



Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 04/01/2019 | Report No: ESRSC00162



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Mauritania	AFRICA	P167328	
Project Name	Mauritania Water and Sanitation Sectoral Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Water	Investment Project Financing	12/23/2019	9/30/2019
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Ministere de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement	Ministere de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

Increasing access to water and sanitation services in selected rural areas and small towns, as well as build the institutional capacities of Mauritania’s water and sanitation sector

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	40.00

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 Water and Sanitation Sectoral Project (P167328) aims to increase access to water and sanitation services in selected rural and small-town areas of Mauritania, improve service in neighboring intermediate cities, and strengthen sectoral capacities in the area of water and sanitation, institutional governance and knowledge of water resources.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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



The project will increase access to water and sanitation services in selected rural areas and small towns, as well as build the institutional capacities of Mauritania’s water and sanitation sector. The project is expected to deliver water and sanitation services to between 70,000 and 100,000 beneficiaries in rural villages and small towns across Mauritania. The localities will be chosen in priority rural areas, in keeping with the spatial convergence sought with other WB-funded projects, based on criteria to be determined in consultation with the Ministry of Hydraulics and Sanitation.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The project will be implemented by the Ministry responsible for water and sanitation. A Project Coordination Unit (PCU) within the Minister’s Cabinet will be responsible for proper implementation of the project. Within the same Ministry, the Directorate in charge of Water will implement the water component, while the Directorate of Sanitation will be responsible for sanitation. Given the MHA’s current organization, this two-headed project management seems inevitable from the outset. The “Institutional Support and Capacity Building” component will be implemented directly by the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) responsible for ensuring the smooth coordination of the Project. The poor technical and human capabilities of the directorates in charge of water and sanitation call for measures to guarantee proper project implementation by providing international resident technical assistants to the project management (namely a technical assistant for water and another for sanitation). To build synergy and improve coordination between the two project components, the project management assistants (PMAs) will be provided by the same firm to be selected following an international tender. For 10 years the water sector water did not pilot a project funded by World Bank. an environmental and social due diligence of the institutional arrangements will be carried out to assess any gaps in capacity and the need for procuring additional SHE officers dedicated to managing and monitoring the environmental risks and impacts of the project. A thorough Institutional Capacity Assessment (using forthcoming World Bank guidance) will be conducted prior to appraisal. Any capacity gaps/ strengthening measures (for the implementation of the Environmental and Social Standards) will be captured in an Institutional Capacity Strengthening Plan and reflected in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).

Public Disclosure

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating Moderate

The environmental risk rating is currently assessed as Moderate. Potential negative impacts will be localized, with the greatest potential risk being a threat to groundwater sustainability. Potential negative impacts will also include those associated with construction of small-scale water and sanitation infrastructure. Environmental benefits are likely to accrue through stimulation of the market for latrines, an open defecation campaign, as well as a hand-washing campaign.

Social Risk Rating Moderate

The project will increase access to water and sanitation services in selected rural areas and small towns, as well as build the institutional capacities of Mauritania’s water and sanitation sector and at this stage the project social risk rating will be moderate as the social impacts should not be substantial, the rating may change during the project appraisal when more information will be gathered.

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 project will require an assessment, and subsequent management, of environmental and social impacts related to construction of small civil works for water supply and sanitation. An Environmental and Social Management Framework and/or Plan (ESMF or ESMP) is expected to be developed to support the design, construction, and operational phase of these works. These works are expected to include: construction or rehabilitation of drinking water supply systems in targeted rural areas and small towns, including potential improvements to water supply conditions in neighboring intermediate towns; installation of solar or hybrid groundwater pumping equipment and simplified distribution systems (with the use of relevant innovative technologies); construction of family latrines (self-financing/self-construction) by households; and construction of public latrines in schools, health centers, markets, bus stations, etc. Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement Temporary Economic Displacement and involuntary resettlement: The project will entail provide access to water and sanitation services in selected rural areas and small towns, when possible, these will be built on existing land owned by the ministry of water and sanitation or the municipality but it could have impacts on usufructuary rights and private owners too.

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

N/A

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Stakeholder engagement is a critical tool for social and environmental risk management, project sustainability and success. In consultation with the Bank, the client will prepare and implement an inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportional to the nature and scale of the project and associated risks and impacts. A draft of the SEP will be prepared and disclosed as early as possible and prior to Appraisal. The client will seek stakeholder feedback and opportunities for proposed future engagement, ensuring that all consultations are inclusive and accessible (both in format and location) and through channels that are suitable in the local context. If major changes are made to the SEP, a revised SEP should be publicly disclosed.

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

In general, the project footprint is expected to be relatively discrete and will not entail a significant amount of labor. The majority of labor will be locally hired, with the exception of skilled workers who cannot be found in the project location. Labor camps are not anticipated, and local unskilled labor will be prioritized to minimize the influx of unskilled labor and reduce the potential for harm. A Labor Management Plan will be prepared and included within the ESMF/ESMP in order to assure that both ILO and Mauritanian standards are applied and complied to with respect to hire, use, payment, and working conditions of any labor required for this project.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management



This ESS is relevant for both resource efficiency and for pollution prevention and management. In the case of resource efficiency, sustainable management of groundwater resources is paramount to delivering on the PDO. Resource efficiency with respect to construction materials is also critical to minimizing input costs. Pollution prevention and management is relevant with respect to assuring potable water quality delivered to residents, managing increased water supply sewerage expected to accrue as a result of increased water supply availability, and exposure to and management of fecal matter and wastewater runoff through the open-defecation and hand-washing campaign programs.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The program provides substantial technical assistance and capacity building with respect to reducing open-defecation and increasing hand-washing. This contributes to community health and safety. Minor construction works will need mitigation measures so as not to disrupt quantity and quality of existing water sources. The sub-component which stimulates demand for and construction of household latrines includes training on how households / communities can construct their own latrines. To this end, this training will need to include content on how to assure worker safety for digging and working in a pit, as well as other occupational health and safety preventative measures specific to latrine construction.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement Temporary Economic Displacement and involuntary resettlement: The project will entail provide access to water and sanitation services in selected rural areas and small towns, by financing the construction of public latrines in schools, health centers, markets, bus stations, etc. when possible, these will be built on existing land owned by the ministry of water and sanitation or the municipality but it could have impacts on usufructuary rights and private owners too. Management/Mitigation: Potential sites will be screened by the E&S specialist to ensure that negative impacts are minimized and that alternatives are considered in cases where there may be some overlap with private owners or users. In order to provide guidance regarding resettlement principles, organizational arrangements and design criteria, a RPF will be prepared during the project preparation phase and the commitment to prepare subsequent RAPs where impacts cannot be avoided will be included in the ESCP.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The ESS on biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources is expected to be of minimal relevance to this project. The ESMF/ESMP will include provisions such that water sources which sustain globally or nationally cited biodiversity will be excluded from development.

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

The project will be implemented in Assaba, Guidimagha and Hodh el Gharbi, with the objective to improve collective sanitation by financing the construction of public latrines in schools, health centers, markets, bus stations, etc. The ESMF/ESMP will include a social assessment section, prepared in order to better understand vulnerable group in



these project sites and how they will be included in the project design. A grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will be included that is culturally appropriate and accessible to the vulnerable groups.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

As water supply development, as well as latrine construction, both involve excavation, measures to manage "chance finds" will be included in the ESMF/ESMP. It is also expected that development of water supply and sanitation master plans in targeted small towns will include mapping of the oldest known populated areas, as well as any known cultural heritage sites (markets, mosques, burial grounds, etc.).

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard does not apply.

B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks

As the Ministry of Water did not implement Bank financed project over the ten past years, the low level safeguards awareness and capacity at the Ministry level could have an impact on the implementation of the project. Capacity building will focus on one safeguards focus point at the level of the implementing ministry/agency, with some training at the rural level.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No

As this is a water project, the applicability of OP 7.50 will be determined as a part of the identification phase of the project cycle.

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

The project is not operating in any disputed areas.

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered?

No

Financing Partners

N/A

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

- Preparation, consultation and disclosure of an ESIA and associated ESMF or ESMP;
- Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP);

Public Disclosure



- Institutional Capacity Assessment;
- Preparation of the Resettlement Policy Framework.

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

The client is expected to prepare an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), with the assistance of the World Bank. This ESCP is expected to contain an ESMF or ESMP. The ESMF or ESMP will include the following: a Stakeholder Engagement Plan, a Labor Management Plan, a Social Assessment, an Institutional Capacity Strengthening Plan, and chance find provisions for physical cultural heritage, in addition to the expected contents of an ESMF or ESMP. The selection of preparation of an ESMF or ESMP will be determined based on whether sites are known at or prior to the time of appraisal. It is expected that each targeted small town will have its own ESMP, to support the detailed design plan for construction of civil works in that community. The ESCP will also contain reference to preparation of a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) as needed.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

09-Sep-2019

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower: Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement

Public Disclosure



V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

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