



Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 16-Nov-2021 | Report No: PIDC249416



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Project Name
P177159		Low	M&E capacity building in South Asia
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
SOUTH ASIA	South Asia	16-Nov-2021	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	
Investment Project Financing	Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR)	Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) South Asia at the Institute for Financial Management and Research	

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PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	3.22
Total Financing	0.85
Financing Gap	2.37

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	0.85
Global Evaluation Initiative Multi-Donor Trust Fund	0.85

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. Strategic Context



1. South Asia faces a challenging socio-economic outlook as the region struggles with compounding factors, including an economic recession, weak institutions, climate risks, and the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. South Asia is home to 1.8 billion people, with over 28 percent living in extreme poverty.¹ Poverty and inequality rates are expected to increase in the region due to the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. India's economy, the largest in the region, has significantly declined over the past year, leaving millions marginalized. The uncertainty of the post-pandemic recovery and the continuing threat of climate disasters are some of the factors that threaten the region's economic and political stability and jeopardize its achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The post-pandemic recovery period requires well targeted policies and evidence-based decision-making, as well as increased country capacities to systematically monitor and evaluate the performance of programs and policies. CLEAR SA will contribute to GEI's support to the WBG outcome orientation agenda by building a cadre of professionals in client countries who are trained in monitoring, evaluation, learning, and adaptive management practices. Such skills will enable countries to monitor the success of policies and investments to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a substantial impact on growth, job creation and inequality, risking a regression of the development gains obtained over the last few decades. Ensuring that solid M&E systems are in place will not only be an essential tool for governments to define effective policies to mitigate the short-term impacts of the pandemic, but will also constitute a bedrock for the reforms that will create the conditions for economic recovery. Stronger systems must be in place to monitor progress and learn from past experiences and M&E capacity and resources sit at the heart of this. As such, CLEAR SA's work to strengthen M&E systems contributes directly to enabling countries to recover from the pandemic's negative consequences and to build back better.
3. Several governments in South Asia made significant progress towards the establishment of M&E systems and policies. Over the past decade, the governments of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh have demonstrated commitments to and progress towards establishing national M&E mandates and policies. For example, Sri Lanka became the first country in the region to adopt a National Evaluation Policy in 2018. India established the Development, Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) under its National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog to commission national evaluations and measure SDGs achievements. India's Department of Expenditure (DoE), line ministries, and sub-national governments also have expanded their evaluation mandates. In Pakistan, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council requires all public sector projects include M&E activities. In Bangladesh, the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) under the Ministry of Planning is responsible for monitoring and evaluating state programs. In Nepal, the



Central Monitoring and Evaluation Division (CMED) under National Planning Commission (NPC) developed M&E guidance and policies to evaluate state programs and use evaluation findings in policy planning (see Annex 1).

4. However, national M&E systems and policies are at early stage of development in the region and require further strengthening. While South Asian countries established M&E functions, they often operate on a sub-optimal basis due to lack of funds, qualified staff, strong and independent mandates, or inadequate frameworks, processes and policies. Some of the key challenges include the need to better diagnose M&E gaps and opportunities in policy making, build strategic and sustainable partnerships to support government demand in strengthening country M&E systems, capacitate local and young M&E professionals, inform evaluations about gender and sustainable environment impact, and contribute to building evidence-based policy-making culture. Given these gaps, authorities in South Asia expressed an increasing demand for Evaluation Capacity Development (ECD) services, including support with technical advisory services, specialized M&E trainings, and knowledge services. This need was emphasized during the Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI) launch event in South Asia², where high-level delegates from governments in the region called for stronger partnerships and more coordinated efforts to quickly address the continuing M&E capacity gap in the region.

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Sectoral and Institutional Context

Sectoral and Institutional Context

1. Over the last decade, the Centers for Learning on Evaluation and Results (CLEAR) Initiative³ has successfully supported ECD efforts in South Asia. The CLEAR Initiative is a donor-funded multi-country initiative established in 2010 under the World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) to build M&E capacities globally. In 2010, the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab South Asia (J-PAL SA) at the Institute for Financial Management and Research (IFMR) in New Delhi, India was competitively selected to host the CLEAR South Asia center. With previous CLEAR grants⁴, CLEAR South Asia has successfully provided M&E advisory services, trainings, knowledge products, and awareness raising events in the region.⁵ In the past 10 years, CLEAR SA has reached over 8,000 participants and conducted more than 300 activities, helping to strengthen public institutions and capacities of civil servants and local M&E professionals.
2. CLEAR SA strengthens M&E systems by building capacity for better monitoring, primary data collection, and rigorous evaluation of developmental programs, and creating a culture of evidence-based policymaking. CLEAR SA works on improving M&E frameworks and capacities and institutionalizing the use of evidence for decision-making through long-term government



partnerships, technical advisory services, training workshops, fellowships, and knowledge sharing through reports and events. As part of this work, it leverages the vast experience of its host institution J-PAL and its network of affiliated researchers in conducting rigorous impact evaluations to answer critical questions in the fight against poverty.

3. CLEAR SA partners with government and local institutions to support ECD strengthening in South Asia and Indonesia. CLEAR SA has built its institutional capacity as an ECD provider in the region through building local partnerships: Within India, CLEAR SA has benefited from the institutional capacity and networks of J-PAL SA as it developed ECD programs to support India's civil service institutions such as the Indian Administrative Services and the Indian Economic Services, as well as sub-national governments of Tamil Nadu, Punjab, and Odisha. Recently, CLEAR SA committed long-term engagement with the India's DMEO responsible for supporting SDGs evaluations. Within the J-PAL network, CLEAR SA also cooperates with J-PAL Southeast Asia (J-PAL SEA), located in Indonesia within the University of Indonesia. CLEAR SA will support Indonesia's national M&E strengthening initiatives in partnership with J-PAL SEA. In Bangladesh, CLEAR SA collaborates and delivers trainings with Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) Bangladesh, a non-profit organization, which aims to inform better policies to eradicate poverty in Bangladesh. In Pakistan, CLEAR SA partners with the Center for Economic Research (CERP), an independent think tank which focuses on evidence-based analytics and advisory services to improve decision making in the public sectors. Previously, in Nepal, CLEAR SA partnered with Kathmandu University and provided M&E services to the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD). In Bhutan, CLEAR SA worked directly with the National Technical Committee of the Royal Government of Bhutan and supported their annual national evaluations. These partnerships allowed CLEAR SA to inform high-level policy-makers and support the use of data and evaluative evidence for decision-making at national and sub-national levels (see annex 2)
4. In FY21, the Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) launched the Global Evaluation Initiative (GEI), which aims to catalyze and bring together actors and experts in the evaluation field and help developing countries place evidence at the heart of decision-making. GEI is an inclusive global partnership committed to country-owned, sustainable M&E frameworks and capacities to promote the use of evidence in public decision-making, enhance accountability, and achieve better development results. GEI recognizes strengthened M&E systems and capacities as a public good that will enable better policies and improve lives (see Annex 3). CLEAR SA is one of the implementation partners of GEI and is fully committed to GEI's core values of sustainability, cultural responsiveness, innovation, country ownership, collaboration, inclusion, and excellence, as well as its focus on supporting global M&E public goods.



5. GEI will support CLEAR SA to address the unmet ECD needs in South Asia and Indonesia and strengthen national and sub-national M&E systems and capacities. CLEAR SA will support governments in developing the necessary tools, frameworks, systems, capacities and processes to monitor and evaluate the performance of national development strategies and programs, collect and analyze data and use evidence to improve decision-making. With GEI grant, CLEAR SA will continue working with the national and sub-national governments and public institutions with a longer-term commitment to strengthen organizational M&E systems and capacities and ultimately support building better institutions and better policies (SDG16). CLEAR SA will also strengthen local partnerships with local ECD providers to better coordinate and complement ECD activities in the region (SDG17). CLEAR SA will expand its activities selectively beyond South Asia and use the J-PAL network to work in Indonesia. J-PAL Southeast Asia is actively engaged with national and provincial governments of Indonesia as they conduct impact evaluations in the country. Through GEI, CLEAR SA will amplify J-PAL SEA's work in building needed capacities and country systems to strengthen M&E functions, enhance data and improve overall capacities for informing policy decisions.
6. CLEAR SA will streamline key GEI themes such as gender and inclusion, climate change, youth, and the SDGs throughout its work. CLEAR SA will contribute to M&E studies and trainings on SDG-related themes. CLEAR SA will promote gender-responsive and environmental footprint methodologies in its M&E diagnostics, trainings, and services, and will encourage the professionalization of young evaluators through research and fellowship opportunities. These themes are priorities for GEI and also respond well to the regional challenges.
7. GEI donors have approved US\$850,000 for CLEAR South Asia in year one. This CLEAR SA grant project is for three years; however, GEI' donors approve budgets annually. The total cost of the proposed 3-year project is US\$3.200.000. The team will do additional financing for years two and three in 2022.

Relationship to CPF

Relationship to Regional Strategy



1. The grant is well aligned with the World Bank Group’s South Asia Regional Strategy⁶, which considers governance and accountable institutions as essential elements to develop human capital, promote sustainable and inclusive growth, and strengthen resilience. Continued progress towards these goals is critical for the region to achieve the SDGs, end extreme poverty, and boost shared prosperity. The regional strategy highlights that the Bank is focused on promoting good governance and accountability, as well as investing in strengthening public institutions for more effective and efficient service delivery. CLEAR SA directly contributes to these priorities by working with national and sub-national governments in the region to strengthen M&E systems and capacities. Furthermore, the regional strategy highlights growing gender inequalities in South Asia (labor force participation, health, gender-based violence, etc.) as well as the region’s vulnerability to climate impacts. CLEAR SA will address these themes in its ECD work, leveraging the GEI partnership to cross share knowledge on these topics and through activities that directly address the issues, such as by incorporating gender-responsive and environmental footprint methodologies in their M&E diagnostics and trainings.
2. This grant is also well aligned with many individual country strategies which highlight the importance of accountability, good governance, and more effective public institutions. For example, CLEAR SA’s activities align with the World Bank’s focus on strengthening capabilities within the public sector in India (Country Partnership Framework (CPF) FY 2018-22). The Nepal CPF 2019-2023 highlights the need for strengthening public institutions for economic management, service delivery, and public investment. The Indonesia CPF FY 2021-25 notes that strengthening governance is a key area of interest and that the country needs to “increase efficiency, equity, and effectiveness of public spending”. For Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Bhutan updated strategies are currently being developed, however, their previous iterations align with the broader regional strategy in emphasizing good governance, accountability, and transparency as critical for achieving the countries’ goals.

C. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project’s specific development objective is to improve monitoring and evaluation frameworks, capacity, and use in supported developing countries in South Asia and Indonesia. In doing so, the project will seek to build partnerships with existing ECD providers to generate synergies.

This project aims to contribute to the higher-level development of the objective of the GEI, namely, to improve monitoring and evaluation frameworks, capacity, and use in supported developing countries for improved evidence-informed policy making.



Key Results

The PDO-level indicators for this project are as follows:

1. Number of (priority) countries/institutions in South Asia and Indonesia with improved M&E systems⁷ as a result of CLEAR SA support;
2. Number of ECD partnerships developed by CLEAR SA
3. Total number of participants in training courses organized by CLEAR SA (disaggregated by Country and gender);

The intermediate outcome/output indicators are as follows:

4. % of CLEAR SA Center advisory clients who rate the extent to which the overall performance of their organization/unit/ program has improved as a result of CLEAR Center services high or significant, as measured through tracer surveys;
5. % of CLEAR Center clients who rate the "usefulness" of training and workshop services highly (4 or 5 on a five-point scale), as measured through feedback forms;
6. Number of regional or country-level convening events held in South Asia by CLEAR SA or GEI
7. Number of individuals reached through CLEAR SA activities;
8. Number of analytical, technical, and communication M&E knowledge products created by CLEAR SA2.
9. Number of individuals participating in knowledge sharing events organized or supported by CLEAR SA
10. Number of scholarship recipients (disaggregated by country and gender) from South Asia and Indonesia to participate in CLEAR SA or GEI training;
11. Number of ECD service requests coming to CLEAR SA
12. Number of M&E advisory services or technical assistance initiatives implemented by CLEAR SA.

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D. Preliminary Description

Activities/Components

COMPONENT 1: Building a culture of evidence-based policymaking



Activities under this component will focus on strengthening M&E systems and capacities along with building strong partnerships with governments and local institutions. CLEAR SA will support national and sub-national governments as well as line ministries and other public institutions to strengthen M&E systems and use M&E in policy making. This will be done through employing a range of tools and services such as providing M&E diagnostics, delivering technical advisory services, conducting training workshops, advising on M&E and data policies, supporting state-run evaluations, mentoring M&E staff within government units and supporting government M&E champions. More specifically, CLEAR SA will:

1. Provide Monitoring and Evaluation Systems Analysis (MESA)⁸ diagnostics in the selected countries (India, Bangladesh and Indonesia for year one) to better understand gaps, weaknesses, and potential entry points to strengthen national M&E systems. MESA has been an effective tool utilized by other CLEAR Centers as a first point of contact to assess M&E systems in a country. It covers both government and non-state institutions (e.g. UN agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations). MESAs will inform CLEAR SA's dialogue with governments, and its ECD strategy and priorities in each country in the coming years. Through this tool, CLEAR SA will be able to respond to the capacity gaps and demands by providing high-quality training interventions, as well as non-traditional forms of capacity development (including, for example, immersive and experiential-based capacity development opportunities for young and emerging evaluators, or mentorship and hands-on support services).
2. Support strengthening national M&E systems in India. CLEAR SA will work closely with the government and state institutions to strengthen national M&E systems and capacity. CLEAR SA will support the work of the DMEO⁹ and provide evaluation policy advice and technical assistance to strengthen national evaluation policy, capacities, and processes. Some specific activities include the following:
 - Develop thematic toolkits for indicators in the health and education sectors under the Ministry of Finance's Output Outcome Monitoring Framework¹⁰
 - Support development of M&E competencies and curriculum for public officials at central/state level in India
 - Develop toolkits, case-study briefs, curricula and other needed resources on access, quality and use of administrative data for central and state government institutions.
3. Support to State Governments in India. At the sub-national level, CLEAR SA has been working to build the capacity of state governments in India to conduct rigorous M&E activities and promote the use of evidence in policymaking. For example, leveraging J-PAL SA's institutional partnership with the state government of Tamil Nadu, CLEAR SA has developed and executed a multi-pronged, customized capacity-building strategy and successfully engaged with multiple levels of government to build capabilities across domains, using customized workshops, hands-on training, and advisory. CLEAR SA builds up on J-PAL SA's partnerships with the Governments of Haryana, Odisha, Punjab, and Tamil



Nadu, as these states are pioneering impact evaluations and are interested in strengthening state M&E systems. CLEAR SA will continue working with these state governments as well as explore engagements in new states to institutionalize and strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems. CLEAR SA will:

- Conduct M&E capacity building workshops on commissioning evaluations, data collection, data visualization and report writing for Government of Odisha, Punjab and Tamil Nadu
- Conduct sub-national M&E diagnostics and advise state governments on M&E strengthening.
- Provide technical advice and training services to the Poverty and Human Development Monitoring Agency (PHDMA) of the Government of Odisha to undertake and commission evaluations in the area of poverty reduction.
- Provide technical advice and training services to Haryana's Health Service Providers with an objective to improve the state government's health information systems and the quality of data collected

4. Support to Government of

Bangladesh. CLEAR SA will partner with IPA Bangladesh¹¹ and support government units to strengthen their units with qualified M&E experts. One of the modalities that IPA and CLEAR will test is to support government institutions to host a M&E expert from IPA for a period of up to 6 months who will lead M&E activities and train colleagues on the job. CLEAR SA and IPA intend to work with two pilot government departments which are willing to host M&E experts and champion M&E activities within their institutions: Aspire to Innovate (a2i): an influential government program that works across ministries to simplify delivery of public services through technological innovation, and the Department of Education. CLEAR SA and IPA will support the two institutions to improve M&E frameworks and systems, collect and analyze data, and use evidence for effective decision making. The partnership between CLEAR SA and IPA Bangladesh emerged from successful collaborations in the past. CLEAR SA and IPA will test this "Embedded Evidence Units approach" modality and replicate it in other institutions and countries if proved successful.

5. Support to the Government of Indonesia. CLEAR SA will partner with J-PAL Southeast Asia¹² (J-PAL SEA) to support M&E systems strengthening in Indonesia and build upon J-PAL's existing partnerships with provincial governments, the Ministry of Education, and the National Development Planning Ministry (Bappenas). These institutions want to strengthen their internal M&E systems as they partner with J-PAL Southeast Asia to conduct impact evaluations. CLEAR SA will support this by providing



MESA diagnostics as background assessments, and provide ECD services to strengthen M&E frameworks and data collection capacities at provincial and national levels.

COMPONENT 2: Building local M&E capacity

This component will contribute to building a critical mass of local M&E professionals who can provide M&E services ranging from performing evaluations to providing technical inputs to the design of M&E systems. The focus is on enhancing capabilities of individuals (including M&E specialists, evaluators, and government officials) and institutions from public, academic, and non-governmental sectors, creating a supply of well-trained M&E practitioners who can conduct evaluations and manage M&E systems. CLEAR SA will also promote synergies among partners to enhance training offerings and opportunities that are informed by and relevant to local contexts. More specifically, under this component, CLEAR SA will:

1. Conduct M&E training workshops for senior civil servants at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA). CLEAR SA has built strategic partnership with the academy to train India's civil servants, and its offerings will focus on M&E needs in the public sector and equip civil servants with skills to commission and use evaluations for decision making.
2. Deliver the Evaluating Social Programs (ESP) course and the Measurement and Survey Design Course (MSDC) -two of CLEAR SA flagship open courses. The ESP course provides an in-depth look at how evidence can inform policies and helps participants understand how to design and implement an impact evaluation, with a focus on the use of evaluation findings. The MSDC is an introductory course that provides a step-by-step introduction to basic concepts of measurement theory and quantitative survey design. These training courses are designed for employees of public institutions and M&E professionals
3. Provide customized M&E training workshops to train participants in high demand topics such as 1) mainstreaming gender in M&E, 2) M&E in energy, environment, and climate change, 3) M&E for the SDGs, 4) use of administrative data, and 5) how to commission evaluations. These training courses are for civil servants and M&E professionals.
4. Support implementation of the Research for Impact (RFI) Fellowships, which enables South Asian PhD students to conduct evaluation studies in the region and be mentored by experienced evaluators. This fellowship will equip young development researchers with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills necessary to design and implement high quality evaluations.
5. Support the regional delivery of GEI flagship training programs such as the Program in Rural Monitoring and Evaluation (PRiME13), IPDET14, and others. These trainings are provided by other



implementing partners of GEI and they have technical comparative advantage to do so. CLEAR SA will help to organize these trainings regionally and collaborate in co-teaching the selected units.

COMPONENT 3: Generating and sharing M&E knowledge

Activities under this component will focus on creating and disseminating M&E knowledge from CLEAR SA's E CD activities. CLEAR SA will work both independently and in collaboration with other GEI partners to develop knowledge products such as handbooks, white papers, and toolkits. CLEAR SA will focus on timely M&E topics such as monitoring, best practices in data access, quality and use of M&E, monitoring frameworks, and others. More specifically, the center will:

1. Produce publications: CLEAR SA will develop a variety of publications and training modules to advance M&E knowledge in the region and globally. The focus of the publications will be on gender M&E methodologies, national and subnational M&E systems, SDGs related evaluations and climate change. CLEAR SA will also produce GEI case studies and country M&E briefs.
2. Organize regular knowledge-sharing events and webinars in the region on best practices in M&E. The topics for these events will be both method-specific (e.g., qualitative methods, mixed-methods, participatory approaches, collecting data for scale-ups, etc.) as well as theme-specific (e.g., gender, climate, food security and nutrition, enabling youth transition to work, etc.), leveraging CLEAR SA's M&E expertise and its host institution J-PAL's evaluative evidence insights across several sectors.
3. Convening gLocal events in South Asia. CLEAR SA has been convening the gLOCAL Evaluation Week in South Asia since 2019 and will continue to strengthen gLOCAL's brand in the South Asia evaluation and policy community.¹⁵
4. Disseminate knowledge at global conferences. CLEAR SA will also continue presenting at key M&E events such as the 3ie Evidence Week, the Community of Evaluators' Evaluation Conclave, the DMEO National M&E conference, the Evaluation Community of India's Evalfest, and the Asian Evaluation Week.

COMPONENT 4: CLEAR SA Center Development, Monitoring and Evaluation

Component 4 aims to strengthen the internal capacity and program management of CLEAR SA. This includes ensuring that CLEAR SA is adequately staffed and has adequate management and administrative capacity. CLEAR SA plans to gain more visibility among strategic stakeholders in Asia through improved networks and communications. In order to meet these objectives, CLEAR SA will:



- Provide internal capacity building activities and training, which will help to develop CLEAR SA’s management, FM, procurement, and other professional capacities.
- Collect and report systematic electronic information on its operations and provide quarterly monitoring data and annual reports to the GEI.
- Use rigorous qualitative and quantitative methods to track its achievements, including conducting tracer and follow-up surveys to track learning outcomes and longer-term impacts for key clients.

CLEAR SA will report implementation progress and results through GEI’s management information system (MIS), aligning its reporting with the GEI M&E framework. The GEI MIS supplements the standard reporting arrangements of the WBG with a custom-designed tool to ensure proper financial management of all GEI grants and associated activities, and track implementation progress in real time, including data on expenditures, revenues, as well as the nature of interventions, clients, rationale for subsidies, pricing, and expected and actual results. Reporting through the GEI MIS increases transparency of the work of CLEAR SA and enables the identification of potential implementation challenges and just in time course correction of activities if needed.

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Environmental and Social Standards Relevance

E. Relevant Standards

ESS Standards		Relevance
ESS 1	Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant
ESS 10	Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
ESS 2	Labor and Working Conditions	Relevant
ESS 3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 4	Community Health and Safety	Relevant
ESS 5	Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Currently Relevant



ESS 7	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 8	Cultural Heritage	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 9	Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant

Legal Operational Policies

Safeguard Policies	Triggered	Explanation (Optional)
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No	

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The project is focusing on capacity building in monitoring and evaluation. The project activities are limited to the design of M&E training materials, diagnostic and situational analyses, research, production of knowledge products, curriculum development, advisory support in M&E system development and strengthening, assistance in knowledge sharing and dissemination, delivery of online and possible onsite training as well as the organization of learning workshops and events. There are no civil works or equipment procurement involved. These activities are not expected to have adverse environmental and social impacts. The capacity-building efforts will have indirect positive environmental and social impacts by supporting the strengthening, monitoring, and evaluation capacity in the beneficiary countries over natural resources, protected areas, forests, and a range of ecosystems, social impact mitigation, as well as management of (global) environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, waste, and degradation of natural systems. The project activities are not expected to incur significant adverse social impacts and risks. There could be risks associated with labor and sexual harassment and discrimination risks among the project delivery teams, and TA beneficiaries as a result of people’s interactions in an office environment. The risks will be reduced by the current COVID-19 context and are considered low, as interactions are anticipated to remain largely virtual for at least the initial phase of the grant’s implementation period. The key stakeholders involved here include CLEAR SA project staff, potential partner organizations in South Asia and Indonesia, the trainers of virtual and possible future on-site workshops, as well as the potential beneficiary participants in various project events from the participating countries. The project will give priority consideration in their beneficiary selection to those who represent underserved demographics, geographies, and sectors, including vulnerable, disadvantaged, and indigenous groups. The project will ensure broad information dissemination of its TA activities and engagement to facilitate broad participation of potential beneficiaries, particularly the marginalized groups, NGOs and other institutions who may represent vulnerable segments of society for maximum project development benefits. The project is not expected to incur significant stakeholder risks. The grant envisions retroactive financing up to US\$67,046, (less than 5% of the total) from July 1, 2021. The relevant expenditure-related activities will be reviewed against the risk assessment and any required mitigation measures in line with relevant ESSs as reflected in the ESCP. If the review identifies any issues of non-compliance, CLEAR SA will take necessary actions to address them for compliance with relevant ESSs. Since no significant environmental social impacts and risks are expected from the grant activities, the recipient is not expected to conduct further analyses than the one carried in this ESRS or prepare any free-

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standing instruments to manage the environmental social impacts and risks. An appraisal stage ESRS is also not required.

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

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