

# Soothe Healthcare

## Public Information Summary

<b>Host Country(ies)</b>	India
<b>Name(s) of Borrower(s)/Guaranteed Party(ies)</b>	Soothe Healthcare Private Limited
<b>Project Description</b>	Soothe Healthcare Private Limited manufactures safe and affordable women’s hygiene products and diapers with a focus on serving underserved women in non-metro areas of India.
<b>Proposed DFC Guaranty</b>	\$7,700,000 investment guaranty with a 7-year tenor
<b>All-Source Funding Total</b>	\$10,700,000
<b>Policy Review</b>	
<b>Developmental Objectives</b>	This transaction is expected to have a highly developmental impact through support for scaling up the production of safe and affordable healthcare products for women’s livelihood and health. Soothe’s target customers are women in rural areas of India where the need for accessible and affordable sanitary pads and other health products is high.
<b>Environment and Social Assessment</b>	<p>Screening: In accordance with DFC’s Environmental and Social Policy and Procedures (“ESPP”), the Project has been determined to be categorically eligible. Small scale manufacturing operations are screened as a Category B for the purpose of environmental and social assessment because impacts are site specific and readily mitigated. The major environmental and social issues associated with paper-based personal care products are the need for appropriate worker health and safety measures, waste management, life and fire safety, and labor management. The Project is subject to an assessment of climate resiliency pursuant to E.O. 13677.</p> <p>Applicable Standards: DFC’s environmental and social due diligence indicates that the Project will have impacts that must be managed in a manner consistent with the following Performance Standards:</p> <p>PS1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts;  PS2: Labor and Working Conditions;  PS3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention; and  PS4: Community Health, Safety and Security.</p>

The Project is also required to meet applicable provisions of the IFC Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) General Guidelines (April 30, 2007).

A desktop review based due diligence assessment indicates the Project involves small manufacturing facilities located within industrial parks and does not involve resettlement, biodiversity, indigenous peoples, or cultural heritage. Therefore, impacts related to PS 5 through 8 are not anticipated.

**Key Environmental and Social Issues and Mitigation:** The Project involves environmental impacts related to small manufacturing, specifically using a dry process with waste limited to plastic wrapping, paper and other material fit for recycling and/or authorized disposal. The Project sites are located in industrial parks and serviced by local water and electric utility grids. The Project's Environmental and Social Management System adequately addresses the environmental and social risks related to its operations. Industrial safety is managed by a safety officer and safety committee at each of the facilities ensuring safety in the workplace. Daily EHS inspections are performed, quarterly reporting is provided to regulators and annual E&S performance of KPIs is provided to senior management and investors. The Project has obtained Good Manufacturing practices (GMP) certificates such as ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 13485:2016, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) License with IS 5405:1980 and US FDA registration for its products. The Project also maintains current Life and Fire Safety permits for each facility. The Project Company has a human resources and contractor management system that mostly aligns with IFC Performance Standard 2. The Project Company will be required to address identified gaps regarding its internal grievance mechanism and timekeeping system, as well as provide reports that are generated through its ESMS.