



# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

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

Date Prepared/Updated: 12/19/2019 | Report No: ESRSC00998



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
St Maarten	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	P172339	
Project Name	St Maarten Civil Society Partnership Facility for Resilience (CSPFRP)		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Protection & Jobs	Investment Project Financing	2/17/2020	3/31/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
VNG International	VNG Internationa		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to improve civil society organizations’ capacity to support reconstruction and resilience activities and contribute to service delivery.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>7.00</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 Sint Maarten Civil Society Partnership Facility for Resilience Project will support interventions that are aimed at enhancing capacities of Civil Society Organizations to partake in contributing to improving service delivery and resilience. The project will be implemented through three main components namely: (i) Small Grants for Reconstruction, Resilience and Service Delivery, (ii) Capacity Building and Technical Assistance and (iii) Project Management and Coordination.

Component 1 will finance small grants to CSOs that will work with communities to generate project proposals to implement activities focused on reconstruction, resilience and service delivery. Subproject proposals will be called,



and grants awarded twice a year. Subproject proposals will be screened against predetermined eligibility criteria. Subprojects will be implemented by the CSOs, which will benefit from continuous technical assistance and capacity building from the Management Agency (MA) and its Local Partners (LPs). A subproject cycle, which will meet minimum rigor and yet be simple enough to minimize transaction burden has been developed to guide quality implementation and ensure a credible grant management and learning and knowledge sharing. Subprojects will be demand driven. The Project will not finance major civil works nor new constructions. Rather, subprojects to be financed will constitute those requiring rehabilitation and of small magnitude. In addition, the Project will not include any land acquisition nor displacement of populations.

Component 2 will support all the capacity building and technical assistance activities mainly for the CSOs implementing partners but also for all the stakeholders involved in project implementation and in coordination of the project work to achieve its development objectives. 25. This component will also provide technical assistance needs that will be identified to satisfy seasonal and/or periodic technical needs of the project such as design and undertaking of qualitative and quantitative evaluations and facilitating learning and knowledge sharing events, to mention only a few.

Component 3 will support all activities related to project management and coordination. These will include daily operations management of the project; fiduciary oversight and management; planning and monitoring; reporting and documentation of good practices; knowledge management and coordination activities within the project and with all other stakeholders. Management and coordination will also involve processes of the grant mechanism or the subproject cycle and activities that will aim at awareness creation, education and communication. This component will support all other logistical and operational aspects of the project that will ensure management and oversight for Local Partners and Implementing Partners functions smoothly. In addition, the component will support activities related to the functionality of the technical committee for the project that will ensure coordination and harmonization of project activities with the rest of the related work in Sint Maarten.

The proposed project will be implemented through a Management Agency (MA) which will enter into a Grant Agreement with the World Bank, which will in return forge collaborative initiatives with Local Partners and Implementing Partners to ensure smooth implementation and ownership at the country level.

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

D.1. Project location(s) and salient characteristics relevant to the ES assessment [geographic, environmental, social]  
Sint Maarten is a high-income constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Caribbean. It is the most densely populated country in the Caribbean with a population of roughly 38,000 in an area of 34 square km and a per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of U\$25,381. In addition to the 38,000 registered inhabitants, there is a significant group of unregistered migrants, estimated to be between 10,000 and 15,000 people.

Hurricane Irma severely damaged the infrastructure and economy of the country. Facilities in health and education sectors, community and recreation centers were all affected with different levels of severity. In the education sector alone, the direct damage to the education, culture, youth and sports public facilities were estimated at US\$60.2 million and losses at US\$1.7 million.



Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are already involved in the recovery and reconstruction efforts in Sint Maarten. Several CSOs are involved in the rehabilitation of basic service facilities, provision of social services, training and skills development and education, information and communication, to indicate a few. The project is expected to contribute to the objectives of Sint Maarten's National Recovery and Reconstruction Plan (NRRP) to restore economic, community and governance infrastructure and to restore and enhance service delivery.

The primary beneficiaries of the project will be community members and CSOs. CSOs will include Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith Based Organizations (FBOs), youth Organizations (YOs) or any other foundations or undertakings falling into the definition of CSOs in Sint Maarten. CSOs will benefit from the training, mentoring and financing provided to them, so that they can implement subprojects that will be consistent with their mandates. The Project will benefit vulnerable segments of the population, such as the poor and vulnerable that have been affected by the hurricane, the unemployed and underemployed, or those who live on less than the living wage rate. These vulnerable groups will benefit from the Project by using the facilities created or renovated, and/or by becoming employed by the subprojects.

At Concept Note stage, it is envisioned that the project will consist of three components: (i) Small Grants for Reconstruction, Resilience and Community driven Service delivery, (ii) Capacity Building and Technical Assistance and (iii) Project Management and Coordination. Component 1 will finance small grants to CSOs that will work with communities to generate project proposals to implement activities focused on reconstruction, resilience and community driven service delivery. Subproject proposals will be called, and grants awarded twice a year. Subproject proposals will be screened against predetermined eligibility criteria, including environmental and social screening criteria. The project does not have specific targeted location areas. Location of subprojects will be defined during implementation as part of the grant awards process. Grant amounts are expected to be US\$ 15,000 per CSO. Grants will not finance major civil works nor new constructions, only rehabilitation of small works if any. Grants will not include any land acquisition nor involuntary displacement of people. The eligibility and selection criteria of beneficiaries will be defined during project preparation. The project includes the conformation of a Technical Committee to ensure transparency in the technical screening process. The technical committee will be formed after the grant agreement has been signed. Component 2 will support capacity building and technical assistance activities mainly for the CSOs implementing partners but also for the stakeholders involved in project implementation and in coordination of the project activities. Component 3 will support all activities related to project management and coordination.

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

The institutional capacity of the implementing entity will be assessed before project appraisal. The project will be implemented through a Management Agency (MA) under a Grant Agreement with the World Bank. The International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG International), is being considered as the MA for the project. VNGI is an organization focusing on democratic governance at the local level, helping local governments build more effective public administration, involve stakeholders in decision making processes, improve access to basic services, support local governments in disaster preparedness and reconstruction, conflict management and resolution. VNGI's institutional capacity to manage the project's environmental and social safeguards instruments will be assessed once its MA role is confirmed.

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



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

Moderate

**Environmental Risk Rating**

Moderate

Specific subproject objectives, scope and locations will defined during project implementation once the small grant mechanism is in place and proposals are received. Out of the three project components, Component 1 might generate potential negative environmental impacts as this component will finance small grants to CSOs that will work with communities to implement activities focused on reconstruction, resilience and service delivery (e.g. indoor and outdoor facilities, health and education service delivery facilities, social care services; or youth skills development and employment). The implementation of the project components will be guided by the Environmental and Social Policies of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The Appraisal ESRS will provide more details on the type of potential risks that might be generated and the proposed mitigation measures should the risks materialize.

**Social Risk Rating**

Moderate

Specific subproject objectives, scope and locations will defined during project implementation once the small grant mechanism is in place and proposals are received. Out of the three project components, Component 1 might generate potential negative social impacts as this component will finance small grants to CSOs that will work with communities to implement activities focused on reconstruction, resilience and service delivery (e.g. indoor and outdoor facilities, health and education service delivery facilities, social care services; or youth skills development and employment). As these activities will be defined during the implementation of this grant, the mitigation measures will be developed as these activities are defined and according to the World Bank's ESF.

**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 Environmental and Social Risks Classification (ESRC) at this stage is considered Moderate (M). The environmental and social risks screening carried out at Concept Note stage has considered the potential environmental risks, including community health and safety, associated with minor works that could be financed under the small grants mechanism, particularly for the rehabilitation or expansion of small facilities needed to improve health and education service delivery, The likely impacts will be site specific, limited to the immediate surroundings, and can be managed through the implementation of specific mitigation measures. In addition, once the Management Agency is defined, additional efforts will be required during project preparation to ensure that the MA will have the capacity to manage the environmental and social safeguards of the project and to support the recipients of the small grants in the application of the ESF. Since participating CSOs, subproject eligibility criteria, duration, estimated subproject costs, and implementation arrangements will be defined during project preparation, the MA will be required to draft an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), before Project Appraisal, and to assign environmental and social safeguards staff for the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the environmental and social safeguards of the Project. The ESMF will incorporate an environmental and social screening criteria required as part of the small grants screening under Component 1. During project preparation, the Bank and the MA will discuss and agree the content of the ESMF, including: (i) criteria for eligibility and selection of subprojects that ensure non-discrimination and adherence to the ESS (including any exclusions such as resettlement and biodiversity impacts); (ii) procedures for the identification, assessment and

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management of the environmental and social risks and impacts of subprojects; (iii) organizational capacity and competency; (iv) monitoring and review of environmental and social risks of subprojects and the portfolio; (v) reporting and external communications mechanism including a project GRM; and (vi) outline of content of subproject ESMP, applicable Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) General and Sector-Specific Guidelines, and related grantees/contractors obligations in the form of a simple ESMP template or an Environmental Code of Practices (ECOPs).

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

Not applicable

**ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

The Management Agency will be required to prepare and implement an inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), The SEP will be proportional to the nature and scale of the project and associated risks and impacts identified during project preparation. The SEP will ensure that adequate consultation of various stakeholders and any vulnerable groups are included in the process. A draft SEP will be prepared and disclosed prior to Appraisal, together with the draft ESMF of the project (see ESS1).

**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**

ESS2 will be relevant for this project. It is not expected that workers from off island will be contracted. The borrower will need to develop a labor management procedure before project appraisal for project management staff and for workers under the grants. The plan will spell out how workers are contracted and provide details on the potential risks of SEA/SH during project implementation, basic occupational health and safety requirements as well as making provisions for terms on working conditions, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity for unskilled works, and the requirement of workers’ Code of Conduct. In addition the LMP must spell out specific provisions to prohibit child or forced labor. The plan will also include occupational health and safety of the project management staff .

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

The Standard is relevant. The MA will be required to screen each small grant to be financed under Component 1 and to identify specific efficiency measures related to (the efficient use of construction materials, minimizing any wastage of materials, additional and unnecessary creation of waste, and unnecessary transportation (e.g. should waste and debris will be generated, then the recipient of the small grant will be required to collect and dispose debris according to a waste management plan which will be part of the ESMP for the small grant) or management of mold or any hazardous waste (potentially including asbestos which will require special considerations). Relevance of ESS3 will be further assessed during project preparation.

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**ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

The Standard is relevant. Should the small grants window under Component 1 finance small works associated with the rehabilitation, repairs or expansion of facilities (e.g. class rooms, health facilities, etc.), the ESMF will have provisions for Occupational Health and Safety of workers and beneficiaries, consistent with the World Bank OHS guidelines, to ensure safety and accessibility, management of the nuisance impacts of construction, traffic impacts and impacts on neighbors, and matters related to workers’ conduct including SEA, following the principle of proportionality. Relevance of ESS4 will be further assessed during project preparation.

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

This ESS is not currently relevant. Any sub-projects that would cause physical or economic displacement will not be eligible. This provision will be included in the ESCP and addressed through the screening process in the ESMF.

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

The proposed project will neither finance nor support civil works or policies that might affect biodiversity or management of living natural resources or any critical or sensitive area. This provision will be included in the ESCP and addressed through the screening process in the ESMF . The degree of relevance will be assed again during project preparation.

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

ESS 7 not relevant There are no IP groups with the criteria indicated in ESS7 in Sint Maarten.

**ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

The Standard is relevant. The degree of relevance will be further assed during project preparation. Appropriate measures will be identified in the ESMF to ensure conservation of cultural heritage.

**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

No Financial Intermediaries as defined in ESS9 are considered at Concept Stage. Relevance of this ESS will be assessed again during project preparation.

**C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

<b>OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas</b>	<b>No</b>

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**III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE**

**A. Is a common approach being considered?**

No

**Financing Partners**

None

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

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

Preparation, consultation and disclosure before appraisal of the following instruments:

- (i) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF),
- (ii) Labor Management Procedures (LMP) including Grievance Redress Mechanism for workers under the grants,
- (iii) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including Project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM),
- (iv) Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

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

Environmental and Social staffing of Management Agency, acceptable to the Bank,  
 Implementation of ESMF and preparation of specific ESMPs as may be required after small grants' screening,  
 including provisions for not financing sub-projects that would cause physical or economic displacement, works or  
 policies that might affect any critical or sensitive areas;  
 Implementation of SEP and GRM,  
 Quarterly monitoring and reporting,

**C. Timing**

**Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS**

27-Jan-2020

**IV. CONTACT POINTS**

**World Bank**

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**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Borrower: VNG International

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

Implementing Agency: VNG Internationa

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**V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

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**VI. APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s):	Alex Kamurase
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Valerie Hickey Recommended on 06-Dec-2019 at 17:04:9 EST
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Maria Da Cunha (SAESSA) Cleared on 19-Dec-2019 at 13:32:21 EST