

**Republic of Malawi
Ministry of Health and Population
Malawi COVID-19 Emergency Response and
Health Systems Preparedness Project (P173806)**

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

April 08, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Malawi (hereinafter the Recipient) will implement the Malawi COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health and Population. 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 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 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 through its Ministry of Health and Population will promptly 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		
<p>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.</p>	<p>Quarterly throughout the Project implementation period.</p>	<p><i>Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP)</i></p>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS		
<p>1.1 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The Ministry of Health and Population shall establish and maintain a Project implementation unit (PIU) with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project and implement the requirements of the ESMF and SEP, including a specialist with medical waste management and health and safety expertise (in addition to the current environment and social safeguard specialist).</p>	<p>A specialist with medical waste management and health and safety expertise will be assigned to the project within one month after the Effective Date.</p> <p>PIU should be maintained throughout Project implementation</p>	<p><i>MoHP</i></p>
<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, in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be prepared, disclosed and adopted for the Project, 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. The ESMF will include a template for Infection Control and Health Waste Management Plan (ICHWMP) as well as a template for Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as necessary for isolation centers construction.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans or other instruments required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the ESHGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including relevant WHO guidelines on COVID-19, 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. ESMF to be prepared within 1 month after the Effective Date. Assessment to be conducted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</p> <p>b. Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p>	<p><i>MoHP</i></p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.3 EXCLUSIONS: Exclude the following types of activities as ineligible for financing 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 treatment of COVID-19 cases • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict • 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>During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	<p><i>MoHP</i></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><i>MoHP</i></p>
<p>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</p>		
	<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>	
<p>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</p>		
	<p>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.</p>	
<p>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</p>		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
Not currently relevant. In the event that any proposed activities involve land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement, relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered under action 1.2 above.		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES		
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		
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: Update, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.	A draft SEP was prepared and disclosed during Project preparation and shall be updated no later than 30 days after the Effective Date. The SEP shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period	<i>MoHP</i>
10.2 CASE MANAGEMENT. In line with the SEP, the Project will ensure systematic case management, allowing communication between quarantined people and their relatives.	Throughout Project implementation.	<i>MoHP</i>
10.3 GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: An accessible grievance arrangement shall be established and 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.	<i>MoHP</i>
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)		
TRAINING: Provide training to staff of health delivery facilities on the adequate use of personal protection equipment, COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations, risk communication and community engagement and on diagnosis, care and notification of positive COVID-19 cases.	Throughout Project implementation.	<i>MoHP</i>