

**Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Ministry of Public Health  
Afghanistan COVID19 Emergency Response  
P173775**

**ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL  
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

**[March 13<sup>th</sup> 2020]**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (hereinafter the **Recipient**) will implement the Afghanistan Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the following Ministries/agencies/units: Ministry of Public Health (**MoPH**). The International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient will implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (**ESCP**) sets out material measures and actions, any specific documents or plans, as well as the timing for each of these.
3. The Recipient is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry, agency or unit referenced in 1 above.
4. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Association by the Recipient as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Association will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
5. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to assessment of Project performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, [the Recipient / or *delegate(s)*] will agree to the changes with the Association and will update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP will be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the Association and the [Recipient / or *delegate(s)*]. The [Recipient / or *delegate(s)*] will promptly re-disclose the updated ESCP.
6. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the Recipient shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<b>REGULAR REPORTING:</b> Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to, stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log.	Quarterly throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Public Health
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</b> The MoPH shall establish and maintain a PIU with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project and implement the ESMF and SEP.	<p>The PIU coordinator, an environmental and social specialist and a health and safety specialist will be assigned to the project within one month after the Effective Date.</p> <p>Current Sehatmandi PIU's E&amp;S staff will support implementation of the ESMF in the interim.</p> <p>PIU/PMU should be maintained throughout Project implementation</p>	Ministry of Public Health

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 <b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</b></p> <p>a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, including to ensure that individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project in accordance with ESSs and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be prepared pursuant to the provisions of the Financing Agreement. The ESMF will include an updated version of the Health Care Waste Management Plan (HCWMP) based on the existing HCWMP prepared for the Sehatmandi Project. ESMF will also include a template for Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as necessary for low-medium scale construction works.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans or other instruments required for the respective Project activities as per the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs and the ESMF in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, any environmental and social management plans or other instruments, ESS2 requirements, and any other required ESHS measures, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p> <p>d. Update environmental and social instruments based on updated guidance by WHO on COVID19 and any applicable requirements under the relevant ESSs, the EHSs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) and relevant WHO guidelines satisfactory to the WB.</p>	<p>a. The ESMF prepared for Sehatmandi Project shall be updated in 30 days after the Effective Date. Activities which involve establishment of isolation centers, involving any type of construction work and activities requiring ESMF screening cannot start before the ESMF is consulted and disclosed and other environmental and social assessments (if required after screening) are in place.</p> <p>b. Plans or instruments prepared before carrying out of the relevant activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant activities and thereafter ensure that contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications in their contracts through their involvement in the respective Project activities.</p> <p>d. The most updated guidelines should be used while updating the ESMF and SEP in 30 days after Effectiveness and the revisions in WHO, EHSs, GIIPs should be continuously followed and addressed in E&amp;S instruments throughout project implementation. Most updated versions of E&amp;S instruments shall be used during project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Health</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p><b>EXCLUSIONS:</b> The following type of activities shall not be eligible for finance under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g. loss of major natural habitat) impacts</li> <li>• Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment other than during treatment of COVID-19 cases</li> <li>• Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict</li> <li>• Activities that may affect lands or rights of indigenous people or other vulnerable minorities,</li> <li>• Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or impacts on cultural heritage</li> <li>• All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.</li> </ul>	These exclusions shall be applied as part of the screening process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	Ministry of Public Health
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	<p><b>LABOR MANAGEMENT:</b> The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS2, in a manner acceptable to the Association, including through, inter alia, implementing adequate occupational health and safety measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures), setting out grievance arrangements for Project workers, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
2.2	<p>The Recipient shall implement adequate occupational health and safety measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures) in line with the ESMF, the applicable requirements of ESS2, the ESHGs and other relevant GIIP including the WHO guidelines on COVID19 in all facilities, including laboratories, quarantine and isolation centers, and screening posts.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
2.3	<p>The Recipient shall ensure that all health workers adhere to the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional conduct.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.4	The Recipient shall establish a grievance hotline and assignment of focal points to address these grievances within MoPH.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
2.5	The Recipient will prohibit child labor (any person under the age of 18) due to the hazardous work situation.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
3.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above, including, inter alia, measures to: manage health care wastes, and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
4.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above, including, inter alia, measures to: minimize the potential for community exposure to communicable diseases; ensure that individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project; manage the risks of the use of security personnel; manage the risks of labor influx; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
4.2	The Recipient will put measures in place to prevent or minimize the spread of the infectious disease/COVID-19 to the community.	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Public Health
4.3	The Recipient will implement emergency preparedness measures in case of laboratory accidents/ emergencies e.g. a fire response or natural phenomena event	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Public Health
4.4	The Recipient will operate quarantine and isolation centers in line with the applicable requirements of ESS3, the ESHGs and other relevant GIIP including the WHO guidelines on “Key considerations for repatriation and quarantine of travelers in relation to the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV”.	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Public Health
4.5	The Recipient will ensure the avoidance of any form of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by relying on the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional conduct for all workers in the quarantine facilities as well as the provision of gender-sensitive infrastructure such as segregated toilets and enough light in quarantine and isolation centers.	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Public Health
4.6	The Recipient will operate quarantine and isolation centers and screening posts in a conflict-sensitive manner, avoiding any aggravation of local communal conflicts.	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Public Health
4.7	The Recipient will ensure that any security personnel operating for quarantine and isolation centers and screening posts follow strict rules of engagement and avoid any escalation.	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Public Health

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
5.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
5.2	All eventual construction will be undertaken within existing facilities and thus at this point ESS5 is not considered relevant. In case land acquisition would be necessary, plans would be developed to the satisfaction of the WB ESSs prior to commencement of any land acquisition.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
6.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
	Not relevant		
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
8.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.		
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
	Not relevant.		
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN:</b> Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association, which shall include, inter alia, measures to generate community trust and engagement in the carrying out of the Project activities.	The SEP will be prepared updated in 30 days following the Effectiveness date. And then the SEP will be continuously updated throughout the project implementation.  The SEP will be implemented throughout the project.	Ministry of Public Health
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT INFORMATION AND DISCLOSURE:</b> Adopt measures ESMF to ensure that the carrying out of Project activities includes stakeholder engagement and information disclosure consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association, including, inter alia, measures to generate community trust and engagement in the carrying out of the Project activities.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.2	<p><b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</b> Accessible grievance arrangements shall be made publicly available to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</b>			
	<p>Training topics for personnel involved in the implementation of Project activities will among others include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations</li> <li>• Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the COVID-19</li> <li>• Specimen collection and shipment</li> <li>• Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients</li> <li>• Risk communication and community engagement</li> <li>• WHO guidelines on quarantine including case management</li> </ul>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health