



# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

### **(ESRS Concept Stage)**

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**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Malawi	AFRICA	P172627	
Project Name	Skills for A Vibrant Economy Program		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Education	Program-for-Results Financing	9/1/2020	12/11/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development	Ministry of Labor, Skills and Innovation, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

to increase equitable access to market relevant skills in priority areas of the economy especially for females and vulnerable youth

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**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 proposed program will build on the success of the recently closed project “Skills Development Project (SDP) (P131660), which aimed to increase access, market relevance and results orientation. The proposed program aims to increase equitable to market relevant skills, especially for female and vulnerable youth. The program will cover both TEVET and higher education sub-sectors, including training for out-of-school youth, with emphasis on girls/ female and digital technology.



#### **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

D.1. Project location(s) and salient characteristics relevant to the ES assessment [geographic, environmental, social]  
The operation will be financed through a hybrid Program for Results (PforR) and Investment Project Financing (IPF) which will be implemented nationally across the country. As described above the IPF elements will provide Technical Assistance for capacity building to support the national and sub-national level government agencies that include the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Labour, Skills and Innovation as well as project management.

The operation shall have two components. The PforR component has three results areas: Results Area 1 Equitable access to relevant skills program in priority areas of the economy through institutional capacity strengthening; Results Area 2 Empowerment of women and girls and vulnerable youth through targeted skills in priority areas of the economy; and, Results Area 3: Create a conducive policy environment and strengthen institutional capacity for skills development. These results areas will be financed through PforR and therefore covered by the Environmental and Social Systems Assessment (ESSA) of the program for which the initial risk assessment for the PforR component suggests moderate risk due primarily to the proposed educational infrastructure activities however this will be fully explored within the ESSA.

The IPF component aims to strengthen the capacity of the multi-sectoral implementation team (PIU) and relevant stakeholders. This component will support: 1) setting up Project Implementation Unit (consultancy/ TA, equipment for office, operational budget) at system level for overall project implementation and at each implementation entity level for institution's specific activities; 2) recruitment third party validation agency; 3) monitoring and evaluation of the project activities, possibly using the Geo-Enabling Initiative for Monitoring and Supervision (GEMS); 4) project audit (med-term, and end-project review); 5) statistical capacity enhancement both at TEVET and HE; and 5) several consultancy services, including skills needs assessment in selected priority areas, studies for GBV areas, student loans sustainability).

#### **D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity**

A joint Ministerial PIU consisting of Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) and the Ministry of Labour, Skills and Innovation (MoLSI) will be the coordinating agency to implement both the IPF and PforR components of this operation.

MoEST has experience of coordinating World Bank-financed projects but lacks the environmental and social staff to manage environmental and social risks and impacts. The Ministries will strengthen their capacity by recruiting environmental and social staff with the necessary skill to advise on the program's environmental and social capacity building dimensions.

The project will be implemented as a hybrid PforR/IPF. The ESF will be applied to Component 4 which focuses on TA and project management to be implemented by the joint Ministerial PIU. Components 1,2 and 3 will be financed through a PforR modality and will therefore be covered by the Environmental and Social Systems Assessment of the program.

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



**A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)**

Moderate

**Environmental Risk Rating**

Low

The screening did not identify potentially significant environmental risks or impacts for the IPF Component of this program. The proposed TA will support consistency with the ESF by strengthening national systems on environmental and social issues identification and risk management. Hence the environmental risk is considered Low.

**Social Risk Rating**

Moderate

The social risk posed by the IPF component is considered moderate and the screening did not identify areas of social risk within the TA and project management elements proposed that would be considered significant or complex. The moderate risk classification is resulting from the fact that while these activities in and of themselves have minimal social risks and impacts, they do involve providing support to the PIU, which is the institution that will carry out and oversee activities that do potentially have social implications. As is expected of any operation, a GBV risk assessment has been undertaken and GBV risk is deemed low and will not affect the overall social risk rating of the operation.

**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 IPF component includes: i) set up of the Project Implementation Unit (consultancy, equipment for office, operational budget), ii) recruit 3rd-party validation, iii) monitoring and evaluation provision for the program, iv) auditing services, and v) consultancy services in areas such as needs assessment and technical studies. The financing of these components of Technical Assistance for capacity building within the PIU and national and sub-national governments and agencies involved in the program will not result in significant potential adverse risks. Potential environmental and social risks or impacts of conducting the TA are expected to be negligible. Potential downstream risks and impacts of the consultancy services, including skills needs assessment in selected priority areas, studies for GBV areas, student loans sustainability under activity 5 may include risks such as labor and contractual related concerns, exclusion of disadvantaged groups from employment opportunities, participation in stakeholder consultations and involvement and coverage in analytical studies and assessments. Thus, there will be no further environmental and social assessment with regard to this component. However, compliance with the appropriate elements of the ESS1, ESS2 and ESS10 for the PIU will be included as part of the ESCP. The project (IPF component) will prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan which will be developed to cover both the IPF and PforR components to ensure stakeholder engagement is comprehensive across the whole program, as well as Labor Management Procedures which will be disclosed prior to appraisal.

**Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:**

None

**ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

Public Disclosure



Stakeholder engagement processes will be put in place for the IPF component. As the TA aims to promote improved planning and execution, an opportunity is presented to ensure stakeholder participation. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be prepared of a type and form appropriate to be able to cover both the IPF TA elements and the PforR components to ensure comprehensive stakeholder engagement across the entire program .

## **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**

Labor Management Procedures will be put in place for the IPF component by appraisal. The activities will involve civil servants from participating ministries and contracted consultants. Although labor considerations will be minimal and there is low to negligible risk of child labor, the procedures will include codes of conduct acceptable to the World Bank to mitigate the risk of harassment or misconduct in the workplace and in contact with communities. They will also ensure that national labor-related laws are upheld, and institutional roles related to enforcement of the laws, and recruitment, discipline, appraisals and dismissals are maintained. A redress mechanism for work-related grievances will be provided to project civil servants and consultants, with necessary considerations for confidentiality and whistle-blower protection.

### **ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

This ESS is not considered relevant for the IPF component, however, relevance of this ESS will further be assessed during project preparation.

### **ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

This ESS is not considered relevant for the IPF component, however, relevance of this ESS will further be assessed during project preparation.

### **ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

This ESS is not considered relevant for the IPF component, however, relevance of this ESS will further be assessed during project preparation.

### **ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

This ESS is not considered relevant for the IPF component, however, relevance of this ESS will further be assessed during project preparation.

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

This ESS is not relevant as there are no groups that meet the criteria for ESS7 in Malawi.



**ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

This ESS is not considered relevant for the IPF component, however, relevance of this ESS will further be assessed during project preparation.

**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

This ESS 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 considered at present, but will be revisited.

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

**Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:**

1. Preparation of SEP; LMP; ESCP for the TA and project management IPF component.

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

1. Stakeholder engagement appropriate to the proposed TA;
2. Labour Management Procedures for staff and consultants;
3. Awareness raising on the management of environment and social risks and impacts arising from the PforR component.

**C. Timing**

**Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS** 15-Jun-2020

**IV. CONTACT POINTS**

**World Bank**

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Public Disclosure



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**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Borrower: Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Labor, Skills and Innovation

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

**V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

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**VI. APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s):	Nobuyuki Tanaka, Veronica Grigera
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Robin Mearns Recommended on 30-Mar-2020 at 16:17:30 EDT

Public Disclosure