

**Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Public Health**

**Additional Financing for and Restructuring of
the COVID-19 Emergency Response and
Pandemic Preparedness Project (P176012)
Draft**

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

[January, 2021]¹

¹ To be updated to the Negotiation Date in due course.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (hereinafter the Recipient) shall implement the Additional Financing for and Restructuring of the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Public Health (**MoPH**). The International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient shall carry out the Project in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**). To this end, this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (**ESCP**) sets out material measures and actions to be carried out or caused to be carried out by the Recipient, including the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, grievance management and the environmental and social assessments and instruments to be prepared or updated, disclosed, consulted, adopted and implemented under the ESCP and the ESSs, all in a manner acceptable to the Association.
3. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP shall be monitored and reported to the Association by the Recipient as required by the ESCP and the provisions of the Financing Agreement.
4. 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 shall update the ESCP to reflect the agreed-upon changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP shall be documented through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipient. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
5. 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 Public Health
B	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS: 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 , <i>including, inter alia, any COVID outbreak in the Project area.</i> Provide sufficient detail regarding 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 supervising entity, as appropriate. Subsequently, as per the Association’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence.	Notify the Association within 24 hours after learning of the incident or accident. A report would be provided within 72 hours on the incident to the Association.	Ministry of Public Health
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The MoPH shall maintain the Sehatmandi Coordination Unit (SCO) with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including a Vaccine coordination officer, an environmental specialist, a social specialist and, a health and safety specialist.	<p>The Vaccine coordination officer, an environmental, a social specialist and a health and safety specialist will recruited under the parent project will support the activities under the AF.</p> <p>Parent project’s SCO’s E&S staff will support implementation of the ESMF in the interim.</p> <p>SCO will be maintained throughout Project implementation</p>	Ministry of Public 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, the Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSs) and its OHS component of the EHSs. Here is the link to the whole EHSs: http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/ifc+sustainability/our+approach/risk+management/ehsguidelines and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including relevant WHO guidelines 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 Parent 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, consult, adopt and implement any environmental and social management plans (e.g. health-care waste management plans), instruments or other measures required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the EHSs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including relevant WHO guidelines to, inter alia, ensure access to and allocation of Project benefits in a fair, equitable and inclusive manner, taking into account the needs of individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, including health workers, teachers, security personnel, prisoners, people aged over 50 years old, people with co-morbidities, nomadic people, internally displaced persons, returnees from Iran and Pakistan, government employees who work with crowds, and men and women 20-50 years old living in the settings with high density of infection.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, the ESMF, 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</p>	<p>a. The ESMF prepared for the Parent Project shall be updated prior to the Effective Date of the project. Assessment shall be conducted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</p> <p>b. Plans/instruments shall be prepared, disclosed, consulted and adopted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>c. The relevant ESHS measures shall be incorporated into the procurement documents before launching the procurement process for the relevant</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Health</p>
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<p>and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p> <p>d. Adopt procedures, protocols and/or other measures to ensure Project beneficiaries that receive vaccines under the Project do so under a program that does not include forced vaccination and is acceptable to the Association, as set out in the ESMF.</p>	<p>Project activities, and shall thereafter complied with throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>d. Protocol and procedure for consent to be developed before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p>	
<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) impacts • 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 vulnerable minorities, • Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or 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>Ministry of Public Health</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.4	<p>CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING</p> <p>a. Ensure that the CREC (if activated) includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements for the implementation of Component 5, in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>s</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, consult and adopt any environmental and social (E&S) management plans or instruments which may be required for activities under the of Component 5 of the Project, in accordance with the ESMF and the ESSs, and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&S management plans or instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&S management plans or instruments.</p>	<p>a) The adoption of the CERC manual in form and substance acceptable to the Bank is a withdrawal condition as in line with the Parent Project's Financing Agreement (Schedule 2 of the Agreement).</p> <p>b) The E&S management plans or instruments shall be prepared, disclosed, consulted, and thereafter adopted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities under the Component 5. The E&S management plans or instruments shall be implemented in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.</p>	Ministry of Public Health
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, <i>as set out in Labor Management Procedures (LMP) to be adopted for the Project</i>, including through, inter alia, implementing adequate occupational health and safety measures (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response measures), setting out grievance mechanisms for Project workers, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms.</p>	The LMP shall be prepared prior to the project effectiveness and thereafter implemented throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
	<p>Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above, including, inter alia, measures to: carry out the purchase, storage, transportation and handling of vaccines (including, ultra-cold chain management) in a safe manner and in accordance with the EHSs, and other relevant GIIP including relevant WHO guidelines; and adequately manage and dispose of health care wastes (including, vaccines) and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
4.1	<p>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; establish and implement appropriate quality management systems to manage the risks and the impacts that services provided and activities carried out under the Project may have on community health and safety; 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>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
4.2	The Project will use the current contractual modes for Sehatmandi and COVID-19 Emergency projects and will use the facilitation of UNICEF, NGOs and the relevant local community leaders to deliver the vaccines and help the implementing staff of vaccination.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Public Health
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
	Not relevant		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	Not relevant		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	Not relevant		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	Not relevant		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Prepare or revise, disclose, consult, adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) 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.</p>	<p>The parent project SEP has already been updated for the AF and will be disclosed before appraisal. The SEP shall be implemented throughout Project implementation and updated as and when necessary.</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Health</p>
10.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: An accessible grievance mechanism shall be established, publicized, maintained and operated 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.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall also receive, register and address concerns and grievances related to sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment in a safe and confidential manner, including through the referral of survivors to gender-based violence service providers.</p>	<p>The existing GRM of Sehatmandi project has been updated and made functional. The GRM will be utilized throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Health</p>
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	<p>SCO and other relevant implementing support staff responsible for the Project to receive training on the Project's ESHS plans and instruments, fair, equitable and inclusive access and allocation of Project benefits [<i>including with regards to vaccines</i>], and the roles and responsibilities of different key agencies in the ESF implementation.</p>	<p>No later than 60 days of the Effective Date and periodically with the addition of new Project team members join the Project throughout implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Public Health</p>

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<p>In consultation with relevant stakeholders, further training for personnel involved in the implementation of Project activities will be arranged on following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe administration of the Vaccine and medical waste management • 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 • Maintenance and safety of the vehicles used for vaccine transportation • Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment 		