

PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT (PID)
CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: 104874

Project Name	Girls Ebola Recovery Livelihood Support (GERLS) Project
Region	AFRICA
Country	Liberia
Sector(s)	Other social services (100%)
Theme(s)	Social Safety Nets/Social Assistance & Social Care Services (100%)
Project ID	P159493
Borrower(s)	Republic of Liberia
Implementing Agency	Ministry Of Gender, Children, and Social Protection
Environmental Category	C-Not Required
Date PID Prepared/Updated	25-March-2016
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I. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. Before the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD or Ebola) outbreak in mid-2014, Liberia had experienced substantial growth since the end of the fourteen-year conflict in 2003. Conditions for private sector engagement and investment had improved, and gross domestic product (GDP) was growing. GDP growth had peaked in 2008/09 at over 9 percent per year. The service and commerce sectors, including construction, retailing, and hospitality, were the leading contributors to the economy, while agriculture remained the single largest source of employment in the country. Iron ore mining and other concessional sectors, such as palm and rubber production, also contributed to GDP growth. Liberia had also attracted reinvestments to its traditional sectors in forestry, rubber, and mining. As a result, exports increased from US\$175 million in 2006 to US\$295.2 million in 2011.

2. Despite the achievements of recent years, high levels of poverty and underemployment, combined with low human capital, still remain significant challenges in the country. Around 300,000 households (48 percent) are classified as being in extreme poverty. The country is ranked 175th out of 187 countries in the international 2014 Human Development Index. An estimated 85 percent of the active work force has only vulnerable employment, without access to a pension, insurance policies, health benefits, or job security. Approximately 4,300 children are classified as orphans, and 92,000 people (mainly adults) live with disabilities. Liberia also has a relatively high urban density; in 2008, 48.7 percent of all households lived in urban areas.

In rural areas, a significant portion of the labor force is in traditional small-scale agriculture and family work.

3. Liberia has a history of conflict that ended 14 years ago. This had a negative impact on youth opportunities and behavior. These youth were exposed to a wide range of traumatic experiences, including forced recruitment into armed groups, violence, and victimization, in addition to the daily stresses of poverty and insecurity. In addition to unresolved trauma, other psychosocial impacts include poor work ethics, and poor sexual and reproductive health choices, including high rates of teenage pregnancy and related caretaking burdens of female and male youth. These constraints affect their ability to communicate and collaborate effectively in a work environment. A growing body of evidence from post-conflict countries suggests that exposure to such stresses—especially when it is chronic—can have a lasting impact on physiology and brain function. The effects are particularly dire for the development of noncognitive skills, such as the ability to regulate emotions, focus attention, and solve problems. Some research suggests these noncognitive skills may be even more critical for human capital formation than intellectual skills because they form the foundation for lifelong learning capabilities.

Constraints and Situations of Urgent Need for Intervention

4. Liberia has been significantly affected by the Ebola crisis since March 2014. The outbreak caused 4,809 deaths as of January 2016. Beyond the toll on human lives and suffering, the Ebola epidemic is having an economic impact in terms of forgone output, higher fiscal deficits, rising prices, lower real household incomes, disruption to education and training activities, constraints on travel which limit the ability to work, reduction of demand for goods and services, trauma/psychosocial impacts of the crisis, and escalation of tensions given increased economic vulnerability. These economic and social impacts include the costs of health care and foregone productivity of those directly affected but, more importantly, they arise from the aversion that people have to the disease.

5. EVD has seriously affected economic activities throughout the country with domestic food production, mining activities, hospitality, and transport services all declining. Further, concession companies have scaled down operations as expatriates departed the country for fear of contracting the disease. In 2014, the spill-over effects of EVD on economic growth, investment and access to social services reduced growth to approximately 1.8 percent and will therefore have an adverse impact over the medium term. Expected GDP growth projection for 2015 is 0 percent because of decline in mining activity, as well as agriculture and services

Sectoral and Institutional Context

6. Liberia's National Youth Policy defines youth as persons aged between 15 and 35 years. This age group constitutes nearly half of the total labor force in Liberia and 35 percent of the population. With more than 60 percent of the population under 24 years,¹ the youth proportion of the population as well as their share in the labor market will continue to grow. It is estimated that an additional 50,000 young people join the labor force every year.

7. Out of the total labor force, the formal sector employs only 17 percent, while the

¹ http://www.theodora.com/wfbcurent/liberia/liberia_people.html (accessed on July 21, 2014).

informal sector, characterized by significant underemployment, low productivity, and low wages, employs 78.5 percent. The 2010 Labor Force Survey reported a national unemployment rate of 3.7 percent. Table 1, however, shows unemployment rates by sex and age group using a broader definition of unemployment which is the population (above 15 years) who are not working for reasons other than inactivity, regardless of whether they are looking for a job or not. Under this definition, 20 percent of Liberians are unemployed - this figure rises to 26.6 percent among youth aged 15-34 years and to 30 percent among young females. Approximately 80 percent of Liberians and 82 percent of youth aged 25-34 are self-employed, either as own account workers or contributing family members. The International Labor Organization (ILO) defines the sum of these two categories as “vulnerable employment”. The high prevalence of vulnerable employment stems primarily from the fact that a large majority of Liberians in the labor force cannot afford to be unemployed and consequently work for themselves or other family members. There are also indications of significant mistrust between youth and government, leading to challenges in uptake of government-sponsored youth employment support programs.

Table 1 Employment Status by Sex and Age Group (%)

	Employment Status	15–24 Years	25–34 Years	35–64 Years	65+ Years	Total Population
Total	Self-employed	91.2	81.6	73.2	80.0	80.7
	Paid employee	6.0	14.4	23.5	17.7	16.0
	Employer	1.1	2.5	2.0	1.7	2.0
	Member, producer cooperative	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.6
	Other	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.0	0.8
Male	Self-employed	87.6	72.0	61.4	74.1	72.0
	Paid employee	10.0	22.8	34.7	24.1	24.2
	Employer	0.5	2.6	2.1	0.9	1.8
	Member, producer cooperative	0.7	1.2	0.7	0.9	0.8
	Other	1.3	1.5	1.0	0.0	1.1
Female	Self-employed	94.7	89.7	87.6	91.9	90.3
	Paid employee	2.3	7.3	9.7	5.0	6.8
	Employer	1.7	2.5	1.9	3.1	2.1
	Member, producer cooperative	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4
	Other	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.0	0.4

Source: Labor Force Survey 2010.

Table 2 Unemployment Rate by Sex and Age Group (%)

	Youth (15–34)	Adults (35+)	Total
Total	26.6	15.0	20.5
Male	22.3	10.0	15.3
Female	30.1	20.0	25.5

Source: Labor Force Survey 2010.

8. Self-employed youth report that their most significant challenge to enterprise development is insufficient financial resources.² According to Enterprise Surveys,³ about 35 percent of small-scale firms, 27 percent of medium-scale firms, and 30 percent of large-scale firms view access to finance as a major constraint. Formal credit and finance is extremely difficult to obtain for most individuals and small businesses. Many banks are generally reluctant to expand credit to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on account of weak contract enforcement.⁴ The World Bank’s *Inclusive Growth Diagnostics* notes that “an almost complete lack of credit for SMEs and individual entrepreneurs severely limits the possibility of many low-income Liberians undertaking potentially profitable economic activities.”

9. In Liberia, women comprise half of the employed, but only about one-quarter of paid employment⁵. Ninety percent of females are vulnerably employed (either as own-account workers or contributing family members), compared with 72 percent of males and 61 percent of males aged 35–64 years. Young women experience in particular difficulty attaining remunerated work in the labor market. Among young women aged 15-24 in Liberia, the unemployment rate is 8 percent, double the rate among young men of the same age group⁶. A 2013 labor market transitions survey focused specifically on youth identified a 13 percentage point gap in unemployment rates between young men and young women. Most of these gaps can be explained by differences across individuals, especially in educational attainment, skills training, and years of experience. But segregation, market segmentation, and discrimination also play a role in determining these individual characteristics. Young women also face additional family obligations; one in three Liberian adolescent girls has had a child⁷, birth rate for girls aged 15–19 stands at 221 per 1,000 – the second highest rate in the world⁸.

10. Of the working age population engaged in self-employment, nearly two-thirds are female. As a result, the debilitating effects of EVD on the economy have been especially harsh on girls and women involved in business activities in counties severely affected by the disease. Main findings from a solidarity phone call initiative undertaken in October of 2014 by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection suggest widespread decline in economic activities and other forms of productive engagements among adolescent girls actively engaged in business activities in Monsterrado, Margibi and Grand Bassa. About three-fourths of the sample of girls interviewed reported that their

² Sajith de Mel, Sara Elder, and Marc Vansteenkiste. 2013. “Labor market transitions of young women and men in Liberia.” International Labour Organization.

³ Lindberg, E. 2014. “Youth and the Labor Market in Liberia: On history, state structures and spheres of informalities. The Nordic Africa Institute, Conflict, Displacement and Transformation.”

⁴ Liberia Constraints Analysis, 8.

⁵ 2011 LISGIS

⁶ 2010 LISGIS

⁷ 2007 Liberia Demographic and Health Survey.

⁸ 2009 UNICEF. The State of the World’s Children.

businesses have collapsed as a consequence of the EVD crisis. Further, girls had depleted their savings, spent business capital, and liquidated other assets to raise funding needed for daily sustenance – mainly food, health care and support of relatives. Some girls also reported having outstanding loans that they would find quite difficult to service. This implies that stimulating effective post-EVD recovery would require more than investing in public health systems. A key element is putting the population back on its feet, economically. As a result, promoting short-term measures to foster early recovery is an imperative for medium- and long-term recovery.

11. In 2013, the president of Liberia launched a new national vision, Liberia Rising 2030, as well as an interim five-year strategy, the Agenda for Transformation (AfT), to promote its development goals. Youth empowerment is included under the cross-cutting issues pillar of the AfT, which aims to mainstream cross-cutting issues across all sectors for society’s overall productivity and well-being, with particular emphasis on the vulnerable segment of the country’s population (specifically youth, women, children, and persons with disability). The strategy foresees that investments in technical and vocational education would ensure that the youth have the skills to respond to job opportunities, including those arising from foreign investment. The AfT further commits to facilitating the generation of economic opportunities with a special focus on rural areas. This would be achieved by expanding infrastructure (particularly roads and electricity) and Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT), as well as increasing the focus on agriculture, practical skills, and vocational education programs throughout the country.

12. The AfT also includes a Human Development pillar (Pillar III), which identifies social protection as a key aspect of the government’s development agenda. The government’s aim for this sector is to build a social protection system for improved protection of the poorest and most vulnerable households and groups from poverty, deprivation, and hunger and enhanced resilience to risks and shocks. The National Social Protection Policy and Strategy, approved in August 2013, further contributes to the AfT’s aim of promoting shared and equitable economic growth in Liberia. The policy’s objective is to “build a social protection system that tackles extreme poverty, vulnerability, and inequality in Liberia whilst contributing to economic growth and peace and security, through social protection programs which improve food security, access to health, and education and enable the working poor to access improved income.” The Social Protection Policy and Strategy (2012–2017) also recognizes poor coordination of the sector and the need to build an effective and sustainable social protection system that builds resilience and is capable of responding to future income shocks. The strategy thus provides a framework for improved coordination of social protection interventions in the country.

13. The Bank has also developed a knowledge base on social protection, labor, and education interventions in Liberia (with a particular focus on employment of vulnerable youth). Ongoing and completed projects include the Community Empowerment Projects (CEP) I and II; the Youth Employment Support Project (YES); and the Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (EPAG) Project. Other youth employment interventions are also being implemented in the country; however, the sector remains challenged by poor coordination among implementing partners, inadequate systems, and insufficient capacity to

systematically track sector wide results. This project also complements the World Bank-funded Social Cash Transfer in Response to EVD Outbreak in Liberia (SCT REPLI), financed under the Ebola Emergency Response Project which has been providing unconditional cash transfers to extremely poor and EVD-affected households and survivors, as well the subsequent Social Safety Nets (SSN) project.

14. The Girls Ebola Recovery Livelihood Support (GERLS) project is aimed at providing income support, and life and business skills training to Ebola-affected adolescent girls (aged 18-27)⁹ who have lost their livelihoods as a result of the EVD crisis in Liberia. The project supports the ultimate goal of strengthening the country's safety net system and its ability to respond to shocks, and increasing the resilience of poor households that have been adversely affected by the EVD outbreak, as well as promoting inclusive economic growth in Liberia.

Relationship to CAS

15. The project is linked to the World Bank Group's twin goals of ending extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity among the bottom 40 percent. It is also well-aligned to the World Bank Group's Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Liberia FY2013–17 that focuses on increasing resilience among poor and vulnerable households. The CPS cites youth underemployment, in particular, as a conflict driver that warrants prioritization. This emphasis responds to the guidance of the Independent Evaluation Group Report on the Country Strategy of Liberia (2004–2011) which emphasized “the need to create job opportunities, especially among youth who also need skills development, to address the pervasive unemployment or underemployment problem.” The project is well aligned to the recommendations of the Bank's flagship report, *Youth Employment in Sub-Saharan Africa*, which places emphasis on household enterprises and the agricultural sector, among others. The project is also in line with the Bank's Africa Social Protection Strategy (2012–2022), which promotes the development of a social protection system that is equitable, fiscally sustainable, and scalable.

II. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s) (From PCN)

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to provide income generation support to Ebola-affected adolescent girls.

Key Results (From PCN)

16. Progress toward meeting the PDO will be measured through the following key outcome indicators:

- Number of target adolescent girls who reopen or expand their businesses.
- Share of project beneficiaries satisfied with project interventions.
- Direct project beneficiaries (core).

The following will be intermediate indicators:

⁹ Between 2008-2015, the World Bank supported the Adolescent Girls Initiative (AGI), a public-private partnership to promote the transition of adolescent girls from school to productive employment through innovative interventions that are tested, and then scaled-up or replicated if successful. The initiative was being piloted in eight countries including Afghanistan, Jordan, Lao PDR, Liberia, Haiti, Nepal, Rwanda, and South Sudan. The Liberia initiative pegged the age range of adolescent girls to 16-27 years. This same age group is considered for this program. (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/adolescent-girls-initiative#6>) in order to conform to similar intervention target groups.

- Number of Beneficiary Business Groups receiving cash grants.
- Number of functioning businesses at the end of the project.
- Number of beneficiary groups with savings at the end of the project.

III. Preliminary Description

Concept Description

17. The proposed project will provide livelihood recovery support through trainings and cash grants to selected vulnerable adolescent girls who are susceptible to post EVD shocks. The project will be implemented in the following counties, which were some of the worst hit counties by the EVD crisis: Montserrado (4502 cases, 1853 deaths), Grand Bassa (180 cases, 79 deaths), and Margibi (1261 cases, 576 deaths) and also all have participated in MGCSP labor market programs for adolescent girls.

18. The life and business skills component will primarily focus on increasing girls' participation in the labor market by improving their readiness to restart or expand their businesses. The Livelihood Recovery support component will provide support to enable beneficiaries revive their livelihoods through the provision of cash grants. To mitigate the impact of future shocks on these girls, the project will also ensure that beneficiaries are connected to the broader Social Protection System of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP). The project will be designed and implemented in close cooperation with the private sector (formal and informal) for effectiveness and sustainability. Special attention will be paid to fostering social cohesion through the implementation of a development communications strategy aimed at reducing stigma towards EVD-affected girls.

The proposed project is expected to have the following components:

Component 1: Life and Business Skills Support for Targeted Adolescent Girls (\$130,000)

19. The objective of this component is to support the reentry and participation of targeted adolescent girls into the labor market through life and business skills training. Specific attention will be given to addressing behavioral constraints such as negative attitudes towards work and lack of non-cognitive skills that inhibit business growth. The component will specifically include the following activities: (i) beneficiary selection and enrollment; (ii) a needs assessment to inform training; (iii) the formation of Beneficiary Business Groups for business implementation; and (iv) life and business skills training. This component will particularly be useful to all beneficiaries, regardless of previous participation in life and business skills training programs. For beneficiaries who have received similar training prior to this project, these activities will serve as a refresher and would include new elements to bolster resilience and positive coping mechanisms in light of the recent economic shock from the EVD outbreak. Prior to initiating training, the Project Management team will select and enroll 2,000 beneficiaries, half of whom have benefited from MGCSP labor market programs. Upon completion of the enrollment, a pre-training assessment will be conducted to tailor the trainings to the beneficiaries' needs.

20. **Beneficiary enrollment.** Beneficiaries will need to meet at least one of the following criteria: girls who were already engaged in self/wage employment activities before the EVD

outbreak; and EVD survivors (who will be verified by the Ministry of Health) or girls who lost a family member to the EVD, will be eligible for participation in the project. The beneficiaries for this project will be selected from Montserrado, Grand Bassa, and Margibi Counties. These counties were selected because they were among the hardest hit by Ebola. There have also been labor market programs within these counties, which would ensure the identification of girls who meet this category. Within selected counties, a public information campaign will be instituted to mobilize applications from eligible beneficiaries. These applications will be reviewed by the program management team, after which the final selection will be verified by the community to ensure transparency. The program operational manual will define the application and selection process.

21. **Pre-training Assessment.** The service providers will administer a short pre-training assessment which will assist in developing business skills trainings that are tailored to the particular needs of the business projects chosen by the beneficiary groups. The survey will therefore include assessment of businesses of selected beneficiaries to identify reasons why their businesses collapsed and ways in which they can be viable in the event of future shocks. Information to be gathered will include business type, timeframe of existence, successes and challenges with implementation, short and long term goals, type of customers, and revenue stream, in order to understand the most useful assistance to be provided. Upon completion of the assessment, findings will be used to develop tailored training manuals for the life and business skills activities to support to the girls.

22. The pre-training assessment and development of training manuals will be implemented by the service providers in coordination with selected Mentors from their community who will guide the girls throughout the program. Using community leaders and trainers will ensure that the modules are practical, appropriate for the Liberian context, and demonstrate actual success in the current business climate. The trainings will be administered using a variety of learning methods, including lectures, group activities, take-home assignments, and practical activities, to ensure that all beneficiaries are able to adequately grasp the information shared.

23. **Life Skills Training.** Beneficiaries will participate in workshops and seminars that will provide them with personal and life skills that are useful to running a successful business. Topics will include work ethics, effective communication, sexual and reproductive health, conflict management, and managing emotions (including self-esteem, dealing with fear, frustration, stress, and anger). The trainings, which will utilize culturally-relevant methods and activities, will provide and structure the learning experiences of beneficiaries to enable them be confident in their abilities and ultimately have the ability to effectively engage their community and customers.

24. **Development of Beneficiary Business groups (BBGs).** Upon completion of the life skills trainings, the service providers will facilitate beneficiaries to form beneficiary business groups to support the implementation of their business projects. The BBGs will serve multiple purposes – first, allow girls to get to know each other and practice working as teams; second, serve as a support system that holds each member accountable for their business-related actions and activities, and third, enable development of tailored business skills training. A selection of set industries will also ensure that beneficiaries can be grouped for success, but also that the

industries themselves have been proven to be viable in the areas of implementation. Given that beneficiaries would already have been running businesses, the project would aim to maintain their existing business preferences, with the hope that majority of the beneficiaries are able to continue working within the sector that they previously worked. This is important to ensure sustainability and interest in maintaining the businesses.

25. **Business Skills Training.** The objective of this activity is to ensure that beneficiaries have practical business skills to restart or grow their businesses within the prevailing business climate and constraints of Liberia. Beneficiaries will be provided with business enhancement skills training. These trainings will include practical sessions and activities aimed at boosting production and/or sales. The business skills training will utilize a variety of training methods. Topic areas to be covered will include assessing the market, developing a business plan, book keeping and money management, customer service, and savings.

26. To facilitate the implementation of this activity, a sample menu of business opportunities, provided, which will guide the selection of final business projects. Given that the targeted beneficiaries will already have been running businesses, the project will not be selecting businesses for them, but rather group them based on the existing businesses that fall within the approved menu of opportunities. These will be defined in the Project Operational Manual.

27. Given that training will be a key component for providing sustainable livelihoods for the beneficiaries, this component will also include on-going practical training which will be facilitated by the service providers and selected mentors who have established businesses in the communities of the intervention. These will include scheduled meetings between girls and their mentors, as well as on-the-job training.

Component 2: Livelihood Recovery Support for Adolescent Girls (\$320,000)

28. The objective of this component is support to start or restart the livelihoods of beneficiaries who have completed life and business skills, have formed Beneficiary Business Groups (BBGs), and have approved business plans, and provide them with cash grants. This component will finance cash grants which will provide a financial stimulant to restart or grow their businesses.

29. **Launch of Business Projects.** After approval of business projects based on the project's criteria, the business projects of the BBGs will be officially launched at the community level. This ceremony will be organized by the service providers and led by the county superintendent, in coordination with the district superintendent and community traditional leaders. The launch will help the beneficiary BBGs will use this opportunity to showcase what they have learned and provide information to the community on their businesses.

30. **Provision of Cash Grants.** Each Beneficiary Business Group (BBG) will be able to access a cash grant of up to \$600 (\$150 per girl) over a period of one year. Individual BBGs will have to demonstrate the amount of money that is needed for their particular business in a

business plan, which will be developed during business skills training with guidance from the service provider and mentors. The plan will lay out their business strategies, goals and objectives, short and long term plans, risks and mitigations strategies, as well as their financial projections. Final total amounts to be disbursed to each group will be decided upon by the team that will review and approve the business plans. Grants will be disbursed in two tranches using specific benchmarks outlined by the project. Each group will also be required to use a small portion of their grant to open a savings account. The groups will then be encouraged to build on these savings to ensure that they more regular access to capital to keep businesses going after the project support ends. Individual savings outside of the group saving will also be encouraged. Further details will be provided in the POM.

Component 3: Project Management and Coordination (\$80,000)

31. The objective of this component is to finance activities related to project management and coordination under the MGCSP for project implementation. This includes staff costs, equipment, fuel, and communications costs, as well as incremental project-related operating costs for implementation of Components 1 and 2. This will include support for the procurement of service providers to carry out the needs assessment, trainings, and disbursement of grants. This component will also support coordination and consolidation of annual and quarterly reports and auditing of the project. The MGCSP will ensure collaboration across sectors and counties, as well as linkages with other ministries and policymakers in the overall implementation of GERLS project.

32. **Service Providers.** Training and small group activities under this project will be carried out through contracting service providers given the specific nature of the activities and the spread and number of beneficiaries to be reached. Service providers who have successfully conducted similar work at the county-level will be contracted to ensure that the trainings provided are culturally relevant. Service providers contracted would also have proven past experience in conducting effective girls/ youth empowerment as well as employment-driven projects. Service providers will conduct the life and business skills training components, and manage the livelihoods support and recovery grants. The project management team will oversee the activities of the service providers and ensure that all activities of the project are implemented according to the project design and within the stipulated timelines.

33. **Information and Communications Technology.** To achieve better results, deliberate efforts will be made under this project to leverage Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as a basis for increasing efficiency, transparency, and accountability. The existing Safety Nets Management Information Systems (MIS) will be used to manage targeting and registering participants, payments, and grievance redress. The use of existing technology will enable efficient implementation given the short duration of the project. Using common tools will also contribute to strengthening the social protection system.

34. **Monitoring and Evaluation.** Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be a key activity for promoting efficiency throughout project implementation. First, on-going monitoring activities will be conducted by the service providers, and the PM team M&E specialist will conduct spot checks to verify implementation data. The project's M&E processes will be

shaped by the MGCSP’s M&E framework and will leverage technology through the existing MIS at MGCSP to collect program implementation data. By using the MIS, the project will be able to obtain near real time information on project outputs for on-going analysis, updating project processes, as applicable, and reporting. Data will be collected on the PDO and intermediate level indicators. Such data will be critical to making needed changes to the program as it is implemented to ensure optimal effectiveness. In addition to on-going monitoring, an independent performance evaluation will be conducted at the end of the program to assess its effectiveness, beneficiary satisfaction of implementation, and identify its challenges and mitigation strategies employed. The outcomes of the evaluation will inform similar programs to be implemented in the future.

35. **Development Communication.** The project will use development communications strategies to improve transparency and accountability, and strengthen social cohesion between the project participants and their communities. This project’s communication strategies will also focus on addressing negative stigma to EVD affected beneficiaries and survivors – among other benefits, this is expected to ensure that beneficiaries are able to attract and retain customers. The project will partner with existing social protection and EVD-targeted programs that have ongoing public communications campaigns to ensure efficiency in the use of resources, and consistency of messages and tools. Further details on the communications strategy and action plan will be detailed in the POM.

IV. Safeguard Policies that Might Apply

Safeguard Policies Triggered by the Project	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01		X	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		X	
Forests OP/BP 4.36		X	
Pest Management OP 4.09		X	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		X	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10		X	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12		X	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		X	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		X	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		X	

V. Financing (in USD Million)

Total Project Cost:	0.53	Total Bank Financing:	0.53
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount

BORROWER/RECIPIENT	0.00
ERR	0.53
Total	0.53

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