

**Government of Sierra Leone
Ministry of Health and Sanitation
Sierra Leone COVID-19 Emergency
Preparedness and Response P173775**

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

March 19, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Sierra Leone (hereinafter the **Recipient**) will implement the Sierra Leone Covid-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (**MoHS**) through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of the MoHS. 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, MOHS, on behalf of 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. MOHS 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	EOC/ MoHS
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The Emergency Operations Center under the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) shall establish and maintain qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including an environmental, health and safety specialist and social specialist to implement the ESMF, ESMP and SEP.	<p>The Environmental, health and safety specialist and social specialist will be assigned to the EOC before the carrying out of Project activities and should be maintained throughout Project implementation</p> <p>Current focal points from the Environmental and Health Directorate of MoHS will provide the necessary support in the interim.</p>	EOC/ MoHS

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 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 be based on an updated version of the ESMF of the REDISSE Project. The ESMF will also include a template for a medical waste management plan which will be part of the ESMP</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 the EHSGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including WHO guidelines on Laboratory Biosafety Guidance related to the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)", repatriation and quarantine of travelers in relation to the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV", Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, and any other relevant 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>a. The ESMF for the REDISSE Project to be updated in 30 days after the Effective Date. Assessment to be conducted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</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 carrying out of such activities.</p>	<p>EOC/ MoHS</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p>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 • Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment not related to COVID-19 treatment • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict • Activities that may affect rights of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups • Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or adverse impacts on cultural heritage • All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project. 	These exclusions shall be applied as part of the screening process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	EOC/ MoHS
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>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>	Throughout Project implementation.	ECO/ MoHS
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p>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.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	EOC/ MoHS
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
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.	EOC/ MoHS
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.		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	Not relevant		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant.		
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	A draft SEP has been prepared and shall be updated in 30 days following the Effectiveness date. SEP to be implemented throughout Project implementation.	EOC/ MoHS
10.2	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.	ECO/ MoHS
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 	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>EOC/ MoHS</p>