



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 08/13/2020 | Report No: ESRSC01546



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Honduras	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	P171362	
Project Name	Honduras: Early Childhood Development Pilot with Afro Honduran Communities in the Atlántida		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Health, Nutrition & Population	Investment Project Financing		10/30/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of Honduras	Secretariat for Development and Social Inclusion - SEDIS		

Proposed Development Objective

The Grant aims to improve early childhood development in terms of health and nutrition outcomes among children under 5 years of age of the Atlántida’s region in Honduras. The target population for the project’s intervention is 10,245 pregnant women and 60,056 children (30,558 boys and 29,498 girls) including afro-Honduran communities.

The Grant execution will be implemented in the department of Atlántida through investments in health activities. A special focus will be applied to vulnerable population below poverty line and will implement specific intercultural interventions in five municipalities with predominant Garifuna’s population (Tela, Arizona, Esparta, La Masica, San Francisco, El Porvenir).

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	2.71

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

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C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

The Grant aims to improve early childhood development in terms of health and nutrition outcomes among children under 5 years of age of the Atlántida’s region in Honduras. The target population for the project’s intervention is 10,245 pregnant women and 60,056 children (30,558 boys and 29,498 girls) including afro-Honduran communities.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

The project will be implemented in the Department of la Atlántida located on the north Caribbean shore of Honduras with a focus on five municipalities namely Tela, Arizona, Esparta, La Masica, San Francisco, and El Porvenir. The target population for the project’s intervention will be children under 5 years of age from the department of Atlántida and the focus will be on afro-Honduran communities. More specifically, the target population consists of pregnant women (12,053) and children under the ages of 6 years (59,710) and their families (according to the 2018 projections from the National Institute of Statistics -INEI-). According to the State of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Childhood 2011 Survey, households in Garifuna communities have, on average, 5 people with an average of 2.3 children. 88.7 percent of indigenous and afro-Honduran children live in a state of poverty. The average per capita income of the Garifuna population is L944.5 (or US\$38.70). A significant percentage (37.1 percent) of indigenous and afro-Honduran children live in a household that is missing at least one parent – usually because the father or mother had to leave the community to find work in other regions and transfer income for the family.

The State of Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Childhood 2011 Survey reveals that 46.2 percent of Garifuna children under the age of 5 years had one of the following illnesses in the six months prior to the survey: acute respiratory infections – 37.9 percent, diarrhea – 2.8 percent, and malaria - 0.9 percent. 21.8 percent of Garifuna children between the ages of 0-5 years were fed exclusively by breastfeeding during their first six months of life. Social norms and violence are important factors determining quality of life of children. The survey signals that corporal punishment as a disciplinary method is utilized widely in 40.3 percent of households in the Garifuna population. Furthermore, according to the 2012 National Health and Demographic Survey, 27.1 percent of Women in la Atlántida have experienced violence, and rates are higher for poorer and less educated women nationally. According to the National Plan Against Violence Against Women 2014-2022, la Atlántida also ranks high among Honduran departments in judicial complaints related to domestic violence.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The implementing agency will be the Secretariat for Development and Social Inclusion (SEDIS). SEDIS will lead the coordination mechanism with the stakeholders and, as the Grant recipient, will be accountable for the results of the project to the donor. SEDIS is a Secretariat of State with intersectoral coordination functions regarding social protection activities and it was mandated to lead the ECD national strategy through the management of a social program called “Criando Amor”.

SEDIS will designate or appoint a focal point who will be responsible for compliance with the ESF and implementation of commitments in the ESCP, as well as support staff or consultants as needed.



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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The environmental risk classification for the project is considered low. The project will not finance any type of civil works nor the provision of medical services. The project will support training and capacity building activities, and procurement of basic medical and other equipment such as scales, incubators, tensiometers, and chlorine testing kits. The project will promote the demand for the use of mother and childcare medical services within beneficiaries of the selected municipalities. This will include pregnancy and puerperium controls, child vaccination, and health and growth controls (not financed by the project). The project is not expected to result in any significant negative environmental impacts since activities are focused on training and capacity building. Some minor and indirect negative environmental risks and impacts could occur related to medical waste generation from associated medical services, e-waste from electronic equipment replacement, as well as Occupational, Health and Safety (OHS) issues in the use of equipment procured by the project. The project will seek to maximize positive environmental and OHS impacts through the development of guidelines and capacity building related to medical waste management and safe use of equipment.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The social risk classification of the project is moderate. The project is expected to have positive social impacts from improved health and nutrition outcomes in children under the age of 5 in la Atlántida. While no adverse impacts are expected, key social issues to be taken into account in the Social Assessment and addressed through project design and implementation include the need to ensure the cultural pertinence of the activities, which will target the Garifuna and other Afro-Honduran populations, the existence of contextual violence, including intrafamily, domestic, and gender based violence, which in Honduras is more prevalent for women living in poverty and with low levels of education, and the risk of elite capture if project benefits are not adequately targeted.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

Given the scope of the project (mainly financing training and procurement of medical equipment) the environmental impacts are expected to be minimal. However, the standard is relevant due to potential indirect negative environmental impacts stemming from improper management of medical waste and the safe use of procured equipment. In particular, Component 1 “Expanding and strengthening the delivery of ECD services” aims to strengthen the capacity of health systems in the Atlántida Department and to promote demand for use of maternal and child health services through the creation of a community program. This component will also support the provision of chlorine testing kits to be applied to selected healthcare centers to ensure permissible limits of Chlorine in their water supply. Component 2 “Development of an intersectoral coordination model to achieve comprehensive early childhood development at the local level” aims to ensure that there is an adequate coordination and integrated management of assistance services to pregnant women and children under 5 years of age, as well as to improve the

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living conditions of Garifuna and other Afro-Honduran mothers with children under 5 years of age. Component 3 “Project Management, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Knowledge Dissemination” aims to finance technical assistance in specific areas to support the project management including monitoring and evaluation activities, development of surveys, implementation of a system to capture and track data on early childhood development services, children nutrition and mothers’ health, and their results using administrative health records, training and purchase of equipment for the collection of the survey base data. Given the type of equipment to be procured under Component 3, the OM will also include specific guidelines for E-Waste Management practices.

The project will have a strong focus on serving Afro-Honduran women and children and those living under the poverty line. In addition, specific project activities under component 1 will contribute to address contextual domestic, intrafamily and gender-based violence through parental skills training that will include fathers and not only mothers, thematic trainings for volunteers and primary health teams on the promotion of active parenting and prevention of intrafamily violence, and differentiated treatment for adolescent mothers by trained personnel.

In order to better understand the social context, identify social risks, barriers to access and opportunities, and develop related measures, the Grant recipient will be asked to prepare a Social Assessment (SA), which will be partly informed by a dialogue that was held with Garifuna mothers in late 2018 (see ESS10 below for details). The SA will include a social baseline with information about intended beneficiaries, including any groups that may be vulnerable such as mothers and children with disabilities, and an overview of the current state of provision of ECD services in the target municipalities, including an analysis of community governance and health provision institutions. The SA will also assess any economic and social constraints of access to project benefits, including whether contextual violence in the country, the risk of elite capture, and the risk of exclusion and opportunities for greater inclusion of vulnerable or disadvantaged women and children. Based on this assessment, the SA will include specific culturally pertinent measures to be applied by the project to mitigate identified risks and take advantage of social inclusion opportunities.

Work on the SA process will begin as part of the preparation of the SEP, and preliminary findings will be disclosed as a section of the SEP, including a summary of key social risks and impacts, mitigation measures, and identification of key beneficiaries and vulnerable women and children that may need additional measures in order to access project benefits. The finalized SA will be disclosed after grant appraisal/approval, in time to inform relevant grant activities, and no later than six months after effectiveness.

The Grant recipient will also be asked to incorporate in the Operations Manual (OM), inter alia: (i) Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) guidelines (including COVID-19 measures); (ii) key labor aspects for initial activities; (iii) EHS requirements related to ongoing use of equipment particularly in relation to energy use; and (iv) management and disposal of non-hazardous and hazardous waste including medical waste and e-waste management in the event that the procurement of IT hardware under the project results in decommissioning of old equipment. These aspects include OHS issues related to training and use of equipment procured for all medical and laboratory related activities. These guidelines will be available for medical staff and nurses administrating these medical services. The OM will be ready by project effectiveness. The OM will be consistent with the WBG EHS Guidelines. The OM will specify that all project activities shall be carried out in compliance with Honduras environmental regulations and the Bank’s ESF requirements, wherever applicable.



The Grant recipient and the Bank will also prepare and disclose an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) before grant appraisal/approval, which will include the measures and actions the client will need to address to ensure compliance with the ESF.

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

None.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Potentially relevant stakeholders for the project include the mayors, municipal representatives of health and education, women’s organizations, community volunteers, local patronatos and other community-level organizations, and at the national level the Ministry of Health, Dirección de Pueblos Indígenas y Afro-hondureños (DINAFROH), which is part of SEDIS, and the Organización de Desarrollo Étnico Comunitario (ODECO).

The Grant recipient will be asked to prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), which will: i) outline the key stakeholders, distinguishing between project-affected and other interested parties; ii) describe the consultations to be carried out during project preparation, which will include virtual consultations with representative organizations on project design and implementation arrangements before grant appraisal/approval, and how feedback has been taken into account in project design; iii) describe the timing and methods of engagement with key stakeholders throughout the life cycle of the project; iv) describe what type of information will be provided to stakeholders and how feedback from stakeholders will be obtained, documented, and taken into account; v) if necessary, describe measures to remove obstacles to participation, including through language, specific didactic measures, and other means, as well as allow the effective participation of those identified as disadvantaged or vulnerable; and vi) develop and describe a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that will be operational throughout Grant implementation and how it will be managed and monitored.

The SEP will describe how the Grant recipient will proactively engage and consult with beneficiaries, including the Garifuna and other Afro-descendant communities to ensure their ownership and participation in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as well as in the adaptation of existing national educational materials to the Garifuna culture in component 1, the adaptation of the educational materials of the Better Families Program for Garifuna mothers under component 2, the development of communications tools that include an indigenous and afro-Honduran cultural dimension under component 3, and the need for any other culturally appropriate adaptation or mitigation measures.

Consultations will take into account the limitations on public meetings due to the COVID-19 health emergency and will be carried out in a manner consistent with the World Bank technical guidance on “Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings, March 20, 2020.”

The Grant recipient already conducted a dialogue session with Garifuna mothers on November 13, 2018, with the purpose of understanding the vision and needs of the communities in relation to early childhood development and parenting practices. Specific challenges identified during this consultation include poverty, limited work opportunities, paternal absence, domestic violence, sexual abuse, physical and psychological punishment for

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children, drug and alcohol use among adolescents, early start to sexual relations and risky sexual behavior, lack of trust in public health services, and inadequate nutrition practices. The SEP will include a description of the results of this dialogue. In addition, the SEP will be consistent with the planned communication strategy under component 3 as part of the implementation phase stakeholder engagement strategy.

A draft SEP will be disclosed prior to grant appraisal/approval and will be updated in time to inform relevant activities and no later than six months after effectiveness. The draft SEP will include a section describing the preliminary findings of the Social Assessment process including a summary of key social risks and impacts, mitigation measures, and identification of key beneficiaries and vulnerable women and children that may need additional measures in order to access project benefits, as well as a description and implementation arrangements including resources of the GRM that will be operational throughout project implementation.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

The Standard is relevant. The project will rely on community volunteers to carry out activities under component 1 of the project and could engage direct or contracted workers. The Grant recipient will develop and implement written stand-alone Labor Management Procedures (LMP), identifying and describing the different types of project workers that are likely to be involved in the project and set out the way in which they will be managed, in accordance with the requirements of national law and ESS2. The LMP will describe the different types of project workers that will be engaged and how they will be managed. In particular, the LMP will describe the need for community volunteers in the project, how the agreements with community volunteers will be reached, and the terms on which such labor will be provided, including how the voluntary nature of the work will be ascertained, how the community volunteers will be represented, and the methods by which community volunteers can raise grievances in relation to the project. The LMP will also include OHS aspects, a code of conduct for workers, and volunteer interactions with the local population, including elements of cultural sensitivity in work with IPs and Afro descendants. In addition, the LMP will also describe measures related to OHS risks involved for different activities, including in relation to COVID-19, and training & operation of the equipment procured for the project. The LMP will be prepared and adopted after grant appraisal/approval and in time to inform relevant grant activities and no later than six months after effectiveness. This commitment will be included in the ESCP.

As mentioned in ESS1 above, OHS and labor measures for initial activities will be developed before the LMP is finalized, and included in the OM, which will be prepared by project effectiveness. This commitment will also be included in the ESCP. The WBG team will review the specific labor processes and practices for the project in line with due requirements.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The standard is considered relevant. The project is not expected to result in any significant impacts related to pollution management or energy efficiency. However, the OM will include ESHS guidelines for the proper management of biomedical waste related to the provision of associated medical services and for the safe use of



medical and other equipment procured by the project. The OM will also include electronic waste (e-waste) management considerations.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The standard is relevant. Project activities may result in minor community health and safety risks related to the management and disposal of hazardous waste (medical and e-waste). The OM will include specific measures to protect adjacent communities from these risks and impacts. Along with relevant Bank and Government guidance, the OM will also include measures to reduce potential spread of infectious diseases, such as COVID-19.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This standard is not relevant as there will be no civil works. The project will not involve any land acquisition, restrictions on land use, or involuntary resettlement.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The standard is not relevant since Project's activities are not expected to have any direct or indirect negative impact on the biodiversity and the sustainable management of living resources.

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

This standard is relevant as the project will be implemented in areas where Garifuna communities are present. The Garifuna are a culturally distinct indigenous and afro-descendant group. The Garifuna are descendants of runaway slaves who occupied the island of St. Vincent, where they mixed with the Lakinago indigenous population (Caribs) and adopted many indigenous practices - including a Creole Amerindian language (taking a high number of words from Carib/Arawakan languages and a number of European languages), cultivation techniques, and land tenure systems. The Garifuna subsequently emigrated to the Caribbean coast of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Based on their ethno-racial origin and distinct language, the Garifuna people are considered indigenous for the purposes of ESS7.

While the project will have project beneficiaries that are not Garifuna, its focus will be on making health services accessible and culturally pertinent for the Garífuna and other Afro-Descendants. As such, no standalone Indigenous and Afro-Descendant Peoples plan will be prepared by the Grant recipient, but the elements of such a plan will be included in project design. The consultation strategy and how the Garifuna and other Afro-descendant people in the project area will participate in project design and implementation will be included in the SEP. The Grant recipient will also consult will them as to the cultural appropriateness of the tools and activities under components 1 and 2, including in relation to the use of community volunteers, as well as communication tools under component 3, and, through the SEP and SA will identify and address any economic and social constraints that may limit opportunities to benefit from, or participate in, the project and, if necessary, develop culturally appropriate mitigation measures. The GRM required under ESS7 will be the project-level GRM that will be developed and included in the SEP.



ESS8 Cultural Heritage

No civil works will be financed under the project. The project is not expected to have negative impacts on cultural heritage, whether it is tangible or intangible. The project does not intend to use any intangible cultural heritage for commercial purposes.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

The standard is not relevant. FI's are not part of this project.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No

The Project will not work on International Waterways.

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

The Project will not work in Disputed Areas.

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered?

No

Financing Partners

None.

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

- Preparation and disclosure of draft SEP before grant appraisal/approval, including a section with preliminary findings of the SA.
- Preparation and disclosure of ESCP before grant appraisal/approval.

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

- OHS, Key Labor aspects for initial activities and WMP measures in the OM of the Project, which will be ready by effectiveness, including biomedical and e-waste management considerations.
- Completion and disclosure of the SA in time to inform relevant grant activities and no later than six months after effectiveness.
- Adoption and disclosure of the LMP in time to inform relevant grant activities and no later than six months after effectiveness.

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- Update and disclosure of the SEP no later than six months after effectiveness.
- Capacity building of the implementing agency on E&S aspects of the project, including specific timeframes.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

01-Sep-2020

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Republic of Honduras

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Secretariat for Development and Social Inclusion - SEDIS

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Amparo Elena Gordillo-Tobar, Rafael A. Cortez
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Maria Gonzalez de Asis Recommended on 13-Aug-2020 at 16:24:0 EDT

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