



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 09/13/2021 | Report No: ESRSC02265



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Philippines	EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC	P177191	
Project Name	Philippines Conflict Monitoring Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Sustainability and Inclusion	Investment Project Financing		9/24/2021
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
International Alert	International Alert		

Proposed Development Objective

The Project Development Objective is to provide useful, timely, and reliable conflict data and analysis, briefing key stakeholders to inform their programming and actions.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	0.84

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

No

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

By far the largest share of poor people in the Philippines live in Mindanao, home to roughly 25 percent of the country’s population but 39 percent of the poor, and in particular in the conflict-areas of Mindanao in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, where more than 50 percent of the population fall below the national poverty line. The BARMM provinces see weak delivery of basic social services such as education, health, water and sanitation, and electricity when compared both to Mindanao and the Philippines overall and have long been affected by armed conflict. The main conflict in Mindanao has taken place between the central Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and before them the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). However, conflict in Mindanao takes place along several fault lines and includes the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People’s Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF), conflict between clans (so called rido) and



inter-ethnic conflict. The current COVID19 crisis has surfaced new tensions, fissures, and conflicts resulting from the inability of the state to respond in a timely and effective manner to reduce people’s vulnerabilities.

The World Bank has provided support for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and the peace process for several years. A Joint Needs Assessment of the Conflict Areas in Mindanao in 2005 led to the establishment of the Mindanao Trust Fund (MTF). In terms of economy and development, the Bank has extended technical assistance support in the development of the Bangsamoro Development Plan (2015), this plan served as the blueprint for the region’s development once the new political entity was established. Recognizing that a strong understanding of the context on the ground is critical to inform planning and policies, the World Bank started supporting International Alert’s Conflict Alert monitoring system in 2013, until the recently closed World Bank supported Conflict Monitoring and Participatory Processes for BARMM project (P173706) implemented by IAP.

The project will support three recipient executed activities. First, the activity on Conflict Alert, a subnational conflict monitoring system that tracks the incidence, causes, and human costs of violent conflict in the Philippines. It aims to shape policymaking, development strategies, and peacebuilding approaches by providing relevant, robust, and reliable conflict data. Conflict Alert has a strong and proven track record for providing validated, anonymized data on conflict incidents and analysis on general conflict trends in BARMM.

The second component relates to analysis and dissemination for Increased Demand and Usage of Available Data. This component relates to the dissemination of Conflict Alert data and analysis towards achieving two objectives (a) to meet current needs for data and analysis and (b) generate more recognition and demand especially among key stakeholders at the regional and national level.

The third component will support IA’s day to day management, monitoring of project activities, compliance to ESS covenants and financial and procurement standards. Activities under this component will therefore focus on ensuring effective implementation, monitoring and providing timely response to issues and gaps, and on-time reporting of results, and feedbacking with partners and World Bank.

A Bank executed activity will be undertaken consisting of preparation of a briefing note on the methodology, lessons learned and recommendations coming out of the CA conflict monitoring system to ensure that the experience is well documented and easily available to other teams across the Bank who are working in similar environments on conflict monitoring and Internal Bank learning sessions/BBL aimed at sharing the methodology, lessons learned and recommendations of learnings of the C A conflict monitoring system to share the experiences with interested teams/colleagues.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

Project will cover the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) which is comprised of the provinces Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi as well as the cities of Lamitan and Marawi. More than 50 percent of the population in BARMM fall below the national poverty line and most of the BARMM provinces have inadequate basic social services/facilities. The region has experienced major conflicts between the Government



of the Philippines (GPH) and two Muslim separatist groups (i.e. the MNLF and MILF). But both groups have signed a peace agreement with the GPH in 1996 and 2014 respectively and the BARMM government is now in the process of building its institutions as well as formulating regional laws/policies. Given the project design and the BARMM situation, the risks are more related to Data Management Systems and Security, COVID19-situation, and Peace and Security risks. The project adopts PH government protocols on COVID-19 protection/management as well as peace and security protocols. In terms of data privacy and security, the IA has a tried and tested validation process through the multi-stakeholder validation group composed of state security sector, CSO, community leaders and LGUs and facilitated by an academic partner. IA also has a robust data security protocol in place to safeguard the data and staff who are entirely dedicated to data security.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The project will be implemented by International Alert (IA) who have previously undertaken crisis monitoring, with grant support from the Bank, through the Project entitled " Conflict Monitoring and Land Resource Management for Marawi and BARMM (P173706). The IA has satisfactorily implemented its E&S commitments for P173706, as provided for in the project ESCP and SEP, demonstrating the sufficient capacity to fulfill the requirements of the World Bank’s environmental and social standards.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The project will not involve physical activities that may result in potential environmental risks and impacts. While the project will not generate adverse environmental impacts, the environmental risks are considered low due to limited potential of COVID19 exposure of project staff during the judicious field-level database monitoring at the regional and provincial levels. The project will be required to put in place appropriate health and safety protocol to address potential occupational and community health and safety risks due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Conflict Alert tracks conflict incidents as well as the underlying causes of these conflict incidents. About 50% of all conflict incidents have one cause, while about 32% have multiple causes (for the remainder the cause could not be determined). Examples of causes include violent extremism (most common) or shadow economy issues. Conflict over control of resources, including for instance land, is also relatively common. An example might be clan feuding (cause number 1), ownership conflicts on land (cause number 2); identity-resource conflicts. Between 2011 and 2019 Conflict Alert recorded a total of 269 clan feuds in Maguindanao. Many of these feuds were due to land resource conflicts between opposing groups/clans. Conflict Alert shares data with various stakeholders, including BARMM government or relevant provincial governments to ensure they are aware of conflict patterns, including those incidents that are related to resource conflicts.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The project primarily involves the continuation of the crisis monitoring in BARMM, using secondary data from reports of regional and provincial government units. As such, it will involve minimal field-level activities which will be mostly at the regional and provincial levels. The grant’s major activities will not involve any civil works, and will therefore will not require any land acquisition/resettlement, or pose any major risks to community health. The Project will be implemented by regular staff of IA, alongside a limited number of consultants as resource persons. As such, the only relevant social risks are those pertaining to labor and working conditions (albeit limited to a small

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number of project workers), negative stakeholder reactions to project activities, and community health and safety (primarily due to COVID19). While the crisis monitoring might capture incidence or events of conflict in IP communities, the grant will not finance any activities in those communities that would either exacerbate the conflicts monitored, or directly intervene towards their resolution. Instead, the report would serve as an important input in enhancing local and regional policy and strategic plans in BARMM, by way of providing timely information on trends about the conflict situation. The crisis monitoring also intends to develop a methodology that would capture and analyze data on gender-based violence (GBV) given the post-conflict realities, the limited capacity on gender work in the newly formed regional government; and the other cultural challenges regarding gender equality. This will be done in close consultation with selected BARMM agencies which have a critical role in identifying/detecting as well as addressing GBV thus, will contribute to developing the regional institutional capacity and system related to GBV. While the project does not have any direct adverse social impacts, the social risks are considered moderate due to the contextual challenges associated with BARMM being in the early stages of post-conflict situation as well as the historical/complex nature of the conflicts that would be captured in the crisis monitoring report. The report could raise negative reactions among regional stakeholders which would need to be managed by the IA. The IA has many years of experiences in crisis monitoring and has demonstrated its capacity to manage negative reactions by focusing the dialogue on the use of data for enhancing policies and strategies.

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:

During project preparation, an environmental and social risk assessment matrix was elaborated, and taken into consideration as part of detailed implementation design. Documents consulted for E&S screening include outputs from the previous conflict monitoring activities, the annual report and other documents produced by the IA, along with the activity initiation note for the grant itself. Based on the screening conducted the risks identified include those relating to labor and working conditions, stakeholder engagement, community health and safety (due to COVID19). While there are disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in the area where the grant will be implemented, they will not be directly affected by the activities financed, which will involve technical assistance and analytical support for monitoring and reporting on the conflict. Given the nature of the activities being financed, and the moderate E&S risk rating, an ESCP and SEP will suffice in terms of risk mitigation measures.

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

None

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The proposed project involves the sharing and dissemination of the crisis monitoring report as input to policy development in BARMM as well as the sharing of the technology on crisis monitoring with local academics to ensure broader application. Key stakeholders will include the wider public, national government, BTA, development partners, academia and NGOs/CSOs, regional ministries and local government units. The project will prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), indicating the target stakeholders, the steps and techniques that would ensure meaningful and broad-based participation throughout the project from preparation, implementation and monitoring.



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

Similar to the previous grant project (P173706) with the Bank, this grant will involve regular staff of the International Alert and will not involve labor contracting, except for a limited number of consultants as resource persons as may be deemed necessary during implementation. Thus, in lieu of a labor management procedure, the ESCP will include commitments for International Alert's to integrate the requirements of ESS2 into the terms of references and contracts of any consultants that might be hired. This was the procedure followed in the previous grant as provided in the operations manual and duly complied with by IA as reflected in progress reports as well as presented during implementation support missions. Specifically, the IA committed to promote fair treatment, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity for project workers from hiring to performance management; ensure occupational health and safety in accordance with the PH Labor Laws/policies. This includes compliance to the covid19 health protocol promulgated by the government that includes wearing of face masks, social distancing and providing compensation and sick leave to workers who get infected with the COVID-19 during their contract period. The same commitments will be reflected in the ESCP for this grant and duly reported on as part of the progress report.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The project will not finance any physical activity that will promote the extraction of natural resources. There will be no activities that will lead to the wasteful use of resources or the generation of pollutants.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The project will not involve community-based activities and will not have direct impact on community health. However, in case there continues to be a significant health and safety risks due to the COVID19 pandemic, IA is required to specify appropriate health and safety measures to be observed in the conduct of all preparatory activities, as well as during planning and dissemination workshops. In practice this would include protocols for social distancing and use of personal protective equipment. These COVID-related protocols are included in the ESCP.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

No land acquisition is anticipated under this project.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not relevant as there are no activities that will involve the management of living natural resources.

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



While the crisis monitoring might capture incidence or events of conflict in IP communities, the grant will not finance any activities in those communities that would either exacerbate the conflicts monitored, or directly intervene towards their resolution. Thus, there is no need for an IP framework/plan.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

The project will be using secondary data and will not involve any activity that would lead to chance find of cultural heritage nor create impact on intangible cultural heritage.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Project does not involve financial intermediaries

B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks

The major risk to the project is the required social distancing and/or quarantine that could slow down the implementation and might limit the engagement with local partners. The timeline and design of the grant would duly consider the COVID19 protocols.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways	No
OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas	No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered? No

Financing Partners

Not applicable.

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Submission of ESCP and SEP by September 15, 2021.

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

Orientation of staff on ESCP and SEP; arrangements for reporting/monitoring of ESCP & SEP implementation; development of protocols related to COVID 19 particularly as applied in local activities.

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IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: International Alert

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: International Alert

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

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