

Individual Project (IP) of the SIRWASH Facility (RG-O1691)

I. Basic Information for TC

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| ▪ Country/Region: | REGIONAL |
| ▪ TC Name: | Sustainable and Innovative Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (SIRWASH): Boosting knowledge and skills in Latin America and the Caribbean |
| ▪ TC Number: | RG-T4073 |
| ▪ Team Leader/Members: | Machado, Kleber B. (INE/WSA) Team Leader; Mecerreyes Espinosa, Cristina (INE/WSA) Alternate Team Leader; Celia Bedoya Del Olmo (INE/WSA); Champi Ticona, Diana Carla (INE/WSA); Claudia Prehn (INE/WSA); Guerrero Rivera, Marilyn Ivette (INE/WSA); Lopez, Liliana M. (INE/WSA); Natalia Almeida (LEG/SGO); Nicolas Moreno (ORP/GCM); Ogialoro, Claudia (ORP/GCM); Paez Rubio, Tania (INE/WSA); Quintana Garcia De Paredes, Cesarina (INE/WSA); Tejerina Camacho, Veronica |
| ▪ Taxonomy: | Research and Dissemination |
| ▪ Operation Supported by the TC: | N/A |
| ▪ Date of TC Abstract authorization: | N/A |
| ▪ Beneficiary: | Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean |
| ▪ Executing Agency and contact name: | Inter-American Development Bank |
| ▪ Donors providing funding: | Cofinancing Special Grants(COF) |
| ▪ IDB Funding Requested: | US\$657,000.00 |
| ▪ Local counterpart funding, if any: | US\$0 |
| ▪ Disbursement period (which includes Execution period): | 36 months execution |
| ▪ Required start date: | April 15, 2022 |
| ▪ Types of consultants: | Consulting Firms and Individual Consultants |
| ▪ Prepared by Unit: | INE/WSA-Water & Sanitation |
| ▪ Unit of Disbursement Responsibility: | INE/WSA-Water & Sanitation |
| ▪ TC included in Country Strategy (y/n): | N/A |
| ▪ TC included in CPD (y/n): | N/A |
| ▪ Alignment to the Update to the Institutional Strategy 2010-2020: | Diversity; Environmental sustainability; Gender equality; Institutional capacity and rule of law; Productivity and innovation; Social inclusion and equality |

II. Objectives and Justification of the TC

- 2.1 The present Technical Cooperation (TC) is part of the Regional Non-Reimbursable Technical Cooperation for the SIRWASH - Mechanism for Sustainable and Innovative Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Services in Rural Areas (RG-O1691¹ and ATN/CF-18477-RG), approved on December 10, 2020. The SIRWASH project results from a request from the Swiss Government through COSUDE (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) to the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) to implement the project. SIRWASH's main objective is to improve enabling policy, innovation, and knowledge exchange environments and foster the necessary

¹ The approved document can be found [here](#)

capacities to deliver quality WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services to rural communities with a particular focus on vulnerable areas and disadvantaged people. SIRWASH project covers the following countries: Bolivia, Haiti, Peru, and Brazil.

- 2.2 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits all countries to take steps to 'shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path,' 'realize human rights for all,' 'end poverty in all its forms,' and 'ensure no one is left behind'.¹ SDG 6 builds upon the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (HRWS). The largest segment of the world's poor is the women, children, and men who live in rural environments. These are the subsistence farmers and herders, the fishers and migrant workers, the artisans, and indigenous peoples.² Rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have the most significant levels of vulnerability and poverty, with more than 59 million people living in poverty and 27 million people living in extreme poverty.³ These areas have less coverage of public services, such as water and sanitation services. Coverage has increased at the national level in LAC. At the same time, gaps concentrate in peri-urban and rural areas, farther from urban centers and sector institutions, and with populations with lower socioeconomic conditions, where the responsibility of service provision at the subnational level; thus, creating additional challenges at the technical, financial, environmental, institutional, and social level.
- 2.3 **Rural areas are also the areas with lower coverage of public services.** Overall, inequalities in access to water and sanitation (WSA) services in LAC have decreased in recent decades, with most countries increasing rural coverage,² but gaps are still significant. In 2020, 99.1% of people in urban areas had at least basic drinking water services in LAC, compared to just 89.98% in rural areas. The gap is more significant for sanitation, with access to at least basic services of 92.86% and 72.7% for urban and rural areas, respectively. These levels of coverage translate to around 13 million rural inhabitants in LAC who do not have access to at least basic water service and 34 million who do not have access to adequate sanitation services that are basic or safely managed.
- 2.4 Moreover, access statistics are often misleading because the definition of access is often far from the minimum standards needed for an acceptable quality of life.³ When considering the **quality/level of water and sanitation services**, gaps increase dramatically. While 87.8% percent of rural dwellers have access to improved water services, this percentage decreases to 80% when considering access inside the households; it decreases further to 65% when considering the availability of water when needed and drops sharply to 42% of rural dwellers when considering safe water quality free of contamination. For access to sanitation services, the gaps are even more noticeable. While 73% of rural dwellers have access to improved sanitation services that are not shared, the percentage of rural dwellers with access to safely managed sanitation services drops to 0%. Services beyond households must also be in place to ensure WSA access when studying or working. 28% of rural schools do not have a drinking water service and only 13% have a basic sanitation system, and there

² Progress on household drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene 2000-2017. Special focus on inequalities. New York: UNICEF and WHO, 2019.

³ Cavallo, et.al, (2020). IDB. "From Structures to Services: The Path to Better Infrastructure in Latin America and the Caribbean". Moving the threshold from, for example, piped water anywhere to piped water on household premises implies a significant drop in access rates. The situation in rural areas is significantly worse than in urban areas, across access definitions (pp. 83).

is a general lack of handwashing facilities with soap.⁴ Open Defecation (OD) is still a problem in LAC, with more than 10 million people practicing it and 75% living in rural areas. Haiti, Bolivia, and Peru have the most people practicing OD in rural areas.

- 2.5 In the world's most unequal region, it is no surprise to find **substantial inequalities in access to WSA services** based on wealth. There is a significant disparity regarding access from the wealthiest quintile and the poorest in most countries. Regionally, drinking water coverage is 13% higher in households in the highest income quintile than those in the lowest income quintile. In sanitation, the difference reaches almost 26%. It is estimated that 70% of households that do not have access to water service, and 85% that do not have access to sanitation, belong to the first two quintiles of the income distribution, the poorest and most vulnerable. Indigenous groups have less access to improved drinking water services, especially sanitation. Brazil and Bolivia report a difference of 31 and 19 percentual points in sanitation access for indigenous populations, who mostly live in rural and hard-to-reach areas.
- 2.6 The lag in WSA services provision coverage and quality in rural areas compared to urban areas and its evolution in recent years can be explained given the perceived complexities of investing in rural areas driven by their specific context, particularities, and cultural diversity of LAC's rural communities. Rural areas may have low household concentration, great dispersion, hard to reach access, predominantly low socioeconomic level of the rural population, cultural diversity, limited presence of institutions, low offer of services and markets, lower technical capacities of operators and local governments, and greater vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. These **challenges** may increase the unit costs of investments, limit the use of certain conventional technologies, and hinder the technical assistance to service providers to ensure the sustainability of systems, among others. In this context, national and subnational governments may be reluctant to make significant investments in rural areas, somehow associated with "less sustainability and with less impact." The rural WSA sector faces a paradigm regarding investments in rural WSA projects, an area perceived as "more complicated" or "more expensive." Even where the effectiveness and sustainability of the interventions are still a missed opportunity, investments required to overcome the gap and adequately plan the sustainability of rural services are not prioritized at the political level, which deepens the gaps and delays the fulfillment of the rights to water and sanitation for the most vulnerable population.
- 2.7 **COVID-19 pandemic.** The water, sanitation, hygiene, and the solid waste sector are critical for preventing the spread of the novel COVID-19 and other infectious diseases, such as dengue and yellow fever, with hygiene and handwashing being a key aspect that has been barely monitored. A surprising number of households lack access to hygiene facilities in the region: 41% of the rural LAC population lacks access to basic handwashing facilities⁵, which are also not present in most rural schools and health centers.⁶ Although the low dispersion and connectivity of rural areas are serving as a retaining wall to the pandemic, the protection of the rural population against the virus must be ensured; a population already at high risk as they are an aging and poor population. The economic impacts generated by the pandemic will directly impact these populations already with high levels of poverty. It could cause catastrophic

⁴ Joint Monitoring Program, 2020.

⁵ Joint Monitoring Program 2019 with data of 2017.

⁶ JMP 2020 "Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools: special focus on COVID-19" <https://washdata.org/monitoring/schools/regional-and-global-2018>.

situations, which must be anticipated to take the appropriate measures. Several associations of rural WASH operators in the region are already calling on national governments and municipalities to take specific measures to support the rural population and services, stressing that some actions taken during the pandemic affect the income of these providers, primarily community based. Governments have acted insufficiently, particularly in ensuring supplies for water treatment (chlorine), disinfection, and O&M or rural WSS infrastructure.

- 2.8 Considering the remaining key challenges in rural WASH, particularly in its enabling environment, a need and an opportunity arise to improve and enhance the rural WASH's framework. Also, the opportunity to systematize and extract lessons learned from both the vast experience of the Bank and SDC could contribute to creating this enabling environment and ultimately lead to improved WASH services for the rural population in LAC. This can be done by:⁷ (i) promoting dialogue with governments and among governments and sector entities to provide greater and better attention to rural areas; (ii) supporting LAC countries to develop efficient practices that take into account more urgent needs and priorities in rural areas; (iii) strengthening the capacities of the sector entities and providing incentives to sector professionals to work at the local level and dedicate efforts to the rural communities; and (iv) identifying, consolidating and scaling-up innovative approaches and strategies for rural populations, with an emphasis in the SABA program and its experience in Peru and Colombia and engaging the private sector. SABA is a rural program implemented with the support of SDC in Peru and in alliance with its government sector entities, which has been successful in increasing access to rural WASH in the country. The Bank has approved the facility SIRWASH (RG-O1691), which aims to improve enabling policy, innovation, and knowledge exchange environments and foster the necessary capacities to deliver sustainable quality WASH services to rural communities with a particular focus on the vulnerable and disadvantaged people. SIRWASH is financed through a donation from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The geographic focus of SIRWASH is regional, emphasizing four countries of LAC –Bolivia, Brazil, Haiti, and Peru. SIRWASH is a knowledge program that will build on the lessons learned from the implementation of rural programs by the Bank, and it will also inform and improve the rural portfolio through enhancing the enabling environment for these programs, strengthening capacities, and through knowledge exchange.
- 2.9 This TC aims to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene services in rural areas of LAC and selected countries by promoting knowledge generation and dissemination in key topics or rural WASH service provision and strengthening the coordination of rural WASH services with other sectors and areas. For doing so, the TC will: (i) systematically increase the knowledge generation and dissemination, building on the experiences of both SDC and the Bank in rural WASH, and (ii) strengthen the articulation with actors at various levels of government (national, subnational, municipalities) and with other sectors with an emphasis on the health departments and innovation.
- 2.10 **Strategic Alignment.** This TC is consistent with the Second Update of the Institutional Strategy 2020-2023 (AB-3190-2) and is aligned with the following development challenges. (i) *Productivity and Innovation* by having a focus on aiding in the provision

⁷ In line with the new paradigm of management of water and sanitation services put forward in the [DIA 2020](#). (Cavallo et. al., 2020).

of infrastructure services and adequate, safe, reliable, and affordable public services, prioritizing the use of innovative technologies for the improvement of rural conditions and the quality of infrastructure that will contribute to the economic growth, in the context of COVID19; and (ii) *Social Inclusion and Equality* by supporting interventions that promote universal and sustainable access to WASH services, with a strong emphasis on vulnerable populations in the rural areas. The TC is also aligned with the cross-cutting areas: (i) Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability by seeking to strengthen the resilience of operators to the impacts of climate change by strengthening the integration of WASH and water resources management in national policies to ensure the quality and availability of water and adaptation to climate change; (ii) *Gender Equality and Diversity*, by prioritizing the participation of women and young people and including the gender approach in WASH service provision and during the activities supported by this TC; and (iii) *Institutional Capacity and the Rule of Law*, as it will finance activities to improve the management capacity of WASH operators, and sector governance. The Facility is also aligned with the "Sustainable infrastructure for competitiveness and inclusive growth" strategy (GN-2710-5), in the priority areas for action to: "Promote access to infrastructure services", "Promote continuous improvements in infrastructure governance" and, "Support the construction and maintenance of environmentally and socially sustainable infrastructure"; (ii) the Sector Strategy to Support Regional and Global Competitive Integration (GN-2565-4), by contributing to the thematic area of intervention "Functional cooperation and regional public goods", by promoting interventions that seek to foster regional and extra-regional cooperation practices that give added value to a national interventions in the rural sector; and (iii) to the Water and Sanitation Sector Framework Document (GN-2781-8), specifically with the dimensions of success and lines of action related to universal access and improvement of the quality of services and of social and environmental sustainability.

- 2.11 This TC is also aligned with the IDB Group Country Strategies of the four countries which have been initially identified as having a special relevance within SIRWASH and of this TC – Bolivia, Brazil, Haiti, and Peru. In that sense, the TC aligns with the Country Strategy with Brazil 2019-2022 (GN-2973), specifically with the strategic objective of narrowing the infrastructure gap; the Country Strategy with Bolivia (2016-2020) (GN-2843), and the strategic objective of closing social gaps, specifically expanding water and sanitation coverage, mainly in rural areas; the Country Strategy with Haiti 2017-2021 (GN-2904), which has as one of its strategic objectives to widen access to water and sanitation services; and the IDB Group Country Strategy with Peru 2017-2021 (GN-2889) and its strategic objective of improving access to and quality of water and sanitation services given that the activities contemplated in this operation seek to aid in increasing coverage of sustainable, reliable, and affordable WASH services in rural areas.

III. Description of activities/components and budget

- 3.1 The financed activities of this TC can be divided into two components:
- 3.2 **Component 1 – Research, Knowledge Generation, and dissemination on rural WASH (US\$250,000).** This component aims to systematically increase the knowledge generation and dissemination, building on the experiences of both SDC and the Bank in rural WASH and all actions supported by the Facility SIRWASH (RG-O1691 and its associated TCs in the selected countries). A knowledge plan for SIRWASH has been elaborated, including different tools such as dialogue events, workshops, and knowledge products. The [knowledge plan](#) aims to answer [key questions](#) generated by

the Rural Strategy of the Bank's WSA Division to improve rural WASH services. Considering existing knowledge gaps and the Bank's previous experiences and SDC projects (mainly SABA), these questions are proposed. Each knowledge product, workshop, and policy dialogue event aims to answer or advance one of the questions. This knowledge plan was designed to combine, catalyze, and expand on the knowledge products produced in all SIRWASH TCs. Two types of knowledge products are expected: 1) studies that require specific research in topics that have not been advanced yet, including the linkages between rural WASH and Water Resources Management and Solid Waste Management; and 2) technical notes or other types of knowledge products defined jointly with the Governments of the selected countries and partners to generate new content and knowledge to feed the discussions at the regional and national level. In addition, in the context of Covid-19, specific knowledge products will be developed for sector entities and communities, focusing on hygiene and handwashing, such as a compilation of good practices in LAC on how governments have strengthened rural areas' WASH services in the context of an emergency.

- **Activity 1.1 Strengthen the integration of WASH and water resources management in national policies and with the SWM:** Under this component, actions to increase the existing knowledge on rural WASH services will be executed. Concrete outputs are a study on 'governance linkage activity areas' for LAC, a methodology developed by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), to understand linkages and strengthen IWRM-WASH (Integrated Water Resources Management – WASH) inter-sectoral cooperation at the policy and governance level. This methodology will be used in the priority countries of SIRWASH and will result in a policy brief identifying how IWRM actions can be better coordinated with rural WASH services, an input that can be of use for the design of loans directed to rural areas. In addition, and as the first assessment for rural Solid Waste Management (SWM) services, a mapping of existing related normative, its application and advances in implementation on rural SWM, as well as the identification of best practices that ensure the integrated solid waste management services in rural communities, will be undertaken for the selected countries. The focus will be to understand how municipalities can support SW collection, disposal, recycling, and reuse in rural communities, with particular attention on how to incorporate local markets and networks. The research will analyze how rural SWM can be linked to the service of small towns or municipalities. In the context of Covid-19, a focus on solid waste generated from rural health centers, and practices on how this can be appropriately managed to minimize risks, will be included in this assessment. The output to measure the successful completion of these activities is a policy brief completed.
- **A1.2. Knowledge Capturing and Generation.** It includes the elaboration of technical notes based on the SIRWASH's activities in the selected countries and topics in LAC, aligned with the knowledge agenda of the Bank on rural WASH and the knowledge previously generated by SABA. The SIRWASH knowledge plan will have a dissemination strategy for the developed products in several levels: at the national level for those actions in selected countries, at the regional level to provide inputs for policy dialogue and knowledge in LAC, and; at the global level for informing south-south exchange as one of the main focus of SIRWASH. The outputs for this activity are technical notes created (4) and guidelines created (4).

3.3 **Component 2 – Strengthening a coordinated and connected Rural WASH for advocacy and policy influence (US\$407,000).** This component will focus on strengthening the articulation with actors at various levels of government (national, subnational, municipalities) and with other sectors with an emphasis on the health departments and innovation.

- **A.2.1. Support public multi-sectorial WASH platforms at the national, sub-national, and/or local levels** to institutionalize and build ownership of best practices and approaches, improve rural WASH policies, and ensure coordination between public actors around shared objectives, including coordination on sectorial policies around WASH. Dialogue with different levels of government will be maintained to disseminate and promote the replication and scaling-up of the activities of SIRWASH and the experiences and knowledge generated and disseminated by the program. This dialogue will take place mainly on the existing platforms in each country. These coordination spaces will be mapped and identified. An analysis of how rural WASH is articulated and coordinated in each of the priority countries of SIRWASH will be done, and the coordination mechanism, if necessary, reinforced. The WASH donor coordination tables are fundamental to these efforts in those countries where they are active (Ex. GRAS in Bolivia or the Grupo Agua in Peru). It can be a fantastic platform to increase the profile of rural WASH, even facilitating donor knowledge exchange and learning between the four pilot countries and specific working groups on prioritized issues (policy, monitoring, sanitation, among others). In each country, support will be given to the agenda of the WASH donor coordination tables to boost rural WASH in the agenda of these coordinating bodies. It is expected to strengthen 4 networks/communities of practice.
- **A.2.2. Foster cross-sectoral and private sector participation to leverage new-more resources for rural WASH.** A key aspect of SIRWASH is a partnership focus to engage all and increase the financial flows to the sector. Several private sector participation opportunities have been identified, such as the Coca-Cola program in rural WASH in Brazil or the "obras por impuestos" scheme in Peru, to engage the private sector in investments. In addition, programs such as the Water Resources Group 2030 have promoted private sector participation in WASH through dialogue and partnerships. SIRWASH will build on this work and opportunities to identify and encourage private sector engagement in rural WASH. Microfinance institutions are also key players to expand financing mechanisms, and new emerging financial actors will also be identified and engaged. A concrete output will be a workshop r, potentially in Brazil, to put together sector entities and the private sector, to map further opportunities for private engagement, discuss best practices and promote agreements to increase financing to the sector.
- **A.2.3. Support the dissemination and uptake of innovative technological rural WASH solutions** that respond to local conditions, including strengthening rural WASH engineering capacities and improved technological policy setting. This activity will complement the efforts to boost innovation in the IDB and SDC. One main challenge for innovation in rural WASH is sustainability. Many technical innovations that are later not scaled up or replicated become a one-time practice, making them not sustainable. A regional challenge to identify technical and social innovations in rural WASH will be done, integrating sustainability as one key aspect to evaluate.

This regional challenge, complemented with Hakathons to engage students and young professionals, will map innovations in rural WASH, which the IDB's innovation agenda may later support. During the first year, the challenge in rural WASH might focus on those created by Covid-19, focusing on handwashing and hygiene. In addition, social innovation approaches, for example, through approaches that boost the productive side of rural WASH services, can be prioritized to mitigate the impacts of the potential economic crisis. The output to measure the successful completion of this activity is a contest for innovation implemented.

- **A.2.4. Rural WASH and monitoring.** Monitoring is key to planning and prioritizing interventions and has been identified as a key aspect to improve based on the demand from governments of the pilot countries. This activity supports the regional platform. The development of the Observatory for Water and Sanitation in Latin America (OLAS) RG-T3538 was agreed by the governments of LAC to strengthen the sector information, to ensure and help the governments monitor the water and sanitation data related to the SDGs for a better-informed policy decision making. The program will support national assessments in the four pilot countries, focusing on rural areas. These assessments will include hand hygiene monitoring and services in schools and health care centers and identify inequities in access and rank vulnerable areas in the four countries. It will result in an overview of the information gaps and opportunities to improve the information systems in rural areas and establish a better baseline to improve the quality of services in rural areas in each selected country. The output expected from this activity is 4 assessments completed.
 - **A.2.5. Supporting a community of practice with a focus on rural WASH services.** To strengthen the coordination among all actors directing efforts to rural WASH, including civil society, sector entities, and other multilateral organizations, among others, a community of practice will be strengthened. There are already existing communities of practice in the sector, and an analysis will be made to select who to partner with to strengthen their LAC chapter and the exchanges of LAC with other regions, encouraging south-south exchange. This support can be in the form of promoting the community among LAC sector entities and supporting the elaboration of some workshops, webinars, or knowledge exchange activities organized through the community. A strong focus will be on promoting the participation of LAC sector officials. The output expected is the strengthening of the community of practice.
- 3.4 The total estimated cost of the TC is US \$ 657,000 financed with resources from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through the SIRWASH Facility. The budget structure is presented in the indicative budget table

Indicative Budget (in US\$)

| Activity/Component | Description | IDB/Funding | Total Funding |
|---|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Component 1. Research and Knowledge Dissemination | Knowledge Generation and dissemination | US\$250,000 | US\$250,000 |
| Component 2. Strengthening a coordinated rural WASH | Actions to strengthen the coordination of Rural WASH with other sectors and areas | US\$407,000 | US\$407,000 |
| TOTAL | | US\$657,000 | US\$657,000 |

- 3.5 The resources of this project are to be received from the Government of Switzerland through a Project Specific Grant (PSG). A PSG is administered by the Bank according to the Report on COFABS, Ad-Hocs and CLFGS and a Proposal to Unify Them as Project Specific Grants (PSGs) (Document SC-114). As contemplated in these procedures, the commitment by the Government of Switzerland will be established through a separate Administration Agreement. Under such an agreement, the resources for this project will be administered by the Bank.

IV. Executing agency and execution structure

- 4.1 The project team will be responsible for the preparation and submission to the donor of the project reporting, in compliance with the stipulations of the Administration Agreement.
- 4.2 The TC will be executed and monitored by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through the Water and Sanitation Division (INE/WSA) under the supervision of a Sector Lead Specialist on Water and Sanitation, due to the varied nature of activities included in the TC and the required actions for ensuring the coordination with the actions of SIRWASH (RG-O1691). All contracting and procurement activities in the Procurement Plan will be carried out in accordance with the Bank policies as follows: (a) AM-650 for Individual consultants; (b) GN-2765-4 and Guidelines OP-1155-4 for Consulting Firms for services of an intellectual nature and (c) GN-2303-28 for logistics and other related services; (d) Operational Guidelines for Technical Cooperation Products (GN-2629-1).
- 4.3 The products of the TC will be delivered to the team leader, who will be supported for the follow-up and monitoring of the studies and consultancy by the SIRWASH coordination team and, as the case may be, the team of specialists from SIRWASH countries will support with suggestions and comments. Likewise, they will be complemented with the supervision of field visits, specifically in the case of workshops, exchanges, among others.

V. Major issues

- 5.1 A significant risk is related to the exacerbation of the impact of COVID-19 in the region and the extension of travel limitations, restrictions on the availability of key personnel, and difficulties in fieldwork and data measurement. This could cause delays in the completion of activities that would impact the implementation of TC. To mitigate these risks, the TC will organize as many virtual activities as possible, consider tasks and data collection activities that can be performed remotely, and consider starting fieldwork in areas with less incidence of COVID-19.

VI. Exceptions to Bank policy

- 6.1 This mechanism does not require exceptions to Bank policies.

VII. Environmental and Social Strategy

- 7.1 This Technical Cooperation is not intended to finance pre-feasibility or feasibility studies for specific investment projects or environmental and social studies associated with them; therefore, this TC does not have applicable requirements of the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy Framework (MPAS).

Required Annexes:

[Results Matrix - RG-T4073](#)

[Terms of Reference - RG-T4073](#)

[Procurement Plan - RG-T4073](#)