (v) support to the delivery of advisory services to the beneficiaries by public and private extension service providers (NGO).



18. Beneficiaries will be grouped for the delivery of the vouchers and capacity building measures, using existing or newly established village groups and associations. The project will encourage mixed participation of refugees and host communities in these groups.

19. The sub-component will be implemented by SDS Sahel-Niger through contracting of the Agricultural Chambers Network (RECA), which will associate the DGPIA, the regional department for agriculture and livestock, NGOs or consulting firms and private veterinary service providers to implement this subcomponent. Payment agencies (e.g. post offices, banks, or mobile money providers) will be used to pay the suppliers for the vouchers they received. The voucher delivery mechanism will be further specified in the Project Implementation Manual (PIM). The grant under this subcomponent will finance goods through vouchers, consultants' services, training, and non-consultant services, including capacity building.

Sub-component 2.2: Support for off-farm income-generating activities: SDR XX million (US\$10.0 million equivalent)

20. This sub-component replicates the tested approaches, methodologies and stakeholders of the Bank's Youth Employment and Productive Inclusion Project (P163157) and the Safety Net Project (P123399) to ensure complementarities on the technical side and geographical coverage.⁷ The subcomponent is expected to benefit about 31,250 direct beneficiaries, and will include the following set of activities:

- i. The sub-component will finance cash grants of 200 USD⁸ for individuals for their choice of off-farm income generating activities (self-employment and micro-enterprises, that could be part of agricultural value chains).
- ii. Awareness, and sensitization efforts will be funded regarding enrollment for the cash-grants and obstacles for refugees to become economically active (including access to identification). This effort will target especially women and youth.
- iii. The subcomponent will also finance life skills training (as implemented by the WB Social Safety Net Project), a micro-entrepreneurship training (ILO Germe level 1 curriculum), and technical trainings focused on region/ commune- specific needs to complement component 1 infrastructure O&M and sustainability. Beneficiaries will be grouped for the delivery of the trainings, using existing or newly established village groups and associations. Village coaches will be trained (training of trainers) to accompany the entrepreneurs and support the creation of village savings and loan associations.

21. SDS Sahel-Niger will implement the sub-component through contracting of consults, firms or NGOs to deliver the trainings, and to adapt the existing curricula to consider refugee-specific obstacles to access economic opportunities. NGOs or firms will be contracted by SDS Sahel-Niger for cash-grant management, and payment agencies (e.g. post offices, banks, or mobile money providers) will pay out the cash grants and monthly stipends for village coaches. The funding under this subcomponent will finance goods through cash transfers,

⁷ This will ensure alignment with government priorities and strategies, economies of scale in using qualified providers and building on proven training contents (like the life skills training).

⁸ This amount was identified as most appropriate by the Bank's Youth employment project, based on existing evidence and experiences in other countries.



consultants' services, training, non-consultant services, including capacity building.

Component 3: Coordination and institutional development - SDR **XX** million (US\$9.0 million equivalent)

22. The component will finance capacity building of local and regional authorities (municipal councils, regional councils and the decentralized technical services) and central government authorities to strengthen their ability to manage current and future crises as well as engage in recovery planning. This includes effective and efficient coordination among all stakeholders, as well as planning and monitoring/evaluation of existing and future investments under component 1 and 2; and support to local governments for project management with the decentralization process. This component will engage with 23 communes - located in 16 departments and 4 regions - and it will have about 250 direct beneficiaries. The support is closely aligned with the work of the '3 N Initiative' and builds upon the success of the Bank's CAP3. It supports the process of decentralization and aims to enable the respective actors according to the legal texts on the decentralization of governance and service delivery. The component will be implemented by SDS Sahel-Niger who will contract local suppliers of goods and services. This sub-component will finance goods, consultants' services, training, and non-consultant services.

23. This component will support the following activities at four government levels - municipal, department, region, and national:

- a. At the local and municipal level, the component will support communes to better manage investment decisions in a context of crisis and recovery. Direct support will be provided for the integration of crisis and recovery-related priorities in Commune Development Plans (PDCs) as well as their implementation through 'Annual Investment Plans' (PIAs). The update of PDCs will follow a participative planning method with focus on regular, practical updates to operationalize the plans given the dynamic context. At mid-term review (MTR), the project will determine whether the PIAs of the targeted communes have been developed sufficiently to base the investments under component 1 fully on them. The support will be provided through targeted trainings delivered by NGOs.
- b. At the regional and department level, the component will support the regional councils and decentralized technical services (particularly those related to sectors supported under component 1) in the use of simplified tools to capture partner activities by linking to the geo-enabled monitoring system for follow-up in real-time. Hence, there will be both trainings for the responsible authorities as well as support to put in place agile technological support (i.e. cell phone and tablet based monitoring system). The project will support bi-annual supervision missions of the Regional Councils to enable their leadership in the coordination and monitoring of activities not just under this project but the breadth of humanitarian, development, and security partners.
- c. At the central level, the Project Steering Committee under the SDS Sahel-Niger with membership of the Ministry of Interior, the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace, the Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Planning will act as the coordination platform. To support its work, the steering committee will be complemented by a partnership and synergies task force with the same membership at the technical level complemented by key members of the humanitarian, security and development partners (including UNHCR, OCHA, the World Bank, EU, ECHO, AFD and others).
- d. The *Direction Générale de l'État Civil et des Réfugiés* (DGECR) in the Ministry of Interior will be supported to improve their Management Information System (MIS) to further enhance their ability to collect data on forced displacement. This will be done in close coordination with UNHCR.
- e. Finally, the component will finance communication, outreach, and training activities that are aimed at sensitizing the humanitarian and development community in the legal texts and application of



decentralization laws as well as the coordination and monitoring methods put in place.

Component 4 - Project Management - SDR **XX** million (US\$6.0 million equivalent)

24. This sub-component will finance: (a) strengthening the capacity of the Project Steering Committee for overall Project coordination; and (b) strengthening the capacity of the Project Implementation Unit for project management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, including: fiduciary (i.e. financial and procurement management), environmental and social assessments, preparation of project reports, and monitoring and evaluation. The sub-component will also include an enhanced approach to monitoring using a number of tools developed to help extend the reach of the PIU in areas that are difficult to access, either due to insecurity or remote location. These include: (i) Iterative Beneficiary Monitoring (IBM), (ii) Third Party Monitoring (TPM), and (iii) GPS tagging. The IBM approach builds on the Poverty GPs existing poverty monitoring work, adding on to regular household surveys and providing beneficiary feedback in real time. TPM utilizes third parties such as NGOs working in inaccessible areas to help the PIU monitor project progress and compliance, carrying out periodic site visits and evaluations. Geo-tagging combines the use of geo-location tagging of infrastructure with satellite imagery to monitor and confirm progress and completion of subprojects.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

25. The proposed project will build on existing institutional structures, namely use of the Executive Secretariat for the Development and Security of Sahelian-Saharan Areas of Niger (Stratégie pour le Développement et la Sécurité des zones Sahélo-Sahariennes du Niger – SDS Sahel-Niger), which -under the Prime-Minister's Office- has already been given the national mandate to spearhead the economic and social development of the affected regions. SDS Sahel-Niger was selected as the project implementing unit (PIU), based on its strategic institutional positioning and track record of coordinating and facilitating of numerous government stakeholders at both national and local levels; proven experience of managing other development activities, and solid implementation and fiduciary track record based on a 2016 audit.

26. All aspects of the Project will require substantial investment in partnership and coordination at following levels: (a) inter-ministerial cooperation within national institutions; (b) among local governments (municipal and regional); and (c) with other donors and international partners. Hence, project implementation arrangements mirror this with (1) an inter-ministerial committee at central government level to provide policy and strategic guidance,⁹ (2) a project steering committee to provide technical support,¹⁰ and (3) the project implementation unit, SDS Sahel-Niger, for the day-to-day implementation through its main office in Niamey and three regional offices (to be established). United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is an observer in the project steering committee, and due to their experience and presence on the ground, UNHCR is also providing advice to project implementation at the central, regional and local government levels and institutions. Furthermore, SDS Sahel-Niger will contract private firms, NGOs, and consultants to implement the sub-projects.

27. A Project Preparation Advance (PPA) is currently implemented under the administration of PIU of the

⁹ This comprises the following: Prime Minister's Office (SDS), Minister of Plan, Minister of interior, Minister of Defense, Minister of Justice, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace.

¹⁰ This comprises the technical staff of the above-mentioned entities, who will continue from their roles as members of the project's preparation committee.



Bank’s Disaster Risk Management Project (PGRC-DU), given that the Bank’s assessment of SDS’ fiduciary capacities was not available at the start of project preparation.

28. The project is hence proposing to (a) strengthen existing institutions including the SDS Sahel-Niger, the Regional Technical Services, and the Regional Councils to perform roles such as assessments, coordination, monitoring and evaluation; and (b) strengthen the project implementation capacity. To this end, the Government will develop and maintain a detailed Project Implementation Manual (PIM) to further elaborate the roles and responsibilities of the project's implementation apparatus as well as lay out detailed technical and operational decision-making processes.

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The specific sites for infrastructure investments and their scope will be determined during project implementation based on the government’s detailed assessments of priority needs within the target regions in consultation with local population and authorities and detailed technical studies to be undertaken. The general areas include sites hosting refugees in Diffa region and along the Malian border in Tillaberi, Tahoua and Agadez regions.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Demba Balde, Social Safeguards Specialist
Emmanuel Ngollo, Environmental Safeguards Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	The project will construct, rehabilitate and upgrade socioeconomic infrastructures in several locations. As the sites and works are not yet finalized, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was prepared, consulted upon, and cleared by the World bank then disclosed in-country on June 7, 2018 and at the World Bank Website on June 7, 2018, before appraisal. The disclosed ESMF formulates standard methods and procedures, along with clear institutional arrangements for screening, review, approval, implementation and monitoring of sub-project-specific safeguards instruments (Environmental and Social Management Plans



		(ESMPs), Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs)) as necessary, after due diligence screening. These instruments will also be consulted upon, cleared by the World Bank and disclosed in-country and at the World Bank Website
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	The Project is not involved in the use of private sector as indicated in this policy.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	Due to the location of interventions in areas where infrastructure and/or productive activities were already in place, no negative impacts to critical or sensitive natural habitats are expected.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	No interventions are financed in forest areas, nor do they involve forests.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	Although procurement of pesticides is not envisaged under the project, it is expected that intensification of agricultural production and productivity as well as the income generating activities (gardening, livestock, small irrigation, etc.) will likely lead to an increased use of pesticides and other chemicals. The Government has updated its existing Pest and Pesticide Management Plan (developed under the DRM-UD) and submitted it to the Bank for clearance. This document was disclosed in-country on June 7, 2018 and at World Bank website on June 7, 2018, prior to appraisal.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	The Physical Cultural Resources Policy (OP 4.11) is triggered because Niger is viewed as a rich cultural heritage area. Though it is unknown at this time which sites may contain such resources due to the lack of specifics on the locations, size, scale of planned investments under the project. Chance Find Procedures will be applied as indicated in the ESMF according to the national regulation. The ESMF addresses potential impacts due to discovery of physical cultural resources and includes suggested mitigation measures.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	There are no Indigenous Peoples in the project area as describe in the policy.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	OP 4.12 is triggered due to the potential impacts related to civil works, which may lead to minor land acquisition, loss of assets and/or access to resources. A draft Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) was prepared, consulted upon, approved and has been disclosed in-country and at the World Bank website prior to appraisal. The disclosed RPF



		formulates standard methods and procedures, along with clear institutional arrangements for screening, review, approval, implementation and monitoring of sub-project-specific safeguards instruments such as Resettlements Action Plans (RAPs) if necessary.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project will not finance the building of dams and is not supporting dam infrastructure. Subject to technical studies the project may finance local flood prevention structures that may temporarily retain excess water during peak volume events, but which do not pose dam safety issues.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	OP 7.50 is not triggered as there are no infrastructure investments likely to affect water flow of Niger or Komadougou international waterways under the project.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	OP 7.60 is not triggered as there are no known disputes over project areas.

KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The project will construct, rehabilitate and upgrade basic infrastructures (water, sanitation, education, health, rural roads) and livelihood opportunities (gardening, livestock, markets, ICT) in several locations with no significant or irreversible impacts. No unprecedented or cumulative adverse E&S risks and impacts are envisaged to result from the implementation of activities to be financed, although potentially some site-specific adverse E&S impacts may be relevant. Site-specific environmental safeguards instruments will be prepared, consulted upon, then reviewed and cleared by the Bank and disclosed - both countrywide in Niger and at the World Bank website, before the physical start of project activities, as required. Following World Bank best practice, all safeguards instruments should be prepared before the bidding of contracts, ensuring their adequate integration and implementation by contractors before the commencement of any civil works.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area: Due to the location of interventions in areas where infrastructure and/or productive activities are already in place, no indirect or long term negative impacts are expected. However, the project will finance labor intensive, small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation and construction, and will finance the provision of small agricultural production equipment, and inputs.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts. Considering the absence or foreseen adverse impacts with the current plan, no alternatives have been considered.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower



capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

As the sites and works are not yet finalized, an ESMF, PMP and a RPF have been prepared, consulted upon, cleared by the World Bank and disclosed both in-country and at the World Bank website before appraisal. The ESMF formulates standard methods and procedures, along with clear institutional arrangements for screening, review, approval, implementation and monitoring of sub-project-specific safeguards instruments (ESMPs, ESIA and/or RAPs) as necessary. The Government has also updated its existing Pest and Pesticides Management Plan and submitted to the Bank for clearance and disclosure in-country and at the World Bank website, prior to appraisal. These instruments have also been consulted upon and disclosed in-country and at World Bank Website.

The Government of Niger has previously successfully implemented Bank-financed projects for which Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMF), RPFs, RAPs and Pest and Pesticides Management Plans (PPMPs) were approved by the Bank. The “Bureau des Evaluations Environnementales et des Études d’Impacts” (BEEI) and its decentralized structures, have the capacity to perform the external monitoring of the implementation of the safeguards instruments defined under this project, including ensuring and validating that the provisions of the ESMF and RPF are followed (categorization of activities, review, clearance and monitoring of the EIAs/EMP and RAPs), on behalf of the Government. Overall, monitoring of project environmental and social safeguards compliance with national laws and regulations and applicable World Bank operational policies and procedures, will be devolved to BEEI.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

The ESMF, RPF and PPMP have been prepared, consulted upon, reviewed and cleared by the World Bank and disclosed both in-country and at the World Bank website before appraisal. The Project Preparation Advance has supported consultation with beneficiaries and potentially affected people at municipality and village levels. With sensitivity to prevailing social norms and equitable access to project benefits, the project will be gender sensitive in its approach to (i) increase women’s economic opportunities; (ii) provide appropriate services to women; and (iii) establish a gender disaggregated baseline regarding project impacts and results. With regards to GBV, the project during consultation will sensitize key stakeholders and contractors on GBV prevention, child labor during project implementation as well as mainstreaming GBV in bidding documents and contracts for civil work activities

B. Disclosure Requirements

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure	For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors
07-Jun-2018	07-Jun-2018	

"In country" Disclosure

Niger
07-Jun-2018

Comments



Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process

Date of receipt by the Bank

07-Jun-2018

Date of submission for disclosure

07-Jun-2018

"In country" Disclosure

Niger

07-Jun-2018

Comments

Pest Management Plan

Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?

Yes

Date of receipt by the Bank

07-Jun-2018

Date of submission for disclosure

07-Jun-2018

"In country" Disclosure

Niger

07-Jun-2018

Comments

If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.

If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting)

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment

Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?

No

OP 4.09 - Pest Management



Does the EA adequately address the pest management issues?

Yes

Is a separate PMP required?

Yes

If yes, has the PMP been reviewed and approved by a safeguards specialist or PM? Are PMP requirements included in project design? If yes, does the project team include a Pest Management Specialist?

Yes

OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources

Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?

Yes

Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?

Yes

OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement

Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

Yes

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information

Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank for disclosure?

Yes

Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?

Yes



All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?

Yes

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?

Yes

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