

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	NIGERIA DIGITAL ID
Project Number:	2018-0298
Country:	NIGERIA
Project Description:	The project concerns the development of a digital identity (eID) infrastructure in Nigeria and the supply of a biometric identity to the people residing in Nigeria and Nigerians living abroad. The project will provide a platform for economic development and reduce poverty, a root cause of migration.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The implementation of the project will include the upgrade and installation of additional IT equipment in existing datacentres, as well as the operation of enrolment workstations, which are based on a personal computer with the corresponding peripherals for capturing biometric information. In general, the enrolment operations would be performed in existing premises of the different enrolment agencies across Nigeria, although like in the case of the datacentres, there may be some rehabilitation or upgrading that could require minor construction or civil works activity, which in any case would mainly take place in urban areas and be limited in scope and duration, minimising potential negative impacts.

If the project were in the EU, it would not require Environmental Impact Assessments because the activities in its scope are not included in Annex I or II of the European EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU. However, some potential project activities related to the rehabilitation of datacentres or enrolment centres, which are not confirmed to be required at this stage, may fall under Category II of the Nigerian EIA Act (Environmental Impact Assessment Act CAP E12 LFN 2004). According to the Act, these

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 20,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 16 May 2019

activities may require only a partial environmental study, unless the project is located in an environmentally sensitive area, in which case a full EIA would be required

Social Assessment

A Social Assessment (SA) has been undertaken before project implementation. The SA assessed the potential negative effects of the project, mainly related to the abuse or leakage of the personal data collected for the digital ID enrolment and exclusion of vulnerable groups, and proposed a sound social development strategy to mitigate these effects. Results indicated that the location where people live, their gender, age, religion, level of educational attainment, level of disability, employment status, occupation as well as the economic status of respondents were important variables that influence their participation in the digital ID system. The SA proposed targeted mitigation measures consisting of improvements in the training of enrolment agents, sensitization and awareness campaigns with the right content and consultations and regular engagement with vulnerable groups, civil society and ecosystem stakeholders.

On the other hand, the ability to uniquely identify individuals and reliably authenticate their identity has wide-ranging positive social impacts, enabling progress toward many Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, robust, inclusive, and responsible foundational identification systems can be transformative for the poorest and most vulnerable by enabling access to basic healthcare (SDG 3), education, social safety nets (SDG 1.3), facilitating financial inclusion (SDG 1.4), and fostering the empowerment of women and girls (SDG 5).

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The project will include public awareness campaigns, tailored outreach strategies, an inclusive and transparent communications plan, a robust grievance redress mechanism and continuous stakeholder engagement will further help management of social risk. These will be particularly important in addressing any potential for generating or deepening social issues.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

To mitigate potential adverse impacts and risks the promoter has prepared an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) with the help of experienced consultants. The ESMF outlines the principles and steps that will be followed during project implementation in the preparation of site-specific safeguards instruments.

The possible minor rehabilitation or upgrading of existing centres could lead to involuntary land acquisition and potential loss of access to assets, means of livelihoods or resources. To mitigate these risks, the borrower has also prepared a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). It outlines the resettlement process in terms of procedures for preparing and approving Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), institutional arrangements, likely categories of affected people, eligibility criteria and categories, compensation rates, methods of valuing affected assets, community participation and information dissemination, a Grievance Redress Mechanism, and effective monitoring and evaluation.

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Conclusions and Recommendations

The project's activities consist of upgrading IT systems in existing datacentres and collecting data from the population for providing them with a digital ID, which are unlikely to produce relevant environmental impacts. Social impacts of the project will mostly be positive, although there are social risks related to abuse of personal data and risk of exclusion of vulnerable groups. A Social Assessment has been undertaken to assess these potential negative effects, as well as to establish a sound social development strategy to mitigate them. The EIB will rely on the World Bank, acting as the lead financier, to ensure the project implementation is performed according to the EIB's E&S standards, including potential disbursement conditions related to E&S aspects.

Hence, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms, provided that the plans and mitigation measures proposed in the SA, ESMF and RMF are developed and implemented accordingly.

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