



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 04/06/2020 | Report No: ESRSC01203



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Belize	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	P172956	
Project Name	Belize Social Protection Inclusion Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Protection & Jobs	Investment Project Financing	6/1/2020	7/31/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Belize	Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objective is to improve inclusion of poor and vulnerable in Belize's Social Protection system.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	25.00

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]

The proposed project will finance improved coverage of Belize's social safety net and design of Social Protection and Labor (SPL) delivery systems to be more inclusive to poor and vulnerable households. Specifically, the project will (i) facilitate improved coverage of the BOOST conditional cash transfer (CCT) program; (ii) strengthen SPL delivery systems (namely a social registry and labor market information system) and data for improved identification and inclusion of the poor; (iii) strengthen economic and empowerment and productive inclusion of poor and vulnerable,



with particular focus on youth and women; and (iv) support project management and capacity building to ensure strong oversight, monitoring and evaluation.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Project location(s) and salient characteristics relevant to the ES assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

In Belize in 2009, the national poverty rate stood at 41.3 percent (approximately 136,640 individuals). About 15.8 percent of individuals (52,185 individuals) and 10.1 percent of households were considered extremely poor. The Government has been actively working to address the SP system challenges through various initiatives over the years, including through the Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation (BOOST) conditional cash transfer (CCT) program and by introducing BOOST Plus to facilitate the productive inclusion of poor families in Southside Belize.

The project will not focus any specific geographic area and will be implemented nationwide. It will target the poor and vulnerable households, particularly those previously excluded from BOOST CCT program as well as support the provision of BOOST Plus to provide complementary services to an additional cohort of BOOST beneficiaries and in high poverty areas.

The Project will also strengthen productive inclusion strategies primarily offered through BOOST Plus, including training and entrepreneurship support focused on improving employability and earning potential of women and youth.

No physical works are anticipated to be financed by the Project.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

Implementation of the project will be led by the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation (MHDSTPA), in coordination with other line ministries and agencies where necessary. The MHDSTPA is Belize’s primary sector ministry responsible for poverty reduction and SP policies and programs. MHDSTPA has considerable experience implementing donor-financed projects (including by UNICEF), as well as previous experience implementing a lending project by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This project will be the first World Bank-financed investment project implemented by the Ministry and they are not familiar with the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). During the project preparation, a review will be carried out to identify the areas of capacity strengthening for relevant ESSs and actions will be agreed in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). Given the lack of capacity of the IA, during project preparation, the team will provide TA and capacity building to improve environment and social capacity, which is detailed in component 4.

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 environmental risk is likely to be low due to the nature of the project. It will not support any infrastructure work or procurement of any major item. The project activities will support improvement of the

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performance and impact of Belize’s Social Protection system by improving the coverage of the social safety net and strengthening overall delivery systems and data for improved inclusion of poor and vulnerable households. The project activities are not expected to have any adverse impact on human population and the environment.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

We anticipate the social risk of the project to moderate due to the scope of the project components. No social impacts will be present from physical works as there are no civil works planned for this project. As the project objective is to improve inclusion to social safety nets programs among the poor and vulnerable households and other vulnerable populations including migrants, LGBTQ community, etc., the principal risks will be: 1) managing and meeting expectations of the population; 2) ensuring that the various stakeholders including the beneficiaries are consulted and their views incorporated into project design; 3) an additional risk is that specific groups like IPs, women, youth or other vulnerable populations are excluded from the social safety net and other SP programs offered by the project. Given the national scope of this project the consultations and stakeholder engagement process will need to be robust in order to address these particular risks.

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:

Project screening included review of the Project Concept Note, the Project Information Document, the UNICEF report evaluating the Belize cash transfer program (BOOST) that the Project is supporting and reviewing expected impacts of similar projects involving cash transfers. The anticipated environmental and social risks and impacts to the project interventions are likely to be negligible. Therefore, consistent with the requirements of ESS1, no further environmental assessment has been determined necessary after the initial screening.

However, the project will require a specific Social Assessment to understand the vulnerable populations like IPs, women, youth, LGBTQ populations, persons with disabilities ethnic minorities, and migrants . The SA will review the quality of data for these groups and their ability to access the benefits of the project. If gaps are identified, mitigation measures will be put in place to avoid exclusion and will be included in the project design. The measures will be presented in the SA as part of a Social Management Framework (SMF) with references to / integration in the POM, SEP, IPPF. The SA/SMF will be disclosed in-country and in the WB external website prior to appraisal.

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

Use of the Borrower Framework is not being considered at this point.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

This standard is relevant. Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is one of the key factors for project success. The borrower will submit a stakeholder engagement plan. The SEP must be prepared and consulted before the Project’s

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appraisal, in a manner that is accessible and culturally appropriate, considering measures to ensure that access and inclusion of any vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups during the Project, including among others LGBTQ groups, persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities, and migrants. The project is national in scope so it is anticipated that the entire population of Belize will be impacted positively by this project. The stakeholder engagement process however will ensure that vulnerable groups are not excluded from project benefits by engaging a broad section of the population.

Meaningful and documented consultations will be held throughout the project cycle, including during project preparation. In addition, a project level GRM will be in place as early as possible.

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 given that the project will contract workers for the implementing agency. While it is unknown the exact composition of workers for the project it is likely there will be a mix of contract workers and government civil servants. The contract workers will be subject to the full breadth of ESS 2 and its requirements while government civil servants are subject to a more limited scope relating specifically to excluding child and forced labor. An LMP will need to be prepared for appraisal in order to determine roles and responsibilities as well as ensure that World Bank OHS guidelines are followed. The LMP will include a GRM for workers. Government workers, for the project will need to ensure the exclusion of child labor and forced labor under the OHS requirements. The LMP is required to have a Code of Conduct and the LMP will be disclosed in country and on the WB's external website prior to appraisal.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The standard is relevant. As the project will include the replacement of IT equipment, the obsolete equipment (computers, printers, etc.) will have to be properly managed/disposed of. This will be discussed during Project Preparation Mission with the client and accordingly, e-waste management guidelines will be incorporated in the Operations Manual and an e-waste management plan will need to be developed.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

This standard is not currently relevant.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This standard is currently not relevant as it is not anticipated to have any land acquisition or resettlement.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources



This standard is not relevant. The project does not have any physical works and will not cause any impact on biodiversity and living natural resource

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

This standard is relevant. Given this program is intended to be national in scope, it will be open for IP and Afro-descendant groups within the country. An IPPF will be prepared and consulted for appraisal. This will feed into the IPP that will be prepared and executed during project implementation. This will ensure full inclusion of these groups as beneficiaries of Project-supported social safety net programs. Mitigation measures for IPPs will also be included as part of the SA and SEP. The IPPF will be disclosed in-country and on the WB’s external website prior to appraisal. The IPP will be included as part of the ESCP.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

The standard is not relevant. The proposed operation does not pose any risk to cultural heritage.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

The project will not involve Financial Intermediaries.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

Yes

By supporting the project, the Bank does not intend to make any judgment on the legal or other status of the territories concerned or to prejudice the final determination of the parties’ claims.

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:

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Preparation of Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) by appraisal.

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Preparation, consultation and disclosure of Social Assessment (SA) by appraisal.

Preparation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including a communication plan and a project level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) by appraisal.

Preparation, consultation and disclosure of a Labor Management(LMP), including details of the GRM for labor issues by appraisal.

Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the IPPF

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

Timeline for implementation of SEP

Capacity Strengthening in relevant ESSs.

Waste Management Plan

IPP

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

23-Apr-2020

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Belize

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Asha M. Williams, Briana N. Wilson
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Maria Gonzalez de Asis Recommended on 26-Mar-2020 at 11:41:34 EDT
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Maria Da Cunha (SAESSA) Cleared on 06-Apr-2020 at 22:40:49 EDT