Project Information Document (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 13-Aug-2021 | Report No: PIDC32295
# BASIC INFORMATION

## A. Basic Project Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Parent Project ID (if any)</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>P177093</td>
<td></td>
<td>Enhancing Community Resilience and Local Governance Project Phase II (P177093)</td>
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<td>Mar 31, 2022</td>
<td>Urban, Resilience and Land</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ministry of Finance and Planning</td>
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**Proposed Development Objective(s)**

To improve access to basic infrastructure and to strengthen community institutions in selected counties in South Sudan.

## PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

### SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Project Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Financing</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>of which IBRD/IDA</th>
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| Financing Gap     | 0.00  |

### DETAILS

**World Bank Group Financing**

<table>
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<th>International Development Association (IDA)</th>
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<tr>
<td>IDA Grant</td>
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**Environmental and Social Risk Classification**

| High |

**Concept Review Decision**

Track II-The review did authorize the preparation to continue
B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. **South Sudan has been beset by decades of armed conflicts and ranks as one of the least developed countries in the world today.** Southern Sudan, as the region was called before independence, has been marred by conflict since 1955, just a year before Sudan attained its independence from British colonial rule. The region experienced systematic marginalization and underdevelopment under both British and Sudanese rule, inhibiting it from developing its physical and human capital. Consequently, at its independence in July 2011, South Sudan ranked almost at the bottom of the global development indicators with little infrastructure, basic services provided almost entirely through humanitarian aid, and an economy completely dependent on oil. Renewed civil conflict broke out in December 2013 and has only recently subsided with the formation of the Transitional Government of National Unity in February 2020, pursuant to the terms of the September 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). Peace remains fragile, and implementation of several key provisions of the R-ARCSS – such as the unification of armed forces of different factions, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, and transitional justice – remain stalled. While the national-level ceasefire is largely holding, violent events persist across the country, often with links to national actors and dynamics. Violent events and fatalities were twice the level in 2020 compared to 2019. Jonglei, the Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Warrap, Lakes, and the Equatoria regions have all seen recent violence. As a result of decades of insecurity, nearly 8.3 million people of the estimated 14 million total population rely on some type of humanitarian assistance or protection.

2. **The country is highly prone to natural hazards and vulnerable to climate-related shocks.** Since independence in 2011, the country suffered severe droughts (2011, 2015) and floods (2014, 2017, 2019, 2020) with high numbers of casualties, displacement and loss of livestock severely impacting people’s livelihoods and the country’s development efforts. Highly reliant on subsistence farming and pastoralism, rural communities are particularly affected by extreme weather events. It is predicted that the projected increase in average annual temperature, coupled with further shifts in precipitation patterns, will result in more intense and variable weather in the coming years. As evidenced by the succession of severe floods in 2019 and 2020, the consequences of this climate volatility are intensifying conflict over natural resources, population displacement, and food insecurity. A recently completed remote Flood Damage and Needs Assessment of the 2020 seasonal floods documents the complex effects of flooding in South Sudan. Based on the analysis of satellite imagery and geodata, damages to physical assets and infrastructure are estimated at USD 121 million. This number is expected to be higher as there are several key sectors which are not included in the assessment due to lack of data and limited field access. Importantly, in South Sudan’s context of sustained poverty, conflict and fragility, the assessment makes evident that vulnerable population groups are disproportionately affected by the compounding effects

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2 UNMISS Annual Brief on Violence Affecting Civilians. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNMISS%20annual%20brief%20violence%20against%20civilians%202020.pdf
of flooding on food insecurity, disaster displacement, and constrained access to basic services, especially WASH, health and education.4

3. **A sharp decline in international oil prices triggered by the pandemic and devastating floods has eroded most of the economic gains from the peace process.** The economy had recorded strong growth before the COVID-19 pandemic, with GDP real growth reaching 9.5 percent in FY2019/20, largely driven by the oil sector. However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, together with the decline in global oil prices, the resurgence of violence, and major flooding in late 2020, the economy is projected to contract by 4.1 percent in FY2020/21. The service sector is estimated to have contracted by 9.6 percent as businesses struggled with subdued demand. In the agricultural sector, the area of cultivated land increased by 6 percent in 2020 compared to the previous year, but production remains far from pre-conflict levels, resulting in a substantial food deficit and widespread food insecurity.5 The economic downturn widened fiscal and the balance of payments deficits, opening large financing gaps in the absence of concessional financing. Economic reforms have stalled while consumer prices continue to climb. In the past, the monetization of the fiscal deficit resulted in high inflation and significant exchange rate depreciation, trends which continue. With the recovery of oil prices, a modest economic recovery is projected in FY21/22.6

4. **The risks of COVID-19 in South Sudan are high.** Having initially gone in lockdown on March 2020, South Sudan was among the first countries in East Africa to ease movement restrictions in May 2020. However, the situation deteriorated rapidly in early 2021 as people who had travelled for the festive season returned. New lockdown measures were imposed in early February 2021 mandating all non-essential government and private business to halt operations or consider homebased work. These measures were lifted in April 2021 following a reduction in the number of new reported infections. At the time the cumulative number of confirmed cases was 10,359, equivalent to 1,081 cases per million people, and 114 deaths. There is a high probability of another wave hitting the country as the Delta variant has spread in the region. As testing capacity is very limited, these figures are almost certainly underestimated. The country’s weak health system, low water supply coverage, poor hygiene and sanitation services, and the reduced footprint of humanitarian assistance pose a significant threat. As the crisis is more likely to affect the poor and the vulnerable, particularly women, who rely on the informal economy, income inequality will also grow. Contracted agricultural production threatens to worsen food insecurity. The already skewed access to opportunities along ethnic and tribal lines could be exacerbated by the pandemic, potentially destabilizing the fragile situation. In areas of high population density such as displacement sites, where social distancing is not feasible and specialized health services are sparse, internally displaced persons (IDPs) face increased risks of infection. They risk being pressured to leave the sites for areas with limited services, where host communities already face challenges of their own. These returnees could be stigmatized if they are seen as a health risk and competitors for scarce resources.

5. **The COVID-19 crisis is expected to have exacerbated both poverty and inequality.** World Bank analysis suggests that the poverty rate, as measured by the proportion of population living under the international poverty line of US$1.90 purchasing power parity (PPP) per day, may increase to about 78.2 percent in 2021 from 76.8 percent in 2020 due to declining household incomes and increased prices of food and other essential items.7 Poverty impacts are expected to be concentrated among households that depend on activities that are vulnerable to the impacts of lockdowns, including small-scale retail activities and daily labor in construction and personal services. IDPs are particularly impoverished with an estimated 91 percent estimated to be below the poverty line compared with 86 percent in rural and 75 percent in urban areas in 2016.8 The sharp increase in poverty correlates with the escalation of violent conflict but has persisted

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6 IMF, March 2021

7 World Bank 2021.

8 World Bank 2021.
since the signing of the R-ARCSS in 2018, due to the continuation of violence and insecurity as well as the macroeconomic crisis and loss of purchasing power, with year-on-year inflation having reached 78 percent in November 2020. Annualized inflation is projected to average 55 percent through 2023. Poverty in South Sudan is not only monetary but multidimensional, and much of the population has remained, returned, or sunk deeper into a state of destitution with extremely low rates of food security and access to basic services. Chronic and widespread poverty contributes to South Sudan’s ranking of 185 out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) 2020, with a life expectancy of only 58 years compared to the global average of 72.

6. **The cumulative effects of years of violent conflict, climate-related disasters, and economic crisis have taken a significant toll.** As of May 2021, nearly 3.9 million people (with women and children representing 85 percent) were displaced, many of them more than once. About 2.3 million people have fled to neighboring countries in search of safety while 1.6 million continue to be displaced within South Sudan. A quarter of all IDPs are concentrated in five counties: Rubkon, Juba, Tonj North, Tonj South and Yei. A recent study estimates that over 400,000 people died between December 2013 and April 2018. About 7.2 million people (60 percent of the population) are in ‘Crisis’ (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity. These populations are among the least resilient and are the most vulnerable to climate shocks, compelling the twin shocks of conflict and natural disasters and climate. As evidenced during the 2020 seasonal floods, those forcibly displaced by conflict often also experience secondary disaster displacement. With 21 percent of the total population exposed to 1/100-year flood events, South Sudan is among the top ten countries of flood-exposed poor globally. The poor are disproportionately vulnerable to flooding as their houses and huts are often constructed in methods and materials which will not withstand longer periods of flooding. During the 2020 flood season, flooding caused large-scale displacement of people and cattle and damaged/destroyed crops and property. An estimated 1,066,000 people were affected by the flooding, with estimated 504,000 having been displaced.

7. **Gender disparities and inequalities are staggering.** South Sudan ranks in the bottom third of countries for the HDI’s life-course gender gap and women’s empowerment. Local governance and access to services in South Sudan possess gendered dimensions, such that women and girls are affected disproportionately compared to men and boys. A steeped patriarchal structure underpins male authority and decision-making in local community leadership, customary law, restorative justice, the police and security forces, and within the household. One survey shows the civic and political participation of men at 84 percent compared to women at 15 percent. The percentage of women in leadership roles was highest in Western Bahr el Ghazal state (30.3 percent) and lowest in Warrap State (4.9 percent). In addition, there are limited income-generating opportunities for women. When women do generate income, decisions on its use are often

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8 World Bank 2021.
9 IMF, March 2021
11 United Nations Development Programme 2020 Human Development Reports.
12 UNOCHA May 2021.
13 OCHA. May 2021.
14 International Organization for Migration (IOM), Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Round 9 (op cit.)
16 IPC = Integrated Food Security Phase Classification.
17 IPC. South Sudan IPC Results October 2020 – July 2021.
18 OCHA. 2021. South Sudan Flooding Situation Report: Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, as of 31 January 2021.
21 OCHA. May 2021.
22 OCHA. May 2021.
23 UNDP. 2018. Human Development Indices and Indicators: 2018 Statistical Update - South Sudan.
made by male partners or other family members. Girls are often excluded from educational opportunities because gender norms dictate their domestic and caretaking responsibilities, along with the prospect of early marriage. The lack of accessible services harms women, girls, and other groups who become more dependent on others (such as male family members, community members, in-laws, or community leaders) for their basic needs.

8. **Gender-based violence (GBV), particularly against women and girls, is among the highest in the world.** Up to 65 percent of women and girls report having experienced some form of physical or sexual assault in their lifetime, either by an intimate partner or non-partner. More than 6,000 instances of GBV were recorded between January and September 2020 alone. While perpetration is driven by underlying gender and social norms and dynamics that sustain power imbalances between males and females, ongoing conflict, displacement, and pervasive insecurity have also increased the exposure of women and girls to the risks of violence and GBV, including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Women and girls who experience violence are less able to engage in formal and informal work, have to meet the costs of seeking services and support, and are less able to care for and provide for their families. Businesses are also affected by violence experienced by female employees who may be forced to miss work because of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual harassment. In some instances, women are prevented from seeking paid employment by male partners or family members with a patriarchal conception of women’s role as caretakers of the home.

9. **The R-ARCSS provides an opportunity for stability, although the situation remains tenuous.** The power-sharing agreement between the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement In-Opposition (SPLM-IO) includes the installment of the former Vice President in the newly created position of First Vice President as well as the sharing of several key positions and new security arrangements among different groups. These provisions and the formation of the Unity government took place in February 2020. The formation of the new government is a promising step forward, and the parties’ agreement on the 10 administrative states and 3 Administrative Areas’ framework offer a path to deescalate local conflicts, although disagreements over administrative boundaries continue. Nevertheless, enduring and entrenched corruption, weak governance, resource competition, and high fiduciary risks persist. In many areas, local militias have enacted violence against nearby communities, pillaged cattle, fought over land, and engaged in other criminal behavior, often with the backing or at the urging of government or military elites, further inflaming both local intergroup tensions as well as rifts between actors at the national level. Recent attacks on international aid compounds and the detention of aid workers signal increasing desperation and lawlessness in some areas. Forced movements occasioned both by current and earlier conflicts and by climatic disruptions have resulted in increased competition over resources and contested claims over housing, land, and property (HLP) which are a longstanding source of grievance. Ongoing peacebuilding that mitigates HLP issues and addresses the drivers of violence in highly affected areas will be necessary to sustain power sharing arrangements under the R-ARCSS and successfully implement other key provisions of the accord.

10. **While the situation remains fluid, the recent reduction in larger scale armed conflict may facilitate population movement.** About 1.6 million people have returned from displacement within or outside South Sudan since 2016. Of these, 644,174 returned in the short period between the signing of the revitalized peace agreement in September 2018 until June 2019, suggesting that the pace of return accelerated following the signing of the R-ARCSS. The largest number of recent returns were to Wau (166,419), Renk (85,656), Magwi (69,580), Juba (63,990), Ulang (21,740) and Jur River

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24 For example, while women compose 80 percent of the labor force in agriculture, they have little control over how the fruits of their labor are used/sold or access to income.


29 IOM DTM, Round 9 (September 2020).
According to recent intention surveys by both the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and IOM, the main pull factors for return are improved security, family reunification, access to basic services, and livelihood opportunities. About 30 percent of refugees in neighboring countries consider returning, with IDPs being slightly more willing to return over the next 12 months. Yet, illegal land occupation remains an issue for the displaced, who sometimes illegally occupy land in place of their own inaccessible properties during return processes. Conflict and disasters continue to create new displacement in locations such as Pibor, Unity, Warrap, Lakes, Western Bahr-el-Ghazal, Central Equatoria, and Jonglei. Such factors created at least 167,979 new conflict-related displacements in 2019, for instance with a total of 271,000 conflict-related displacements in 2020. Moreover, the increase in violence South Sudan has experienced since 2019 may dampen the impetus for the wave of return that accompanied the signing of the R-ARCSS.

11. **Returns in South Sudan are tending to re-establish pre-conflict patterns of population distribution, with returnees being more likely to return to areas within or near their original villages/towns.** An IOM assessment commissioned by the World Bank found that a large majority (87 percent) of IDPs and refugee returns are to areas of habitual residence, with relocation to third areas accounting for just 6 percent. Most returns occur within the same county (64 percent) or within the same state (23 percent) with only a minority (13 percent) returning home from a location outside the state. With an estimated urban population of 18 percent, most returnees tend to be concentrated in rural and peri-urban areas where they remain vulnerable to shocks induced by climate volatility, administrative mismanagement, and ongoing conflict due to increasing competition over resources, HLP, and access to basic services. However, returns also impact urban areas. Thirty-four urban agglomerations together host 24 percent of IDP camps and an estimated 14–18 percent of all returnees. Urban returnees are also concentrated in four towns, with Wau, Juba, Malakal, and Mading hosting 33 percent of all returnees. The displaced still in protection of civilians (POC) sites and urban centers such as Malakal and Wau tend to originate from these towns, near the neighborhoods that they were forced to leave, but are unable to return home because of continuing insecurity or illegal occupation of their homes and land.

**Sectoral and Institutional Context**

12. **Basic service provision is severely constrained, particularly in rural areas.** Increased demand by the displaced, especially large numbers of returnees, further strains access to services. Access to electricity in the country is virtually nonexistent in rural areas (1 percent). Only 5 percent of rural households have access to improved sanitation. Access to drinking water is at 68 percent. More than 70 percent of school-age children are not receiving education. The country has the lowest road density in Africa with less than 2 percent of the primary network paved, constraining access to the schools and health facilities that do exist. The situation would likely worsen if the number of returnees (both from within and outside the country) increased to areas where humanitarian assistance is limited, as the impacts of COVID-19 become more widespread, and in areas where continuing violence triggers short-term, localized displacement.

13. **Local institutions—both local governments and community institutions—are mandated to play an integral role in providing services.** Under the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan 2011 as well as the Local Government Act (LGA) 2009, the Government is organized into three tiers—at the national, state, and local levels. The local government, in turn,
consists of three tiers: county, payam, and boma councils in rural areas and city/town, block, and quarter councils in urban areas. Local government councils are to be headed by county commissioners/mayors who are to be directly elected but are currently appointed by the state governor. Under the LGA, responsibility for service delivery is devolved to the county/city level. The LGA and its implementation guidelines prescribe the role and composition of Boma Development Committees (BDCs) and Payam Development Committees (PDCs) and their urban block and quarter council equivalents as semiformal community institutions responsible for supporting the planning and implementation of local development initiatives. The latest National Development Strategy (NDS) 2018–2021 also envisages that services will be delivered through these local institutions, despite the acute misalignment between this aspiration and current budget priorities.

14. Despite the mandated responsibilities for local services, local governments, particularly those outside of urban areas, have been largely unable to play their envisioned role. De jure, county governments are supposed to provide services, drawing on the annual fiscal transfer and their own sources of revenue. However, due to the Government’s deteriorating fiscal position and the failure to make the necessary fiscal transfers to local governments, the country is almost entirely dependent on external assistance and informal and collective structures to provide basic services.

15. Protracted conflict has also eroded the social fabric and weakened both informal and formal institutions. In the absence of effective formal governance, particularly in rural areas, people increasingly have come to (or continue to) rely on community institutions. Customary law remains the dominant framework for justice. Yet, as ethnic identities have been politicized and large numbers of armed youth feel less allegiance to traditional authorities, relationships within and between communities have become more strained and the role and effectiveness of traditional institutions have been undermined partly due to the proliferation of local administrative units. Moreover, the course of recent conflicts has physically dispersed many of these traditional figures, diluting their impartiality and influence. Consequently, informal institutions have become less capable of managing social tensions.

16. Low trust in government institutions, inability to contain violence, weakened informal authorities, and social divisions wrought by war have weakened social cohesion in the country and will affect governance in South Sudan for the foreseeable future. The availability of firearms in South Sudan and ineffective disarmament has led to the normalization of violence. “Bride wealth” practices contribute to exploitative relationships among youth and elders, with direct effects on opportunity structures for young women. Moreover, longstanding tensions between competing ethnic groups has been manipulated by political elites to strengthen their access to resources. Consequently, the political landscape in South Sudan is shaped by generational struggles and competition between and among politico-military elites who seek to consolidate their power with ethnicity-based patronage networks and violence, often delaying or undermining the delegation of authority to local levels of government.

17. In such a complex environment, the provision of basic services and the management of tensions over their distribution, particularly in areas with high concentrations of refugee and IDP returnees, are compelling priorities for South Sudan. With over a third of the population displaced and 60 percent severely food insecure, the influx of returnees at a time when many local government structures are still in the process of being formed would put a significant strain on already overstretched services. Tensions over scarce resources may be further exacerbated by conflict taking place in and

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39 A payam is the second-lowest administrative division below counties. A boma is a lowest-level administrative division below payams, and equivalent of a village elsewhere.
40 References to payam and boma development councils will also be understood to be referring to block and quarter councils in the case of urban areas in this document.
43 Alicia Luedke, Violence, crime, and gender in South Sudan: Reflections from the Field on Militias and Gangs, Conflict Research Programme of The London School of Economics and Political Science, 2020
44 Ibid
across communities, low trust between groups, climatic volatility including recurrent floods, and the impacts of COVID-19. In such situations and given the weak social contract between citizens and the state, ‘how’ services are provided is as important as ‘whether’ they are provided. Establishing inclusive local public institutions and a transparent planning process through which to allocate resources for local development is thus essential. It will be particularly important that these institutions and the services which they oversee serve to reduce intercommunal tensions, are accessible to people of different ages, genders, and displacement status, promote resilience to external shocks such as natural disasters and conflict, and show that the Government can and should be held accountable for delivering for civilians. This demonstration is key to strengthening the social contract between civilians and the state, which is key to building durable peace.

Relationship to CPF

18. The proposed project is consistent with the Country Engagement Note (CEN) for South Sudan FY21-23. The CEN focuses on three areas: (a) laying the groundwork for institution building; (b) continuing support for basic public service delivery; and (c) promoting resilience and livelihood opportunities – with a cross-cutting principle of social inclusion, particularly youth and gender. The new CEN emphasizes the importance of nurturing the country’s institutional capacity at both the national and local levels with greater accountability and transparency in government institutions to help build trust between civilians and the state. The CEN also underscores the need for continued support for basic service delivery given the scale of the demand and weak public service delivery capacity. In so doing, the CEN highlights the importance of engaging with community organizations and local structures to strengthen local ownership and sustainability of interventions. The CEN also places a significant emphasis on socio-economic empowerment of youth and women to mitigate their vulnerabilities and increase resilience. In this relation, the CEN highlights South Sudan’s vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards, which compound the humanitarian situation, jeopardize post-civil war recovery, and undermine the country’s development efforts. In implementing these objectives, the CEN underlines the need to progressively ensure full Government engagement and ownership through a “learning by doing” approach.45 The proposed project is well aligned with the CEN as it proposes to shift from third party implementation under the current Enhancing Community Resilience Project (P169949) to government-led implementation in the new operation. Institutional strengthening at the local level (at both county and community levels) and basic service delivery are the twin foci of the project. Further, this local development will be accompanied by a set of measures to strengthen women and youth empowerment.

19. The project supports the priority themes under the World Bank’s Africa Strategy 2019-2023 and the WBG institutional strategy for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence (FCV) launched in 2020, both of which contribute to the World Bank’s twin goals. FCV is a critical development challenge that threatens efforts to end extreme poverty and represents perhaps the most critical barrier to poverty reduction and shared prosperity in South Sudan. Conflicts drive 80 percent of all humanitarian needs globally, while they reduce gross domestic product (GDP) growth by 2–8 percentage points per year on average. Failure to effectively address FCV will leave South Sudan highly dependent on emergency humanitarian aid and prevent it from shifting toward a more sustainable development approach. By focusing on prevention, US$1 spent on prevention saves US$16 lost to the consequences of conflict, illustrating the economic criticality of preventing a return to full-scale war. The World Bank’s Africa Strategy aims to accelerate poverty reduction and shared prosperity in the continent through (a) sustainable and inclusive growth, (b) strengthening of human capital, and (c) building of resilience to fragility and climate change. The proposed ECRP-II advances the third area by supporting the provision of basic services, restoring state presence and citizen engagement, and supporting communities’ climate and disaster resilience. In line with the new FCV Strategy, the ECRP-II addresses four of the five key thematic challenges of (a) institutions strengthening; (b) service delivery to foster social inclusion especially through a strong citizen engagement and community-driven development (CDD) approach; (c) mitigating of the impact of climate change with the aim of preventing violent

contestation over natural resources; and (d) equity and inclusion, with a special focus on gender. In particular, the ECRP-II will continue to use the vulnerability index to ensure transparent, evidence-based targeting that prioritizes more conflict-affected vulnerable areas with high concentration of vulnerable populations. The project also adopts an inclusive and participatory decision-making process. These measures will help address existing grievances around exclusion and inequity.

20. **The project contributes to advancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus by filling in a critical gap between emergency response and resilient recovery, which also represent a strategic priority of the new CEN.** It does so by addressing immediate service needs in vulnerable areas while strengthening local institutions to help communities become more resilient. It can address immediate development needs while laying the foundation for longer-term solutions to conflict onset and recurrence, disaster risk management (DRM), and poverty reduction. This project provides short-term services in vulnerable areas with a surge in demand due to returnees while building resilience by strengthening community institutions to more sustainably manage social tensions and resources. Furthermore, the ECRP-II aims to promote a longer-term objective of strengthening the capacity of public institutions to facilitate the shift from humanitarian aid to a government-led development approach.

21. **The project is closely aligned with the World Bank’s climate change and resilience agenda.** Climate change—as manifested by rising temperatures, increasing climate variability, and a growing frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters such as floods and droughts—heavily affects vulnerable populations. Last year’s seasonal floods in South Sudan made evident the devastating impacts of climate-related disasters on the poor and other vulnerable populations\(^{46}\), confirming that they are often more affected, lose more when hit, and generally receive less support to cope and recover.\(^{47}\) In the Climate Change Action Plan (2021-2025), the World Bank acknowledges the urgency of the development impacts of climate change, especially in FCV-affected countries.\(^{48}\) Drawing on the team’s analytical work\(^{49}\) and its ongoing engagement related to disaster risk management under the ECRP, the proposed project will build a better understanding of multiple natural hazard risks in South Sudan and improve the local communities’ capacities to cope with climate-related stresses. In the course of project preparation, a climate and disaster risk screening will be undertaken using the World Bank Rapid Screening Assessment tool. The ECRP-II is expected to provide significant opportunities to leverage climate co-benefits, specifically related to climate adaptation i.a. by strengthening the disaster and climate resilience of the community infrastructure and enhancing community-based disaster risk management.

22. **The project is also in line with the Government’s vision as elaborated in the 2018 R-ARCSS and the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2018-2021.** The NDS was developed with the aim to consolidate peace and stabilize the economy in 2018. A new NDS for the coming period is currently under review and will prove a critical step toward the fulfilment of key aspects of the R-ARCSS. While the new NDS has yet to be finalized, it is expected to build on priorities of the existing NDS, including by advocating for (a) creation of an enabling environment for return and reintegration of displaced South Sudanese and (b) restoration and expansion of basic service provision. Gender, capacity building and climate resilience are highlighted as cross-cutting themes.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

To improve access to basic infrastructure and strengthen national and local institutions in selected counties in South Sudan.

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Key Results (From PCN)

23. The achievement of the Project Development Objective (PDO) will be measured against the following proposed key results:
   (a) Number of people with access to improved infrastructure due to the project (disaggregated by infrastructure type, gender, and displacement status)
   (b) Percentage of subprojects that are functional50 at project completion (disaggregated by infrastructure type)
   (c) Percentage of community institutions51 that are functional and accountable as measured by an institutional maturity index
   (d) Percentage of women-led operational and maintenance committees that are functional and engaged in income-generating activities
   (e) Improvements in levels of satisfaction with government support to local service delivery (as measured from baseline with community scorecards)

D. Concept Description

Guiding Principles

24. **The proposed project builds from the ongoing ECRP.** ECRP became effective on September 3, 2020 with a budget of US$45 million and a closing date of July 31, 2023. The ECRP is supporting a participatory decision-making process to identify key basic service needs in 21 vulnerable counties as identified through the Bank’s vulnerability index. The vulnerability index includes indicators such as exposure to violence, exposure to climate-sensitive natural hazards, concentration of IDP and refugee returnees and access to basic services. The project is also helping strengthen local institutions – both county governments and community institutions – in line with the Local Government Act 2009 so that they can better manage their own development and intercommunal tensions over services. While ECRP-II will continue to support basic service delivery in vulnerable areas and help strengthen local institutions, the proposed project will give additional prominence to three themes: (a) strengthening of Government institutions at national and sub-national levels; (b) gender empowerment; and (c) conflict sensitivity and forced displacement.

25. **The proposed ECRP-II project continues the commitment to address immediate needs for basic services in selected vulnerable areas of the country, while strengthening the capacities of local institutions to better manage their own development, and intercommunal tensions over services.** In continuity with the ongoing ECRP, the core of the project remains the provision of needed public infrastructure, selected and overseen by community institutions that are equitable, inclusive and effective, in a manner which is conflict sensitive. The community mobilization methods developed under the Local Governance and Service Delivery Project (LGSDP, P127079) and its successor, the ongoing ECRP, have been refined under the current ECRP. These center upon the understanding of communities’ social composition, the mobilization of constituent social groups, and the building of community institutions called Payam Development Committees (PDCs) and Boma Development Committees (BDCs) to channel community priorities and decisions on project investment in a conflict sensitive manner.

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50 ‘Functional’ is defined as ‘subproject being utilized by the beneficiaries as intended or as designed’. ‘Partly Functional’ is defined as ‘subprojects not fully utilized as intended or as designed’. ‘Non-functional’ is defined as ‘subprojects that are not operational, uncompleted, abandoned, or used outside its intended purpose or by unintended beneficiaries’.

51 As under the ongoing ECRP, ECRP-II will continue to mobilize communities into Boma Development Committees (BDCs) and Payam Development Committees (PDCs) in line with the Local Government Act 2009.
26. **In recognition of the importance of strengthening the capacity of government institutions, ECRP-II will shift from a third-party implementation approach to a government-led approach.** Due to concerns about the Government’s fiduciary integrity and capacity constraints at the time of project design, ECRP is being implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). ECRP-II proposes to shift to a government-led approach. This shift reflects several progressive developments: (a) the new CEN’s renewed advocacy of a gradual, differentiated shift toward government-led implementation; (b) recent positive reforms within Government towards improved public financial management (PFM) and a more robust national budget planning, approval, and execution process; and (c) the Government’s successful implementation of the LGSDP. Finally, as ECRP’s own preparation and implementation illustrate, Government ownership can be lacking in projects that are implemented by third parties. It is thus proposed that the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MoFP) be the implementing agency in collaboration with the Local Government Board (LGB). This is the same arrangement that proved effective under LGSDP, which performed well under very difficult circumstances. To leverage the institutional memory of ECRP implementation and the field offices and teams already established, it is proposed that one of the UN agencies that is implementing ECRP be contracted by the Government to implement the activities on the ground.

27. **The shift to government-led approach will be supported by new capacity building activities at the national level.** A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be set up within the MoFP including members of the LGB. The PMU office block built under LGSDP will be an ideal space to house this unit. Capacity building will be provided to the PMU following an assessment of their technical competencies. It is expected that capacity building will include financial management, procurement, project planning, monitoring and reporting, environmental and social framework (ESF), participatory planning and constructive engagement with the county governments. A clear set of milestones for fiduciary and technical supervision capacities will be set, and the Project will develop capability towards these milestones.

28. **Gender is already a focus of ECRP, and ECRP-II will further strengthen women’s empowerment.** The ECRP already incorporates a number of gender empowerment measures. These include: (i) gender-balanced leadership positions in PDCs and BDCs; (ii) a minimum of 40 percent female membership in the PDCs/BDCs; (iii) participatory planning and subproject prioritization in separate female-only groups to ensure that women’s needs are taken into account in the selection and siting of priority subprojects; (iv) ensuring women’s equitable access to short-term employment opportunities in subproject construction; (v) inclusion of measures to promote safe female employment; (vi) mechanisms for addressing gender-based violence (GBV); and (vii) establishment of gender-balanced Operations and Maintenance (O&M) committees. Under the ECRP-II, these measures will be supplemented by the following:

- **Establishment of female O&M committees at WASH facilities to manage user fees.** As women are responsible for water collection and gather at water points, the collection and management of user fees can follow from this role and provide a context for the development of leadership and other capacities.
- **Establishing a revolving fund for women’s income generation and food security.** The pooled user fees will be used to initiate activities such as vegetable gardens around water points.
- **Training in basic business skills.** To support income generation activities, training will be provided into the women’s O&M committees in literacy and numeracy, savings and credit concepts, record keeping, financial management and business development.
- **Establishment of female groups on disaster response and preparedness.** Train women-led disaster response groups on disaster response and preparedness measures.

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52 As of the latest Implementation Status and Results (ISR) prepared in March 2021, the rating for project progress towards achievement of Project Development Objective (PDO) is Satisfactory while implementation progress is Moderately Satisfactory. As of April 8, 2021, total project disbursement stands at US$8.56 million, representing 19 percent of the total project amount.

53 These activities will be conducted in close coordination and seek complementarities with the planned Women’s Social and Economic Empowerment Project, which will also focus on supporting economic opportunities and entrepreneurial training for women and on addressing GBV.
• **Gender transformative training/GBV training for both men and women.** To address the risks which women and girls face when accessing water and sanitation facilities, and, more widely, gender inequality at the household and community levels, training will be provided to raise awareness on gender equality, harmful social norms and GBV, involving community leaders as appropriate. GBV referral system will continue to be established under the project.

• **Psychosocial training** to address trauma (for both women and men) where this is identified as important.

29. **Lastly, the ECRP-II will continue to adopt a strong conflict sensitivity approach as under ECRP and strengthen its focus on forced displacement.** Conflict risks remain high in the project environment, and, in order to best manage these, conflict sensitivity mainstreaming has been made a central characteristic of ECRP. The ongoing project has already incorporated a range of measures to address social and conflict issues: (i) Conflict mapping and conflict management skills training have been integrated into the community mobilization method at the boma level; (ii) County level Conflict and Social Analyses precede engagement; (iii) the project includes a team of four specialist national and international Conflict Analysts; (iv) Just-in-time studies on conflict issues, including the impacts of COVID-19 and their operational recommendations, have been competed, and others are planned; (v), a partnership has been established with South Sudan’s Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility, the leading institution in this field, who provide ECRP with advice, training, and opportunities for reflection. These features will be retained and continue to be refined by experience going forwards into ECRP-II. They will be supplemented by a specific focus on the implications of displacement, as forced displacement and return are emerging as important determinants of social and conflict dynamics as host communities accommodate growing numbers of returnees. Further, with support from the FCV Group, the CMU is currently pursuing eligibility for South Sudan to the IDA19 Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR), which provides additional financing to countries hosting large numbers of refugees to increase their incentives to engage in programs that specifically benefit refugees and host communities and undertake pro-refugee policy reform. The project team will explore with the CMU and FCV Group whether opportunities could exist to leverage WHR resources to support activities through the operation if eligibility for the Window is secured.

**Project Components**

**Component 1. Community Infrastructure and Services**

30. This component will support eligible investments in community-level infrastructure and services in selected vulnerable areas through a participatory planning process. Eligible investments are limited to construction or rehabilitation of public goods such as water supply and sanitation facilities, footpaths and community roads, dykes for flood protection, health and education facilities, among others, to ensure maximum community benefit. Selection will be made from an open menu (subject to a short negative list)\(^{55}\) from which communities will choose in a participatory manner, based on their needs and priorities. The participatory planning process will be supported under Component 2. Given the spread of COVID-19, the project can mobilize resources rapidly which can be used to respond to COVID-19 needs. For example, the project could provide funds to construct handwashing facilities at the community level, including markets, places of worship, public transportation hubs, communal water points, women- and girls-friendly spaces, and any other densely populated spots. Such investments will be coupled with hygiene promotion and COVID-19 awareness raising/communication to be financed under Component 2, to the extent that COVID-19 remains a factor influencing in operational environments at the time of effectiveness. County governments will have the primary responsibility for O&M

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\(^{54}\) Under the predecessor project with similar scope, over 70 percent of the funding was allocated for infrastructure related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Funding for subprojects that necessitate recurrent financing such as schools and health clinics will be limited to construction/rehabilitation of facilities where services exist, that is, schools that have teachers but lack proper facilities.

\(^{55}\) The negative list will be included in the Project Implementation Manual.
of the facilities financed under this component, all of which will be handed over upon completion with the signing of a handover agreement. However, county governments seldom have the necessary capacity or resources for adequate O&M, and female O&M committees in communities will receive training on technical and financial aspects of O&M under Component 2.

31. **Geographic targeting.** The project will continue to use the administrative division of ten states, 79 counties, and 2008 payams as agreed with the Government under ECRP. Selection of counties will be guided by four criteria: (a) vulnerability, (b) feasibility, (c) equity, and (d) ECRP follow-on. To assess the level of needs in a transparent and evidence-based manner, the project has developed a composite vulnerability index comprising the following indicators with equal weights: (a) concentration of IDP and refugee returnees, (b) access to basic services, (c) food insecurity, (d) incidents of violence, (e) remoteness, and (f) exposure to climate-sensitive natural hazards. Sparsely populated, remote, and conflict-affected areas have historically received limited development assistance. The project will prioritize counties with high vulnerability where this is feasible in practice; that is, where security and physical accessibility allow, and where there is support from the county government. At the same time, it will ensure an appropriate balance between conflict-affected and more stable areas. The targeting principles are summarized in figure 1. Some provision will be made to provide follow-on grants to ECRP communities where they did not receive adequate funding or progress was stalled due to intermittent violence, temporary displacements, and/or disasters.

![Figure 1. Geographic Targeting Principles](image)

### Figure 1. Geographic Targeting Principles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vulnerability</th>
<th>Feasibility</th>
<th>Equity</th>
<th>ECRP Follow-on</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Concentration of returnees</td>
<td>• Accessibility</td>
<td>• Both conflict-affected areas</td>
<td>• Resumption of work in ECRP areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Access to basic services</td>
<td>• Security</td>
<td>• and more stable areas</td>
<td>where adequate funding wasn’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Food insecurity</td>
<td>• Local dynamics</td>
<td>• All members of community</td>
<td>provided, or previous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Violence</td>
<td>• County government support</td>
<td>(including returnees, host</td>
<td>investments were delayed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Exposure to climate-sensitive</td>
<td></td>
<td>communities, and women) benefit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>natural hazards</td>
<td></td>
<td>from the project.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Remoteness</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

32. **Use of community labor for income generation opportunities.** To the extent possible, the project will encourage the utilization of local labor in the construction or rehabilitation of infrastructure. Emphasis will be placed on the inclusion of various social groups facing marginalization or barriers to participation (for example, women, youth, returnees, ethnic minority groups, and people with disabilities) and ensuring their access to daily wage labor opportunities. It will be especially important to include women in the design and construction of WASH facilities, for instance, to ensure these facilities are rehabilitated in ways that promote security and effective management on completion. The project will harmonize, to the extent possible, the labor provisions adopted by the World Bank’s SSSNP and coordinate salary levels with UN coordination cluster standards.

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56 Such practice is in line with how the national budget is being allocated and how other development partners are operating.

57 Equal weights are assigned to all the indicators because if higher weights are assigned to concentration of returnees, for example, that could work against more unstable, conflict-affected areas from being targeted. The team has also selected “concentration of returnees” as opposed to “concentration of IDPs and/or refugees” as the Government was concerned that the ECRP-II will create a pull factor that could prolong the displaced people’s stay in the current locations by improving services.
Component 2. Institution Strengthening

Component 2.1. Community Institution Strengthening. This subcomponent supports the participatory planning process for the identification of subprojects that will be financed under Component 1, monitoring of the construction, and O&M of subprojects, and capacity building of the community institutions. Specific activities under this subcomponent include (a) community mobilization into BDCs/PDCs; (b) participatory conflict and disaster risk mapping/analysis and risk mitigation training; (c) support for community institutions on participatory development planning, infrastructure construction, rehabilitation, monitoring, and O&M; (d) facilitating of constructive interaction between communities and the county government; (e) gender transformative training/GBV training for both men and women; and (f) psychosocial training to address trauma (for both women and men) where this is identified as important.

Communities will be mobilized into BDCs and PDCs as per the LGA. BDCs/PDCs will have broad and inclusive membership including traditional authorities, civil society, and a minimum of percent female representation. Where BDCs/PDCs already exist, an institutional assessment will be undertaken to assess their composition, capacities, and their deficits. BDCs/PDCs’ shortcomings will be addressed through technical assistance or selection of new members as needed. Under the ECRP-II, as is the case under ECRP, the PDCs will coordinate closely throughout the project cycle with the county coordination team (CCT), an interagency group headed by the County Commissioner. Both PDCs and BDCs are to serve as umbrella local governance institutions and to play a larger role in local development and resiliency planning for their communities, as well as serve as an interface between the community and the county government that other development partners can utilize. They will not take on roles and mandates that already belong to other formal and informal authorities but look to strengthen coordination with them. Dependent on the status of COVID-19 precautions at the time of community engagement, additional precautions will be taken to provide extra space for discussions, community planning, and training. BDC/PDC mobilization will also include COVID-19 sensitization as part of community engagement protocols, to protect both BDC/PDC and community members during community organizing efforts.

Gender considerations will be integrated throughout the project cycle through a two-tiered approach. In the first tier, all project sites will receive a core minimum package of activities that forward women’s meaningful participation and employment opportunities under the project. Women in BDCs/PDCs will be supported by community mobilizers to articulate their needs and concerns and prepare their priority lists of subprojects to be financed by ECRP-II. Training on leadership, governance, and confidence building will be provided. Gender transformative training will be provided to both men and women to deepen the appreciation of women’s enhanced roles in the household and in communities. In the second tier, where WASH sub-project investments require it, women-led WASH O&M groups will be established to build local capacities for sustainable service delivery in project communities. Members of the women-led O&M groups will be given basic literacy and numeracy training, savings and credit concepts, record keeping, financial management, and business development so that they can utilize collected user fees as seed funds for their income generation activities. Women-led disaster response groups will also be established and trained so that women can lead and coordinate for future disasters.

Conflict-sensitive approaches will be mainstreamed throughout the project cycle. The project will support participatory risk mapping and risk mitigation training. This builds on the LGSDP’s and ECRP’s successful local conflict

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58 In Wau town, the only urban area expected to be targeted under the project, the communities will be mobilized into Quarter Development Committees (QDCs) and Block Development Committees (BkDCS) in line with the urban local institutional structure.

59 The Participatory Planning and Budgeting Guide for Local Governments in Southern Sudan (2010), which helps operationalize the LGA, calls for broad and inclusive membership with strong gender representation.

60 Types of capacity-building activities include familiarity with conflict/disaster risks and needs identification, resource mapping, local development planning, project identification, budgeting, project implementation, oversight/monitoring, and social audit methods.

61 Women’s participation activities will build on IOM’s global, tested Women’s Participation Project implemented in South Sudan since 2017.
mapping and training which will expand in scope to include disaster risks and other social risks. Conflict analysis will give particular attention to (a) contestation over access to HLP to avoid building assets on contested land; (b) overlapping claims on land where new infrastructure may be built; (c) ensuring that IDPs, returnees, and host communities all can voice their needs and benefit from access to improved services financed by the project; and (d) ensuring that interventions do not create undue disparities between groups or communities or are construed as creating pull factors for certain groups. That is, the project will not provide infrastructure or services in areas where communities from different areas have occupied vacated land where original inhabitants have fled due to conflict. The project will also be sensitive to issues associated with the stigmatization of populations as COVID-19 infection risks. The project will engage a specialized agency to train the implementing partners on conflict-sensitive approaches and undertake continual analyses and research pertaining to the conflict-related impacts of the project, also working with, and with support from, the World Bank’s FCV Country Coordinator for South Sudan. The project aims to moderate tensions between returnees and host communities over scarce services. The impacts of COVID-19 will be addressed by providing more services and training communities on COVID-19 awareness raising, hygiene promotion, and conflict mitigation.

37. **Subcomponent 2.2. County Government Strengthening.** This subcomponent will support county governments to fulfill key aspects of their mandated role. Specific activities include (a) county government functionality assessments in new areas to examine staffing, equipment, jurisdictional issues, core function capacities, local service mapping capability, and GBV referral capacities and (b) the provision of technical assistance for county government officials on service delivery planning; positive engagement with communities through participatory development planning, subproject implementation monitoring, BDCs/PDCs’ performance monitoring, and periodic reporting on ECRP-II implementation. The levels of technical assistance will be tailored to each county based on the findings of the ECRP functionality assessments for previously engaged counties and new functionality assessments for new counties engaged under ECRP-II. This assistance will also facilitate the county government officials’ visiting subproject sites and participating in the BDCs/PDCs’ planning workshops as needed. Given the unknowns with regard to the level of functionality of county governments, especially in conflict-affected areas, this subcomponent does not have an explicit result indicator. Where functionality assessments determine that some county governments are not functional, the project will focus on supporting community institutions.

38. **Subcomponent 2.3 National Government Strengthening.** This sub-component will support the capacity building of the PMU based on an assessment of their technical competencies in the areas of financial management, procurement, project planning, monitoring and evaluation, community engagement methods, and safeguards. The Project will also develop standards and training for fiduciary and technical supervision capacities. ECRP-II will facilitate linkages between the PMU and the CCTs at the county level to establish protocols and regularized support for constructive county engagement in local resource management and service delivery improvement and maintenance activity.

39. GIZ, who has long engaged in local governance strengthening support in South Sudan with LGB, has shown interest in collaborating with the Bank on the implementation of ECRP-II. While discussions are still underway, GIZ may provide parallel financing to all or part of the ECRP-II activities while utilizing the same government agencies as the implementing agencies. One idea is for GIZ to take the lead in the implementation of sub-component 2.2 and 2.3 while the Bank focuses on the remaining activities. This would allow GIZ to utilize the government training curriculums and training materials they have already developed and harmonize the types of training to be provided across different county governments. The team will also coordinate closely with other partners engaged in local governance, namely the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), for this subcomponent.

**Component 3: Project Management and Learning**
40. This component will support (a) project management including technical planning, financial management (FM), procurement, social and environment risk management, and communications; (b) project monitoring which includes a geo-enabled monitoring system and beneficiary feedback/grievance redress mechanism (GRM); (c) impact evaluation; (d) continuous data collection on beneficiary impacts and social dynamics; (e) just-in-time studies as and when needs arise. Such studies may include O&M study, technical assessment of the subprojects, GBV assessment, and so on; (f) providing of financing for a third-party monitor (TPM); and (g) PMU operating costs. This component will be led by the PMU to be established within MoFP with representation of LGB civil servants. It is expected that the PMU will engage a UN agency to implement activities for Component 1 and 2 to leverage the experiences gained under ECRP, ensure continuity in the implementation approach, and maximize the investments made to set-up field offices. To ensure that the broader Government is fully involved and has the ownership of the project, relevant government counterparts at the county, state, and national levels will be invited to join the community planning workshops and regular supervision missions. An integrated Management Information System (MIS) that is accessible by the World Bank, Government and the implementing partner will be set up for the project.

Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response

41. A contingency emergency response component (CERC), initially without a budget allocation, will allow for the rapid reallocation of project funds in the event of natural or man-made crisis and major disease outbreaks of public health importance during the implementation of the project, in accordance with the World Bank Investment Project Financing (IPF) Policy, paragraphs 12 (Projects in Situations of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints). Activation of the CERC is triggered by (a) a declaration of a state of emergency by the Government and (b) Government request to the World Bank for activation of the CERC. Implementation modality and eligible activities to be financed under the CERC will be described in the Project Implementation Manual (PIM).

Results Chain

The theory of change underpinning the project is that addressing the significant needs in conflict- and disaster-affected areas requires investments to improve basic welfare and mechanisms to enhance interactions and trust within communities and between communities and local governments. The project aims to support the higher-level objectives of making communities more resilient and improving local governance by (a) improving the living conditions of the people in vulnerable areas and (b) establishing responsive and accountable local institutions that can manage social tensions that arise over access to services and local decision-making on development priorities. It hopes to do this by (a) improving access to infrastructure through financing communities’ priority needs, (b) strengthening local institutions by training them on collective action, for example, participatory planning, monitoring, service infrastructure management, and conflict and disaster risk mitigation, and (c) strengthening the national government’s capacity to oversee local institutions.
Legal Operational Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50</th>
<th>Triggered?</th>
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<td>Yes</td>
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| Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60 | No |

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The ECRP II will involve refurbishment and/or renovations of small-scale infrastructure subprojects that will be identified and prioritized by the communities. Risks associated with this kind of infrastructure are generally low-to-moderate with potential adverse environmental impacts that are reversible, temporary in nature and scope, and ones that can be easily and cost-effectively be mitigated. Subproject risks are reduced by exclusion of activities by a negative list of interventions as well as by the screening of subprojects outlined in the ESMF. The project environmental risk rating is however considered High due to the low capacity of local communities to manage natural resources sustainably in the backdrop of pervasive conflict, which extends to control of natural resources which are largely undisturbed and undermanaged. Further, the legal and institutional arrangements to manage, supervise and enforce environmental compliance are equally non-functional with low capacity in controlling and monitoring environmental performance during implementation, a gap the UN agency...
and third party monitor is expected to bridge. On the social front, the underlying objective of the CDD-type projects will improve community resilience and cohesion via strengthening of local institutions and citizen engagement through participatory planning process and is thus expected to have a positive social impact in the targeted areas. Equally, the subprojects following of the CDD-type planning approach shall reduce risks during the implementation process, with subproject screening and negative list on interventions further supports risk reduction. Social risks are above all the result of the FCV context in the project area. This includes risks resulting from (i) targeting grievances, (ii) intra-communal tensions over implementation issues, (iii) assets becoming targets of violent groups, (iv) and adverse results from construction and labor activities. Violence (political, criminal, ethnic, etc.) and GBV are two forms of concern as result of escalating social risks. The GBV risk is considered high against the corporate GBV risk tool and a respective GBV Action Plan will be prepared. The project will engage an experienced environmental specialist, social safeguards specialist and a GBV expert both on the clients PCU team and the UN agency team to be engaged to ensure the project is implemented in accordance to the E&S instruments and tools prepared and the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework and Standards.

**CONTACT POINT**

**World Bank**

Makiko Watanabe  
Senior Urban Specialist

**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Ministry of Finance and Planning  
Moses Mabior  
Acting Director General, Aid Coordination  
aidco.mofep@gmail.com

**Implementing Agencies**

Ministry of Finance and Planning  
Moses Mabior  
Acting Director of Aid Coordination  
aidco.mofep@gmail.com
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: http://www.worldbank.org/projects

APPROVAL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Team Leader(s):</th>
<th>Makiko Watanabe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Approved By

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Director:</th>
<th>Firas Raad</th>
<th>16-Aug-2021</th>
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