

Republic of Tajikistan

The Tajikistan Emergency COVID-19 Project

Including Additional Financing and Additional Financing 1 and 2

ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

January 22, 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Tajikistan (the **Recipient**) is implementing the Tajikistan Emergency COVID-19 Project and will implement two Additional Financings for the Tajikistan Emergency COVID-19 Project (the **Project**¹), with the involvement of the following Ministries/agencies/units: Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan (**MOHSP**) and State Agency for Social Protection under MOHSP. The International Development Association (hereinafter the **Association**) has agreed to provide additional financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient shall implement material measures and actions so that the Project activities are 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 MOHSP or its subordinate agencies and units.
4. 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 conditions of the legal agreement, and the Association shall monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout the implementation of the Project.
5. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during the 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 agree to the changes with the Association and shall 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 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.

¹ As once the Additional Finance becomes effective, it becomes part of the Parent Project, "The Project" refers to the entire Tajikistan Emergency COVID-19 Project, including the Additional Financing.

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	MOHSP
B	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS: Promptly notify the Association of any incident or accident related or having an impact on the Project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers. Provide sufficient detail regarding the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken to address it, and include information provided by any contractor and supervising entity, as appropriate. Subsequently, as per the Association's request, prepare a detailed report with root cause analysis on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence. Incident reporting will include any significant COVID-19 outbreak among workers at Project financed Health Care Facility, laboratory, or other related site. Indicate measures taken or planned to be taken to address it and information provided by any contractor and supervising entity, as appropriate.	Promptly after taking notice of the incident or accident, not later than 48 hours. Provide a detailed report not later than 7 days thereafter	MOHSP
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSP) shall maintain the PIU with qualified staff and resources to support the management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, including Environmental Risk Management, Social Risk Management, Medical Waste Management, and Occupational Health and Safety Specialists.	The PIU staff, including Environmental Risk Management, Social Risk Management, Medical Waste Management, and Occupational Health and Safety Specialists, should be maintained throughout Project implementation	MOHSP

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities in accordance with ESS1 and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prepared for the Project and to be updated for the Additional Financing. The updated ESMF will include templates for site specific instruments, Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), Infection Control and Medical Waste Management Plan (ICWMP), ESMPs including Emergency Response Plans for Oxygen Supply Systems and Refill Stations, and Vaccine Delivery and Distribution Manual (including necessary medical waste management). The updated ESMF shall be prepared, disclosed, consulted upon and adopted and thereafter implemented. Assessment includes ensuring 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.</p>	<p>The ESMF to be updated, redisclosed and consulted upon not later than the Effective Date of AF 1. Screening under the ESMF shall continue to be conducted before the carrying out of the respective Project activities.</p>	MOHSP
1.2.1	<p>Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans (ESMPs), instruments or other plans required for the respective Project activities as per the screening process, in accordance with the ESSs, the updated ESMF, in a manner acceptable to the Association, and other 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 as relevant with regard to vaccines].</p>	<p>ESMPs or instruments acceptable to the Association, shall be consulted upon and disclosed before beginning any rehabilitation works, and thereafter implemented throughout the implementation of such activities.</p>	MOHSP
1.2.2	<p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCPs, 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. All contracts, including civil works and vaccine transportation contracts shall include industry standard Codes of Conduct that include measures to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse /Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH).</p>	<p>Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities and thereafter ensure that contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications in their contracts through their involvement in the respective Project activities.</p>	MOHSP
1.2.3	<p>Adopt procedures, protocols, and/or other measures to ensure voluntary consent of Project beneficiaries that receive vaccines under the Project as set forth in the updated ESMF.</p>	<p>Not later than the Effective Date.</p>	MOHSP

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 on the environment • 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. 	These exclusions shall be applied as part of the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	MOHSP
1.4	<p>TARGETED SOCIAL ASSISTANCE: Continuous monitoring of food prices effecting cash transfers if food prices rise</p>	Monitoring to be done for the first six months, then as and when the situation warrants.	Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
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 and the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) adopted for the parent project, 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, ensuring that the GM is equipped or adapted to address SEA/SH allegations, and incorporating labor requirements, standard Codes of Conduct to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHSP
2.2	Implement the existing Labor Management Procedures developed as part of the POM and incorporate any updates specific to the AF, where required.	The LMP is updated by the Effectiveness date of the AF Project.	MOHSP
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, as stated in the site-specific ICWMPs.	Throughout Project implementation for individual healthcare facilities within forty-five days of their being identified.	MOHSP

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
3.2	Relevant measures on carrying out the purchase, storage, transportation and handling of vaccines (including cold chain management) in a safe manner and in accordance with the EHSGs and other relevant GIIP including relevant WHO guidelines and adequately manage and dispose of healthcare waste (including vaccines).	Throughout AF Project implementation	MOHSP
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; 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.	MOHSP
4.2	<p>USE OF MILITARY OR SECURITY PERSONNEL: While use of security forces is not anticipated, in the event that they do need to be deployed, the following measures shall be adopted to ensure that the engagement of security personnel in the implementation of Project activities for provision of security to Project workers, sites and/or assets, is carried out in accordance with the ESSs:</p> <p>a. Assess the risks and impacts of engagement of the security personnel, as part of the assessment referred to in action 1.2 a) above, and implement measures to manage such risks and impacts, <i>including a stand-alone Security Management Plan</i>, guided by the principles of proportionality and GIIP, and by applicable law, in relation to hiring, rules of conduct, training, equipping, and monitoring of such security or military personnel;</p> <p>b. Adopt and enforce standards, protocols and codes of conduct for the selection and use of security or military personnel, and screen such personnel to verify that they have not engaged in past unlawful or abusive behavior, including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH) or excessive use of force;</p> <p>c. Ensure that MOHSP enters into a memorandum of understanding (MoU), with the line ministry in control of security forces and relevant Security Unit, setting out the arrangements for the engagement of the security personnel under the Project, including compliance with the relevant requirements of this ESCP;</p>	From the moment the security forces deployment is planned till the end of the Project implementation.	MOHSP

	<p>d. Ensure that such personnel is adequately instructed and trained, prior to deployment and on a regular basis, on the use of force and appropriate conduct (including in relation to civilian-military engagement, SEA and SH, and other relevant areas), as set out in the ESMF, Security Management Plan, MoU;</p> <p>e. Ensure that the stakeholder engagement activities under the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) include a communication strategy on the involvement of security personnel under the Project;</p> <p>f. Ensure that any concerns or grievances regarding the conduct of security personnel are received, monitored, documented (taking into account the need to protect confidentiality), resolved through the Project's grievance mechanism (see action 10.2 below) and reported to the Association no later than 30 days after being received; and</p> <p>g. Where the Association shall require, after consultation with the Recipient: (i) promptly appoint a third- party monitor consultant, with terms of reference, qualifications and experience satisfactory to the Association, to visit and monitor the Project area where security personnel are deployed, collect relevant data and communicate with Project stakeholders and beneficiaries; (ii) require the third-party monitor consultant to prepare and submit monitoring reports, which shall be promptly made available to and discussed with the Association; and (iii) promptly take any actions, as may be requested by the Association upon its review of the third-party monitor consultant reports.</p>		
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	Not relevant		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	All works will be conducted within the existing footprint of facilities; hence, this standard is not considered currently relevant to the proposed project interventions.		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	All works will be conducted within the existing footprint of facilities; hence, this standard is not considered currently relevant to the proposed project interventions.		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			

10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP): Update, consult upon and redisclose the SEP, acceptable to the Association, to incorporate the AF project activities.</p> <p>Implement the SEP consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association. If necessary, make updates to the SEP during project implementation.</p>	<p>Updated SEP, acceptable to the Association, shall be consulted upon and redisclosed before the AF Project Effective date.</p> <p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	MOHSP
10.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Accessible grievance arrangements shall be made publicly available to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project activities, consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall also receive, register and address concerns and grievances related to the, 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 grievance mechanism shall also receive, register and address concerns arising from unintended health consequences after vaccination especially those resulting in serious adverse effects.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	MOHSP
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
11.1	<p>PMU and other relevant implementing staff and contractors responsible for the Project to receive training on:</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 and Tajikistan Sanitary Regulations and Norms • Projects ESHS plans and instruments • Medical Waste Management and Disposal • Risk Management for Oxygen Supply Systems and Refill stations/Emergency Response Plans • SEA/SH prevention • Use of security personnel during Covid pandemic situation, including vaccine distribution stage • Fair, equitable and inclusive access and allocation of Project benefits, including with respect to vaccines • Vaccine Delivery and Distribution Manual application • ESF Training: Roles and responsibilities of key agencies in ESF implementation. 	<p>Initial training must be completed no later 30 days after the Effectiveness Date, and subsequent trainings are carried out as new Project team members join throughout project implementation</p>	MOHSP

