

**The Republic of Maldives
Ministry of Health**

**Maldives COVID-19 Emergency Response and
Health Systems Preparedness Project (P173801)**

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

18 March 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Government of Republic of Maldives (hereinafter the **Recipient**) will implement the Maldives COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the following Ministries/agencies/units: Ministry of Health (**MoH**). 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 Republic of Maldives 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 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. The Recipient 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
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	REGULAR REPORTING: 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 Health
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The MoH shall establish and maintain a PIU with qualified staff and resources, including an environmental and social specialist and a health and safety specialist, 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>The Current E&S staff of the Maldives Clean Environment Project (MCEP), Accelerating Sustainable Private Investment in Renewable Energy Project (ASPIRE) and the Maldives Enhancing Employability and Entrepreneurship in Youth Project (MEERY) will support implementation of the ESMF in the interim.</p> <p>PIU/PMU should be maintained throughout Project implementation.</p>	Ministry of Health

<p>1.2</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</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 for the Project. The ESMF will also include a Health Care Waste Management Plan (HCWMP) and a template for an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as necessary for low-medium scale construction works. The ESMF will also include the procedural requirements for activities that will be financed under the CERC component.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement the HCWMP, ESMP and any other environmental and social management plans or other instruments required for the respective Project activities as per the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the ESHGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including relevant WHO Guidelines 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 COVID-19 and any applicable requirements under the relevant ESSs, the ESHGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) and relevant WHO guidelines satisfactory to the WB.</p>	<p>a. The ESMF shall be prepared for the Project within 15 days post negotiations and shall be updated within 30 days after the Effectiveness Date. Activities which involve establishment of isolation centers, involving any type of construction work and all other 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 throughout the implementation of 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, ESHGs, GIIPs should be continuously followed and addressed in E&S instruments throughout project implementation. Most updated versions of E&S instruments shall be used during project implementation.</p> <p>e. Throughout project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>
------------	---	--	---------------------------

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>e. Ensure that terms of reference for studies, capacity building, training and any outputs of technical assistance provided under the Project, are acceptable to the Association and duly incorporate and take into consideration the requirements of the ESSs.</p>		
<p>1.3 EXCLUSIONS: The following type of activities shall not be eligible for finance under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g. loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts on wetlands, protected terrestrial areas /marine protected areas within the Republic of Maldives. • Activities that may further elevate the existing solid waste management challenges of the Maldives, including sea dumping of health care waste. • 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 • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict • Activities that may affect lands or rights of indigenous people or other vulnerable minorities • Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or adverse impacts on cultural heritage • All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project. 	<p>f. These exclusions shall be applied as part of the screening process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>
<p>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</p>		
<p>2.1 LABOR MANAGEMENT: 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>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.2	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 COVID-19 in all facilities, including laboratories, quarantine and isolation centers, and screening posts.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health
2.3	The Recipient shall ensure that all health workers adhere to the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional conduct.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health
2.4	The Recipient shall establish a grievance hotline and assignment of focal points to address these grievances within MoH.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of 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 Health
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
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 Health
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
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; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH).	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health
4.2	The Recipient will put measures in place to prevent or minimize the spread of the COVID-19 disease to the community.	Throughout project implementation.	Ministry of 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 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 Health
4.5	The Recipient will ensure the avoidance of any form of SEA 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 adequate lighting in quarantine and isolation centers.	Throughout project implementation.	Ministry of Health

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
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 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 Health
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health
5.2	All eventual construction will be undertaken within existing facilities, and activities likely to require land acquisition are included in the Project's negative list; thus, at this point, ESS5 is not considered currently relevant.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	Measures to effectively screen for and manage risks and impacts on biodiversity will be identified and included as part of the ESMF. a	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	This standard is not relevant for the Project.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	This standard is not relevant for the Project.		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.	The SEP will be updated within 30 days after the Effectiveness Date. The SEP will be continuously updated throughout the project implementation, and implemented throughout the project.	Ministry of Health
10.1	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: 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.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>Training topics for personnel involved in the implementation of Project activities will among others include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations • Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the COVID-19 • Specimen collection and shipment • Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients • Risk communication and community engagement • WHO guidelines on quarantine including case management • Infectious waste management procedures and HCWM within COVID-19 care facilities. 	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>
<p>The ESMF prepared under action 1.2 will include a draft training plan that will cover key topics including the following in line with the ESMF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to ESF, Processes and best practices as per the ESMF • Environment and social monitoring and reporting • Training on Stakeholder engagement and consultation • Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) • Emergency Preparedness and Response • Occupational health and safety including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations. • Environmental Awareness • Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) • Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and other communicable diseases 	<p>The ESMF will be updated during project implementation to include further detailed trainings which will be implemented throughout Project Implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>