



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 09/02/2024 | Report No: ESRSC04432



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P505030	Program-for-Results Financing (PforR)	IMPACT	2025
Operation Name	Improving Performance, Accountability and Transparency in Cameroon PforR		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Cameroon	Cameroon	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Governance
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Ministry of Economy, Planning and Territorial Administration	Ministry of Finance	19-Nov-2024	29-Jan-2025
Estimated Concept Review Date	Total Project Cost		
05-Jun-2024	200,000,000.00		

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Proposed Development Objective

To improve domestic resource mobilization, budget preparation and execution, and the provision of essential public services.

B. Is the operation 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 Activities

The proposed PforR will support the government of Cameroon in its efforts to strengthen public financial management. It will focus on three priority areas for the government: (a) domestic revenue mobilization, as Cameroon fiscal revenues represent only than 14% of GDP, (b) climate change governance, with an emphasis on climate tagging for the budget and climate smart public investment management and building on the recently completed CCDR/CCIA and (c) the



quality of service delivery in social sectors (especially health and education) which continues to falls short of the target levels.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

This C ESRS covers the IPF component of the PforR. This includes training government, technical assistance (TA), targeted advice from experts in public financial management (PFM), diagnostics and baseline studies, workshops, training and study visits to other countries, and some ICT hardware and software procurement. The IPF would cover the areas of a) increasing domestic revenues through improved tax and customs administration; b) improving budget preparation and execution (among others, advice on how to introduce gender and climate change tagging of the budget); c) providing priority national services (i.e. raising citizen’s awareness of the importance of birth certificates and knowledge of the process to obtain one; restructuring and monitoring state-owned enterprises (SOE), development of a Grievance Redress Mechanism on public services). The project’s scope is nationwide, encompassing various national and subnational government agencies across Cameroon, and some of the activities may be implemented in the conflict-affected areas, including the country’s southwest and far north regions. The Project does not include infrastructure investment, so no specific project site settings exist. However, ICT hardware installation can entail negligible risks and impacts at localized sites of public agencies. The country faces shocks linked to climate change (changes in temperature, rainfall, and drought), the socio-economic impact of which affects both the structurally poor and almost 40% of vulnerable households, exposing them to an increased risk of poverty and famine. Potential downstream social impacts of some activities, such as improving property tax collection, could affect most vulnerable peoples in localized regions nationwide (i.e., Indigenous peoples) if adequate measures are not taken.

D.2 Overview of Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The IPF will be implemented by the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) to be established in the Ministry of Finance (MINFI). The PCU will work in close coordination with the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MINEPAT) and some social Ministries such as Education and Health. These arrangements are still under discussion. MINFI has no experience in the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework requirements through World Bank-financed projects. Since E&S risks of the IPF are rated low, the level of E&S risk management is manageable. A minimal structure to manage E&S risks, including an environmental and social specialist in the PCU and E&S focal points of the main participant ministries of the project, will be pursued and reflected in the project’s ESCP. The ESCP shall be disclosed before project appraisal.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The environmental risk of the IPF is rated as Low at this stage. Implementing the IPF component will bring clear environmental benefits (i.e., green procurement enhances sustainability; climate change considerations are integrated into financial decisions, etc.) to the population and the country. However, some activities will entail risks and impacts that are nevertheless minimal or negligible. These will be occupational health and safety risks (OHS), e-

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waste, risks of falls, musculoskeletal trauma, energy consumption, electronic waste and data privacy, and cuts/injuries when installing IT equipment or during the office work of PCU staff. The contribution to exhaust gas emissions from the vehicles acquired by the project for the many journeys made by staff to workshops and meetings, and the risk of road accidents. The Project does not include infrastructure investment. These risks and impacts, identified from previous experiences with similar projects, can be mitigated by implementing simple preventive measures that do not require specialized technical expertise in the environmental field. The country’s E&S framework may be used, which will be reflected in the project’s ESCP.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Low

The social risks of the IPF have been assessed as low because the activities consist of technical assistance that would finance mainly capacity building, awareness activities to strengthen the country systems, and studies that will not comprise feasibility studies or E&S risks plans. The Project will not include civil works, only very punctual ICT procurement and installation in selected government agencies sites. Thus, potential social risks are related to (i) unfavorable working conditions of laborers who will be involved in the project as direct or contracted workers; (ii) some studies like those related to tax that could have downstream social impacts on most vulnerable peoples when implemented if they are not designed considering non paying taxes social groups or pro-poor fiscal policies approaches; (iii) poor stakeholder engagement, including disclosure of information, consultation and redressing claims and concerns of the IPF activities, mainly those that aim to engage or build capacity in civil society organizations local municipalities the public through activities such as raising citizen’s awareness on the importance of birth certificates and knowledge of the process to obtain one; non-governmental monitoring of SOEs, among others ; (iv) no prior experience in managing social risks of the implementing agency. Measures to address these risks will be included in the project’s ESCP.

B. Relevance of Standards and Policies at Concept Stage

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

Activities under the IPF component do not include civil works or construction activities that would generate significant and irreversible environmental risks and impacts. Identified environmental risks and impacts are low and are mainly occupational health and safety risks (falls, musculoskeletal trauma, and cuts/injuries when installing IT equipment) and e-waste risks. The contribution to exhaust gas emissions from the vehicles acquired by the project for the workshops and meetings and the risk of road accidents. The TORs for activities funded by the IPF component will include relevant provisions of the applicable Environment and Social Standards (ESS), including relevant aspects of the Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines (EHS). The ESCP will provide measures for addressing the environmental, social, and labor risks identified for all ESS relevant to the project. The ESCP will be disclosed before appraisal.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

The IPF activities will require inputs from different stakeholder groups, including several ministries, the project beneficiaries, non-governmental organizations, the press, and the media, among other stakeholders in the technical assistance activities. Identification of stakeholders and requirements for stakeholder engagement will be included in

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the ESCP. The ESCP will outline (i) the need to identify characteristics and interests of the relevant stakeholders and timing and methods of engagement; (ii) how meaningful engagement will be undertaken with stakeholders, ensuring the disclosure of timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information related to the project; and (iii) the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). The GRM will also be developed as GBV: SEA/SH responsive.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

The IPF will involve direct workers and contracted workers, in the form of individual and firm technical consultants, undertaking the TA activities. Their activities are likely to be primarily desk-based research and delivering workshops, training, and technical advice, among other soft activities. Only a few project workers would be involved in activities related to ICT installation in selected government agencies. Measures to manage labor risks, including work conditions, OHS, child labor, and a grievance redress mechanism for work-related grievances for project workers, will be included in the ESCP.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

Implementing some activities, such as " Modernization of the existing e-procurement system (core system) and improving the connectivity of existing e-procurement systems to facilitate data exchange and collection," require installation or enhancement of ICT systems, which may include installing network cabling works in existing government-owned buildings and IT equipment. may generate waste (packaging, plastic bags, cardboard, etc.) that must be properly disposed of. Similarly, the cabling of networks in existing buildings could also generate pollution from the waste resulting from this work and noise pollution if the perforation of walls is required. Although pollution risk is considered Low, this will be further assessed and confirmed during project preparation, and any appropriate measures such as (i) incorporating energy-efficient and environmentally friendly technologies for ICT systems and (ii) developing and implementing e-waste management plans will be included in the ESCP.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

Civil works and infrastructure installation will not be funded under the IPF, and as such, risks to community health and safety associated with labor influx or due to construction are not expected. However, given that the project will mainly involve technical assistance and capacity building, the risk of road accidents could, therefore, arise if measures are not put in place. The project will prepare a travel procedure indicating i.e. departure and end times, speed limits, pre-trip requirements, car checking, etc. The SEA/SH risks to communities are considered to be minimal as project workers will not be interacting with communities. The ESCP will ensure that relevant measures for managing SEA/SH risks, including a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) for work-related grievances, will be provided to project workers, including consultants.

ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not Currently Relevant

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

Not Currently Relevant

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ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

In Part

The IPF may use at least partially the country’s environmental and social framework in areas such as environmental and social impact assessment and management, including the social conformity related to vulnerable peoples as applicable, labor conditions management, GBV: SEA/SH. However, given that the activities of the project are still described more broadly, the WB E&S team will finalize assessing the provisions of the national E&S framework applicable to the activities and the relevant ESSs as described in this ESRS and define whether they would address the risks and impacts of the project, and enable the project to achieve objectives materially consistent with the ESSs. The use of the country’s E&S framework will be described in the project’s ESCP. The ESCP will be prepared and agreed upon with the Government during the IPF's preparation and disclosed before its appraisal.

Use of Common Approach

No

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by Appraisal?

The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan for the IPF will be prepared and agreed upon with the Government during its preparation and disclosed before the project’s appraisal. The ESCP will detail requirements for environmental and social assessment as needed, engagement, labor conditions, and E&S capacity within the PIU. No separate plans will be prepared to manage the project's low E&S risk.

III. CONTACT POINT

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