

**Republic of Uzbekistan  
Ministry of Digital Technologies**

**Uzbekistan Digital Inclusion Project (P179108)**

**Draft**

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

**January 2023**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Uzbekistan will implement the Uzbekistan Digital Inclusion Project (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Digital Technologies, as set out in the Financing Agreement. The International Development Association (Association) has agreed to provide financing (P179108) for the Project, as set out in the referred agreement.
2. The Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Association. The ESCP is a part of the Financing Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement(s).
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) instruments that shall be adopted and implemented under the Project, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Association. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association.
4. As agreed by the Association and the Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Ministry of Digital Technologies and the Association agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Ministry of Digital Technologies. The Ministry of Digital Technologies of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<p><b>REGULAR REPORTING</b></p> <p>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 the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&amp;S instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanisms. Reporting shall also cover on compliance of the project on Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Labor Management Procedures (LMP), and Environmental and Social Framework (ESMF).</p>	<p>Submit six-monthly reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date.</p> <p>Submit each report to the Association no later than 30 days after the end of each reporting period but the mission.</p>	<p>Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under the Ministry of Digital Technologies</p>
B	<p><b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</b></p> <p>Promptly notify the Association of any incident or accident related to the Project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers, including, inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury specific to the project activities. Provide sufficient detail regarding the scope, severity, and possible causes of the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address it, and any information provided by any contractor and/or supervising firm, as appropriate.</p> <p>Subsequently, at the World Bank’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose ant measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p>Notify the Association no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report to the Association on the incident within three working days of the initial communication and reporting of the incident.</p>	<p>PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies</p>
C	<p><b>CONTRACTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS</b></p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on ESHS performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Association.</p>	<p>Submit the reports to the Association as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.</p>	<p>PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies</p>
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<p><b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b></p> <p>Establish and maintain the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including one environmental specialist, one social specialist and one stakeholder engagement specialist. Maintain the organizational structure as necessary throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Specialists of the PIU responsible for Environmental and Social oversight will be recruited prior to Project Effectiveness.</p> <p>Ensure staff responsible for environment and social risks are vetted and, if necessary, trained by the Bank Team no later than 60 days after Project effectiveness.</p>	<p>PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		Thereafter maintained throughout Project implementation.	
1.2	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</b></p> <p>Finalize the Project Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which specifies rules and procedures for assessing subproject-specific environmental and social risks and for preparing subproject-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs).</p>	Prior to Project Appraisal. The final draft ESMF to be disclosed for public consultations should be reviewed and accepted by the World Bank team.	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies
1.3	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</b></p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP and ESMF, including, inter alia, the relevant E&amp;S instruments, the Labor Management Procedures, and code of conduct into the ESMPs.</p> <p>Include ESMPs in all ESHS specifications of the procurement documents with contractors responsible for installing of internet infrastructure or civil works. Thereafter ensure that contractors comply with the ESMPs requirements and ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>Prior to the preparation of procurement documents.</p> <p>Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Adopt the ESMP before launching the bidding process for the respective civil works or equipment installation works that requires the adoption of such ESMP. Once adopted, implement the respective ESMP throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies</p> <p>Contractors</p>
1.4	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY CONTRACTS</b></p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects ESCP, including the relevant aspects of the ESMF, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), into the terms of reference. Thereafter ensure that the approaches and outputs of the consultants comply with the terms of reference.</p>	<p>Prior to the preparation of procurement documents.</p> <p>Supervise consultants throughout Project implementation.</p>	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	<p><b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b></p> <p>Adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project, including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance mechanism for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.</p>	<p>LMP shall be prepared, consulted upon, and disclosed prior to the completion of the project appraisal.</p> <p>Measures concerning suppliers shall be adopted before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities and implemented thereafter throughout the relevant Project activities.</p>	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		All actions under ESS2 shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.	
2.2	<b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b> Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2. A separate window will be opened under the GM to address issues related to SEA/SH.	Adopt Grievance Mechanism prior to project Effectiveness and maintain it throughout Project Implementation.	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies
2.3	<b>PROJECT WORKERS TRAINING</b> Require contractors to deliver training of recruited workers to raise awareness about their rights and obligations including worker’s grievance mechanism and to implement the Code of Conduct (CoC) and train its workers on the prohibition of SEA/SH.	Each worker prior the signing of Code of Conduct shall take a training to commence his/her job.	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies / Contractors
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
3.1	Include in site-specific ESMP requirements for implementation and updating of e-waste management measures to be defined in ESMF.	In advance of award of contract for each site where activities involving such items are undertaken.	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies
3.2	Require the contractor to implement the ESMP with regard to specific measures related to the disposal of excavated material, damaged shipments of asphalt/concrete, metal, packaging waste, cable-related waste and hazardous waste such as asbestos-containing debris, as well as the handling of building materials and other environmental measures during reconstruction and construction.	Throughout project life	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
4.1	Relevant aspects of ESS 4 fall under actions 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, and 2.1, above, including: minimizing exposure to hazards; and preventing/responding to sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment.	Throughout project life.	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies
4.2	<b>GBV AND SEA RISKS.</b> Require the Contractors to include in site-specific ESMPs actions to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) in line with ESMF and enforce their implementation. This includes but is not limited to development and adherence to Code of Conduct for all employees, SEA/SH -sensitized grievance mechanism, awareness raising of all employees and community members on SEA/SH risks and mitigation measures.	Prior to commencement of works Enforcement throughout Project implementation.	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies  Contractors
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
ESS 5 is not relevant for the project.			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
Activities that could lead to the potential for temporary or permanent forced land acquisition, restrictions on land use, economic activities or access to resources to households, legal entities regardless of the type of legal ownership will be excluded from financing under this Project. The ESMF will provide a social screening form and based on the screening results, any activity involving involuntary land acquisition, coercion to acquire land, or negative impacts on economic livelihoods and standards will be excluded from financing.			
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
	<b>EXCLUSION OF CRITICAL HABITATS AND PROTECTED AREAS</b> Include in the ESMF requirements to exclude activities within Critical natural habitats, and designated protected areas	Prior to project Appraisal	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
ESS 7 is not relevant for the project			
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
8.1	<b>CHANCE FIND PROCEDURES</b> Include chance-find procedures in the works contracts, in case the rehabilitation works involve earthworks	In advance of award of works contract for each site where activities involving such items are undertaken.	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
ESS 9 is not relevant for the project			
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</b> Adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.	SEP finalized, consulted on, and disclosed prior to the completion of project appraisal.	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies
10.2	<b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b> Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all Project-affected parties, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10.  The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.	GM is established by PIU prior to commencement of project activities and thereafter maintained and operated throughout Project implementation.	PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT</b>			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<p>CS1 <b>Provide training to PMU staff and the project teams on:</b>                      As part of project launch activities, conduct ESF training in Tashkent and targeted project regions for the following audiences:                      Responsible IT Park staff involved in the project.                      PIU staff                      Regional staffs of PIU/IT park involved in the project  <b>Main topics:</b>                      1. Enviornmental and Social Framework.                      2.LMP including Handling workers’ and beneficiaries’ Grievances.                      3.Prevention and response to potential cases of GBV/SEA/SH and application of Codes of Conduct.                      4.ESMF and E-Waste Management.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies</p>
<p>CS2 Training for Project workers on occupational health and safety including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations, worker’s grievance mechanism, community health and safety including SEA/SH.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation. but prior to commencing of works</p>	<p>PIU under the Ministry of Digital Technologies</p>