



Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 15-Feb-2018 | Report No: PIDISDSC24136



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country Iraq	Project ID P165114	Project Name Iraq Emergency Social Stabilization and Resilience Project	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 08-Feb-2018	Estimated Board Date 05-Apr-2018	Practice Area (Lead) Social Protection & Labor
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Ministry of Finance	Implementing Agency Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA)	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objective is to: (i) increase livelihood opportunities in liberated areas; (ii) increase access to psychosocial services in liberated areas; and (iii) strengthen the systems to expand the provision of social safety nets.

Components

Cash for Work, Social Support, and Livelihood Opportunities
Resilient Social Safety Nets
Project Management

The processing of this project is applying the policy requirements exceptions for situations of urgent need of assistance or capacity constraints that are outlined in OP 10.00, paragraph 12.

Yes

Financing (in USD Million)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	200.00
Total Financing	200.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS



Total World Bank Group Financing	200.00
World Bank Lending	200.00

Environmental Assessment Category

B - Partial Assessment

Decision

The review did authorize the preparation to continue

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Iraq is a country of rich natural resources and human potential but has suffered from decades of conflict and economic volatility. Over the past three years alone, the war against ISIS has led to the death of thousands and the internal displacement of over four million people. Recent estimates suggest that more than 11 million Iraqis are currently in need of some form of humanitarian assistance¹. Agricultural production has declined by 40 per cent, undermining the country’s food sufficiency, and hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to migrate to urban areas for jobs and support. Poverty, which had seen a decline between 2007 and 2012, has risen sharply, with most recent estimates from 2014 at 22.5 percent. The historic decrease in global oil prices since 2014 has further severely impacted Iraq’s economy and coupled with security and humanitarian outlays, has significantly deteriorated Iraq’s fiscal and external balances. It is estimated that there are 250,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq. The declining oil revenues and the ongoing war against ISIS have pushed an additional three million into poverty. Over 2.4 million people continue to require food security assistance and approximately 8.5 percent of children in rural areas are reported to be malnourished. While oil prices have recovered to some extent from the historically low levels of 2016, and there has been progress in the fight against ISIS, Iraq’s multifaceted fragility continues to leave it vulnerable to shocks and continued violence and instability in the future.

Unemployment is high and labor force participation remains exceedingly low, especially for women and youth. Only 15 percent of Iraqi women of working age participate in the labor force - well below the already low rates of female labor force participation in the MENA Region of 22 percent - while about 72 percent of adult men are employed compared to a regional average of 75 percent. Among youth (ages 15–29), 72 percent of women and 18 percent of men are neither in school nor employed. The agriculture sector is the largest source of rural employment and livelihood in Iraq, with critical implications for climate resiliency, food security, poverty alleviation, and the empowerment of women, but is drastically underexploited. The public-sector accounts for nearly all the formal jobs and the private sector has not generated any significant employment opportunities.

¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).



With the recent liberation of Mosul, Iraq faces a historic opportunity for national reconciliation through the effective delivery of critical social services, economic growth and recovery programs. The reinstatement of trust between the state and its citizens is highly dependent on the Government of Iraq (GoI) demonstrating its capacity to deliver security, jobs and economic growth to all Iraqis, with a focus on the poor, the vulnerable and the millions of internally displaced people (IDP) impacted by the war against ISIS. Providing them with livelihood opportunities and rapid employment will be critical in addition to recovery and rebuilding social cohesion.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

GOI has embarked on a comprehensive reform of Social Protection programs that introduced significant improvements to the existing system by promoting equity, resilience and opportunities for the Iraqi people. Through the World Bank financed Iraq Social Protection Support Program – Phase I (P099295), the Government has progressed in the implementation of the Social Protection Strategic Roadmap 2015-2019, with the vision of having “a comprehensive social protection system for Iraq covering social safety nets, social insurance, and labor market policies”. Complementing this work, also upon the request of GOI, the World Bank is providing support through the recently approved Social Fund for Development (SFD) project to support locally driven initiatives to improve the living conditions and opportunities of the poor and vulnerable in Iraq. While ESSRP will move quickly into the liberated areas, it will also provide for resilient social safety net systems infrastructure, while the SFD project will leverage this infrastructure for targeting (including utilizing social workers at the community level to identify needs). In addition, labor intensive sub-projects under the SFD project will utilize the work days generated by the ESSRP, creating synergy and coordination across the two operations. The Supreme Committee for Poverty Reduction Strategy (chaired by the Prime Minister) and the related technical committees will provide policy and operational oversight to strengthen this synergy.

Iraq has recently liberated remaining areas from ISIS control, and it is imperative for the government to quickly move back into these areas, providing support on the human aspects of the stabilization efforts, with a view towards individual and community recovery. As such, emphasis is needed on returnees and the need to provide cash, short-term employment, and other means of social support to the most vulnerable of these returnees, notably women and children.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

The project development objective is to: (i) increase livelihood opportunities in liberated areas; (ii) increase access to psychosocial services in liberated areas; and (iii) strengthen the systems to expand the provision of social safety nets.

Key Results

The project will be measured by the following key indicators:

- Beneficiary households receiving Cash for Work support, of which female headed households;
- Average share of CfW resources transferred as wages;
- Beneficiaries receiving livelihood support, of which women
- Beneficiaries receiving direct counseling (of which women, returnees and children);



- Beneficiaries of social safety net programs (female)
- Share of beneficiaries included in the Social Registry from the poorest and second poorest income quintiles;
- Beneficiaries of CCT receiving payment in a timely manner.

D. Project Description

The project will provide cash for work and livelihood opportunities to returning and existing populations in the liberated areas, as well as other support to address the impact of the conflict on the population with emphasis on women and children. The aim is to support stabilization and recovery efforts for those communities, and provide support to communities to kick-start economic activity, employment opportunities, and livelihoods. The project would leverage existing social workers' infrastructure at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA), and coordinate closely with the Reconstruction Fund and other sectoral ministries. Delivery mechanisms would seek to leverage government systems where these exist, and to support the Government in sub-contracting Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)/United Nations (UN) Agencies to implement the works program where necessary. The specific modality of this arrangement will be further explored based on clear criteria which will be identified prior to project implementation. The project will include the following three components:

Component 1: Cash for Work, Social Support and Livelihood Opportunities;

Component 2: Resilient Social Safety Nets; and

Component 3: Program Management

E. Implementation

The project will be implemented by MOLSA under the guidance of the existing Supreme Committee for Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), chaired by the Prime Minister, which will ensure strategic coordination of project activities. Operational coordination will occur through the PRS Technical Committee (chaired by the Secretary General of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers). A Project Management Office (PMO) will be established within MOLSA to execute the project and will report directly to the Office of the Minister of MOLSA. The PMO will mainly draw upon resources from MOLSA and the Social Protection Commission (SPC), as well as hire consultants as needed. The PMO will work closely with the MOLSA Labor and Social Assistance Departments (LSADs) in each governorate. These LSADs report to the central MOLSA, and coordinate closely with local government. A committee, chaired by the Governor, will be established in targeted governorate to coordinate CfW activities at the governorate level. LSADs may also recruit consultants to support implementation, particularly as it relates to communications, fiduciary, safeguards, and monitoring and evaluation. LSADs, working closely with local government, will be responsible for facilitating the selection of beneficiaries for CfW and monitoring of the number of days each worker has worked on projects and identify constraints to program implementation and take immediate corrective steps. Program parameters will be developed within the Project Operational Manual (POM) that will guide implementation over the three-year period of the project.



F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The Project, and particularly the Cash for Work sub-component under Component 1 (Cash for Work, Social Support and Livelihood Opportunities) is the only component which may have potential minor environmental or social impacts. This component will be implemented in the governorates of Ninawa, Anbar, Salahideen, Diyala, Kirkuk, Baghdad and Babel. The interventions in urban areas will be the following: street sweeping and cleaning, drainage clearance, painting of public buildings, rehabilitation of recreational spaces, rehabilitation of schools, and other community buildings. In rural communities, the program will support brushing of bushes along access roads, clearing non-private agricultural land, breaking of rocks for road rehabilitation, cleaning and replacement of culverts, and drainage clearance along roads. At this stage, no specific locations have been identified and the specific interventions of the project are not yet well defined. The relevant physical characteristics will be included in the ESMF that will be prepared for the Project.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Ehab Mohamed Mohamed Shaalan, Environmental Safeguards Specialist
Ibrahim Ismail Mohammed Basalamah, Social Safeguards Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>This policy is triggered, and the project is classified as Category 'B' as the proposed interventions under sub-component 1.1 will finance a one-year cash-for-work-program that supports small scale interventions. In urban areas, the interventions will be the following: street sweeping and cleaning, drainage clearance, painting of public buildings, rehabilitation of recreational spaces, rehabilitation of schools, and other community buildings. In rural communities, the program will support brushing of bushes along access roads, clearing non-private agricultural land, breaking of rocks for road rehabilitation, cleaning and replacement of culverts, and drainage clearance along roads.</p> <p>To ensure proper management of environmental impacts that might result from the implementation</p>



of the project’s interventions, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be prepared, consulted on, and disclosed in-country and on the World Bank’s external website by November 30, 2018. The ESMF will recommend specific mitigation measures for environmental impacts that might result from the projects activities, including health and safety issues, including those associated with unexploded remnants which might exist even after clearing the project areas by concerned authorities. The ESMF will include a screening checklist against which each subproject will be screened, and accordingly subsequent environmental and social assessment instruments -such as a simplified ESMP and checklists- will be prepared and implemented -if required- before the commencement of any physical activities. The ESMF will also include provisions to exclude category A-type subprojects, as well as subprojects that would trigger any safeguard policy not triggered under the project. The institutional arrangements and responsibilities will be described in the ESMF including capacity building for the implementing agency -MOLSA, to strengthen their capabilities to implement the ESMF. Additionally, all TA under the project will incorporate E&S principles including supporting MOLSA to strengthen their CfW implementation.

As this project is prepared under emergency procedures as defined by Section III, Para 12 of the Bank Policy: Investment Project Financing, the preparation of the ESMF is deferred and a Safeguards Action Plan (SAP) has been prepared by the Bank and will be disclosed upon project approval.

Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	The project will be confined to existing footprints of structures, no sensitive or protected habitats will be affected. OP 4.04 is not triggered.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	The project will be confined to existing footprints of structures and there are no forests within the project boundaries. OP 4.36 is not triggered.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	No activities will be financed that will require the purchase, storage, handling, or use of pesticides or herbicides. OP 4.09 is not triggered.



Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	The proposed project will not entail new construction and mainly involves rehabilitation and clearing of existing urban and rural structures. It is not expected that any damage of physical cultural resources will take place.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	The location and areas of the proposed project interventions do not include any indigenous people. Accordingly, OP 4.10 is not triggered.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	The project will not involve permanent land acquisition as it will support intensive labor work activities in urban and rural communities such as street sweeping, drainage clearance, painting of public buildings, clearing of non-private agriculture land, breaking of rocks for road rehabilitation, etc. However, during implementation, any of the following resettlement impacts may occur: (i) temporary land acquisition; (ii) relocation of encroachers; and (iii) interruption or loss of income. OP 4.12 is therefore triggered and will be applied to Component 1: Cash for Work, Social Support, and Livelihood Opportunities. Additionally, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared to cover the entire scope of potential investments, which will set out the resettlement requirements and the guidelines for preparation of RAPs or ARAPs if needed. The RPF will be cleared by the Bank and disclosed by November 30, 2018.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The proposed project does not involve construction or rehabilitation of any dams nor does it carry out activities that may be affected by the operation of an existing dam. OP 4.37 is not triggered.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	No interventions on transboundary water bodies are within the scope of the project. OP 7.50 is not triggered.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	While the project will target recently liberated areas - these are not deemed “disputed” in the sense of the policy, as the terrorist groups have no international recognition and would thus not be a claimant with any legitimacy to any liberated territories. OP 7.60 is not triggered.



KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The Project is classified as Environmental Category "B". The safeguard instruments for this project are prepared in line with the emergency procedures defined by Section III, Para 12 of the Bank Policy: Investment Project Financing (Projects in Situations of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints), and the Project elected to defer preparation of an ESMF to the project implementation period. A Safeguards Action Plan (SAP) has been prepared as part of the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) and includes a detailed timetable and sequential steps for preparing the relevant safeguards instruments.

The project will support a Cash-for-Work program under Component 1 to increase access to short-term employment. Activities to be financed under these sub-projects are expected to be small scale such as: street sweeping and cleaning, drainage clearance, painting of public buildings, rehabilitation of recreational spaces, and rehabilitation of schools, and other community buildings. In rural communities, the project will support brushing of bushes along access roads, clearing non-private agricultural land, breaking of rocks for road rehabilitation, cleaning and replacement of culverts, and drainage clearance along roads. Potential environmental impacts of the interventions and activities are expected to be minimal, site-specific, limited, reversible and mitigatable including common negative environmental impacts such as construction waste, dust and noise generation, and occupational health and safety. It is anticipated that for most sub-projects with negative impacts identified, implementation of EMP generic guidelines that will be included in the ESMF, will be sufficient. No large scale, significant or irreversible impacts are anticipated as a result of implementing the interventions under this Project.

The project will not involve land acquisition as it will support intensive labor work activities in urban and rural communities. However, there is a slight possibility that work activities may include temporary land acquisition, cause relocation of encroachers, and may cause interruption to access shops adjacent to subprojects. Therefore, the Bank Policy on Involuntary Resettlement OP 4.12 is triggered as a precautionary measure. It is recommended that the activities under subcomponent 1.1 (rehabilitation and restoration works of public buildings, streets and spaces, etc.) provide equal opportunities and include persons with disabilities. Additionally, for activities under subcomponent 1.2 (Psychosocial Support Services), in order to strengthen the social fabric and trust between citizens, it is recommended that the health workers, social workers and local volunteers receive awareness and training to avoid discrimination among beneficiaries due to ethnicity, religion or gender. Accordingly, during the implementation period and before the commencement of the relevant project activities, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared by the Borrower to cover the entire scope of potential investment, and will be cleared by the Bank and disclosed by November 30, 2018. The RPF will outline the principles and procedures for compensation and resettlement requirements, and the guidelines for the preparation of Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) and Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plans (ARAPs) if needed. The RPF will be disclosed in-country and at the World Bank's external website consistent with the World Bank's relevant disclosure policy.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

There are no potential indirect or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area.



3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

The alternative of not implementing the project would have severe negative impacts on the public health, socioeconomic conditions, and the environment.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

To ensure proper management of safeguards aspects under the project, MOLSA will deploy a permanent Environmental and Social Officer at the central level, to oversee overall implementation, monitoring and reporting of safeguards aspects and to follow up on compliance with environmental and social mitigation measures and health and safety requirements at the subproject level. Reporting on compliance with the ESMF will be carried out through regular progress reports that will be prepared by MOLSA and shared with the World Bank.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

The key stakeholders are: (i) Ministry of Labor and Social affairs (MOLSA); (ii) Ministry of Planning (MOP); (iii) the seven governorates of Ninawa, Anbar, Salah Addeen, Diyala, Kirkuk, Baghdad, and Babel ; (iv) and the communities. Public consultations are a significant challenge in FCV contexts such as Iraq. The alternative approach is to consider individual interviews and/or meetings that are carried out in safe places using limited questionnaires. Separate women interviews would be held by a female consultant, if feasible. The purpose of these meetings would be to present the overall objectives of the project design; explain to participants its broader benefits at the national level, and begin outlining some of the anticipated adverse environmental and social impacts that may result from any subprojects activities, and to enable the stakeholders to participate and provide feedback and comments, as well as to ensure that their concerns are considered during all phases of the project, including at the planning phase.

The findings of the meetings/interviews of the ESMF, RPF and each subproject will be disclosed on the MOLSA website, relevant line ministries and governorates where the interventions will take place. All affected people should be aware and can provide feedback if needed. The ESMF and RPF will be disclosed in-country (in the appropriate communication channels such as on the website of the implementing agency and/or as hard-copies in a location and format easily accessible to PAPs, and at concerned sector ministries, and other public places of project intervention areas) as well as on the World Bank's external website.

Grievance Redress Mechanism: MOLSA shall include a Complaints Handling Unit to be equipped with a computerized system with 4-5 dedicated officers who are responsible for ensuring that complaints and questions are being registered, tracked, investigated and promptly resolved. The unit will coordinate with local governorate officials to ensure prompt follow-up action in response to complaints. The electronic GRM will provide a system for reporting and addressing project-affected people's (PAPs) concerns with regard to environmental and social impacts of the activities.

Complaints and/or questions regarding the project, would be directed to a supervisor, community representative, local government official and/or to MOLSA where complaints would be registered for investigation. Multiple access points (telephone, complaint box, website, email, text message, etc.) should be provided so that PAPs are aware of who to contact about their concerns. The contact information of the focal point should be posted at the local level and in the local language for subproject affected people to file complaints. In addition, copies of complaints should be recorded in the subproject file and the subproject progress report including the number and type of complaints and the outcome of their resolution.



B. Disclosure Requirements

The review of this Safeguards has been Deferred.

Comments

The project is being processed under Section III, Para. 12 of the Bank Policy: Investment Project Financing (Projects in Situations of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints); and has opted to defer the preparation of safeguards documentation to the project implementation period in order to ensure the timely and effective achievement of the proposed project objective given the emergency nature of the project. Clearance by the Bank and in-country disclosure of the ESMF will therefore take place once the project begins implementation but before any project activities commence, by November 30, 2018.

The review of this Safeguards has been Deferred.

Comments

It is unlikely that the project will involve permanent land acquisition as it will support intensive labor work activities in urban and rural communities such as streets sweeping, drainage clearance, painting of public buildings, clearing of non-private agriculture land, breaking of rocks for road rehabilitation, etc. However, there is a slight possibility that during implementation, the following impacts may occur: (i) temporary land acquisition for contractors' camp and storage of equipment; (ii) relocation of encroachers and/or IDPs due to subproject activities; and (iii) temporary interruption and/or restrictions to access of any business adjacent to subprojects causing loss of income. Accordingly, during the implementation period, three months following project effectiveness, (by November 30, 2018) and before the commencement of the relevant project activities, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared, cleared by the Bank and disclosed to cover the entire scope of potential investment.

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting)

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment

Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?

NA

Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?

NA

OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement

Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?



No

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

NA

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information

Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank for disclosure?

NA

Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?

NA

All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?

Yes

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?

Yes

CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Ghassan N. Alkhoja
Sr Social Protection Specialist

Ramzi Afif Neman
Senior Program Officer

Surat F. Nsour
Sr Social Protection Specialist

Borrower/Client/Recipient



Ministry of Finance
Minister's Office
Minister
ministeroffice.mof@gmail.com

Implementing Agencies

Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA)
Muhammed Al-Sudani
Minister of Labor and Social Affairs
sarmad.office@yahoo.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

Task Team Leader(s):	Ghassan N. Alkhoja Ramzi Afif Neman Surat F. Nsour
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Approved By

Safeguards Advisor:	Brandon Enrique Carter	15-Feb-2018
Practice Manager/Manager:	Philippe Auffret	15-Feb-2018
Country Director:	Saroj Kumar Jha	16-Feb-2018