

**Environmental and Social Assessment (ESSA) under  
a World Bank funded programme - “Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity” (RAMP)**

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“Raising and Accelerating MSME Productivity” (RAMP) is a five-year duration (2021-22 to 2025-26) new Central Sector Scheme, with a total project cost of INR 6062.45 Cr, of which the World Bank contribution is INR 3750 Cr (USD 500 Mn) and the remaining is funded by Govt. of India. RAMP is an intervention designed on the basis of the UK Sinha led Reserve Bank of India’s Expert Committee report (June 2019), which recommended various regulatory, financial and implementation reforms as well as firm level access reforms to provide targeted interventions to MSMEs across recognized challenge areas. In addition to building the Ministry of MSME’s capacity at the national level, the RAMP program will seek to scale up implementation capacity and firm coverage in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. As part of the requirements of World Bank funding, a mandatory Environment and Social Assessment (ESSA) is required to be done to verify compliances to Environmental and Social standards by the last mile enterprises covered under the various programmes of the Ministry.

Under this the World Bank assesses, at the programme level, the potential environmental and Social (E&S) effects of the programme, including direct, indirect, induced, and cumulative effects as relevant; the borrower’s capacity in terms of the legal framework, regulatory authority, organizational capacity, and performance to manage those effects; and the likelihood that the proposed operation achieves its E&S objectives. The ESSA describes the extent to which the applicable government environmental and social policies, legislations, program procedures and institutional systems are consistent with the six ‘core principles’ as detailed below and recommends actions to address the gaps and to enhance performance during programme implementation.

The draft ESSA was uploaded on this website in November 2020 to invite comments and suggestions from all stakeholders. The final ESSA document which includes the comments provided by Stakeholders may be seen here.