



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 06/11/2021 | Report No: ESRSC01984



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Guinea-Bissau	AFRICA WEST	P176697	
Project Name	Institutional Strengthening and the Quality Education for All Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Education	Investment Project Financing		7/1/2021
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Ministry of National Education and Higher Education	Ministry of National Education and Higher Education		

Proposed Development Objective

To strengthen institutional capacity within the Ministry of National Education and Higher Education (MENES) in order to improve sector performance

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	2.65

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]

Although this financing has been prepared as a stand-alone project, this is due to a change in the World Bank’s rules which requires all projects to be prepared using the recently development Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). (The ongoing Quality Education for All Project – PEQT was prepared and approved prior to the new ESF rules.) However, preparing this grant together with the tools under the new ESF provides an opportunity to assess and then begin to tackle key issues such as GBV and inclusive education which were not done under the original IDA and GPE financed project.)



Given the limited amount of financing and the extremely fragile and challenging context for implementation, strong efforts were made to selective in the number of new activities. Rather than overload the Ministry with many new activities while they are still struggling with efforts already underway, attention was given to identify activities that will help to address the existing implementation challenges and would have the greatest potential to ensure success of the current project and build MENES’ capacity. Although frequent changes in personnel make capacity building efforts challenging, setting aside sufficient funds to provide training for more technical staff who often remain after regime changes is essential for sustainability. Project activities focus on (i) strengthening institutional capacity; (ii) improving planning and using education data to manage resources; and (iii) starting initiatives to strengthen citizen engagement and addressing gender norms.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

This project will be implemented at the national level where technical assistance activities will take place in Bissau, Cacheu, Bafata, Oio, and Quinara. No salient geographic, environmental or social features are relevant as the proposed activities will be organized in easily accessible locations outside any environmentally sensitive areas.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

Borrower capacity on environmental and social risk management in Guinea-Bissau are fairly limited but through a number of recent training activities on different aspects of the ESF a cadre of specialists is slowly emerging in various PIUs. The PIU responsible for the sister project (Quality Education for All, P160678), is expected to oversee this project and would be responsible for, with this new grant, recruiting an SDS to help support the development and implementation of ESF related documents, the development of the GRM and cover citizen engagement and SEA/SH issues. The performance of the PIU has been consistently rated as Satisfactory.

Public Disclosure

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low

Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The project is not expected to have any adverse environmental impacts as the activities are of technical assistance, therefore the environmental risk is low. The project aims to strenghten the education sector, through improving the national monitoring system of the education sector and strenghtening the insitutional capacity within MENES. Once robust dataset and mapping of school systems are available the project will support activities such as training for school directors and administrators, the purchase of shelves, storage cabinets, etc. for the schools targeted by PEQT. The project will not support any civil work contructions. The environmental risks expected are the generation of some amount of solid waste from the distribution of school furniture such as shelves, storage cabinets, etc. but are likely to be minimal or negligible. Other risk includes Occupational Health and safety of project workers and beneficiaries because of the risk of spread of COVID-19 during meetings and trainings supported by the project.

Social Risk Rating

Low



As the activities of this project are technical assistance in nature, the social risk is considered to be low. The aim of the technical assistance is to improve the performance of the education sector through improved planning and data management.

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:

While this standard is applicable both the environmental and social risk assessment point to low and negligible risks of this operation thus not requiring any further assessments or management plans. An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will be prepared by the Borrower with support of the World Bank team and will include commitments to undertake the required assessments related to OHS risks in the context of COVID-19, as well as relevant capacity building.

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

none

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

This standard is applicable, and the client will prepare a stakeholder engagement plan, which will focus on engaging with the teachers’ unions who play a critical role in Guinea-Bissau’s education sector as well as seeking feedback from parents and pupils on certain reform efforts.

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

This standard is applicable, as the labor force for this project only consists of the PIU staff and a number of consultants. Given the scale of project activities, there is no need to prepare LMP but the ESCP will include some basic commitments on labor and working conditions, such as safety and health at work including those related to COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, current Occupational Health and Safety protocols of the PIU will be updated to protect its staff and consultants.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

No building or construction will take place, only procurement of school materials and furniture (shelves, storage cabinets, etc.) to targeted schools that might generate some waste but expected to be minimal or negligible. Therefore, this standard is currently not applicable.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety



Currently not applicable as the project does not plan to carry out any activities at the community level.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Currently not applicable as there won't be any construction activities.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This standard is not currently applicable considering the project activities.

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

Currently not applicable as no IPs/traditional local communities affected by project activities.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Currently not applicable as no construction activities.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Currently not applicable as no financial intermediaries involved.

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

n/a

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

ESCP

SEP

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

Public Disclosure



Primarily stakeholder engagement including grievance redress as well as select labor issues

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Ministry of National Education and Higher Education

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Ministry of National Education and Higher Education

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Emily Elaine Gardner
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Aly Zulficar Rahim Recommended on 19-May-2021 at 11:32:45 GMT-04:00

Public Disclosure