

GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

**Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD),
Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and Kabul
Municipality (KM)**

**COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORT FOR AFGHAN COMMUNITIES AND HOUSEHOLDS
(REACH) - P174119**

ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

May 10, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and Kabul Municipality (KM) (hereinafter the Borrower) shall implement the COVID-19 Relief Effort for Afghan Communities and Households (“REACH”) project (hereinafter the Project). The International Development Association and Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Borrower shall implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**) of the Environmental and Social Framework (**ESF**). 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 Borrower is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministries and agencies referenced in 1. above.
4. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the World Bank by REACH project implementation agencies (IAs) as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Bank will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
5. As agreed by the Bank and the implementing entities, 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 IAs will agree to the changes with the Bank 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 Bank and the Borrower. The Borrower 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 Borrower shall provide, after a thorough assessment, 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	<p>REGULAR REPORTING: Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to the status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and the operation of the Project’s grievance mechanisms.</p>	Quarterly throughout Project implementation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural Areas: MRRD and Facilitating Partners (FPs) 2. Urban Areas: IDLG and FPs 3. Kabul City: Kabul Municipality
	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS: The Agencies will regularly monitor and promptly notify the Bank of any incident or accident related to the Project operations which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, health, that affected communities, the workers or any other party, including security related issues or any sort of harassment. Provide sufficient details 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 agency and or supervising entity, as appropriate.</p>	Promptly but no later than 48 hours after noticing of incident or accident.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural Areas: MRRD and Facilitating Partners (FPs) 2. Urban Areas: IDLG and FPs 3. Kabul City: Kabul Municipality
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.1	<p>14. The REACH project will not establish dedicated Project Implementation Units (PIU) in any of the three implementing agencies. In order to forgo this time-consuming activity and to hasten the roll-out of this emergency relief effort, the project will leverage the existing capacity of existing PIUs from other Bank projects in the three implementing agencies. Both the MRRD and IDLG have dedicated PIUs for CCAP and the KM has a dedicated PIU for the Kabul Municipality Development Project (KMMP). The REACH project will supplement these existing PIUs and the CCAP regional offices with additional human and financial resources to allow them to undertake the additional responsibilities of the REACH project. The component will also finance essential goods for efficient and safe benefit delivery, such as smartphones and personal protective equipment for staff of the implementing agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The REACH project implementation units will assess the need for additional personnel within 30 days of effectiveness and; • if necessary, hire staff as soon as practically possible after the 30 days mentioned above 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural Areas: MRRD and Facilitating Partners (FPs) 2. Urban Areas: IDLG and FPs 3. Kabul City: Kabul Municipality

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Prepare, disclose and adopt an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities in accordance with ESS1 and the ESMP, 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, this would include women, people with disabilities and those who need to self-isolate due to the coronavirus.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Infection Control and Medical Waste Management Plans (ICWMPs) or other instruments required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMP, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including the WHO Country & Technical Guidance - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the WHO Guidelines on Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, any ESMPs, and/or other instruments, ESS2 requirements, and any OHS measures, into the EHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with FPs, supplier associations, and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p> <p>d. As mentioned, implementing of relevant activities, such as disposal of personal protection equipment (PPE), might produce hazardous waste that normally isn't seen in current urban CCAP and rural CCAP activities. Therefore, training in management of source identification, collection, storage, transport and disposal of such dangerous waste treatment will be required.</p>	<p>a. The ESMP is to be prepared 30 days after project effectiveness Screening under the ESMP shall be conducted before the carrying out of Project activities that may have environmental and social implications. Until the ESMP is approved, the Project will apply the WHO standards on COVID-19 response in a manner consistent with ESS 1.</p> <p>b. ESMPs or instruments acceptable to the Association, will be prepared before beginning the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the implementation 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>To commence within 30 days of project effectiveness and continued throughout project.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural Areas: MRRD and Facilitating Partners (FPs) 2. Urban Areas: IDLG and FPs 3. Kabul City: Kabul Municipality

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.3 EXCLUSIONS: The following type of activities shall not be eligible 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 on the environment • Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment related exposure to COVID-19 infection • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict • Activities that may affect lands or rights of 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 ESMP of the Project. 	<p>These exclusions shall be applied as part of the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural Areas: MRRD and Facilitating Partners (FPs) 2. Urban Areas: IDLG and FPs 3. Kabul City: Kabul Municipality
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS		
<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 Bank, 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. For this project particular attention will need to be paid to the security and safety of workers delivering food packages and cash transfers particularly in the non -CCAP rural areas. Measures should include adequate PPE and relevant security measures for staff. The labour management plan will also include a code of conduct regarding GBV and SEA and general conduct with project beneficiaries and communities. which all workers in the project will abide by.</p>	<p>Labor management plan to be completed within 30 days of effectiveness and adapted. Sensitization in the code of conduct should be conducted prior to any project activity.</p> <p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural Areas: MRRD and Facilitating Partners (FPs) 2. Urban Areas: IDLG and FPs 3. Kabul City: Kabul Municipality

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT		
<p>The Project will neither finance nor support any civil works activities thus no pollution prevention and management measures will apply however disposal of used or contaminated PPEs may bolster pollution and may potentially pose risks to surface and ground water if not properly handled. Moreover, the project will not be a significant user of energy and other natural resources. The proposed project ESMP will have necessary guidance to effectively manage any foreseeable pollution risks as well as it will spell out the preparation of necessary pollution prevention and management tools as specified under ESS3.</p>		
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY		
<p>Some project activities may give rise to the risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), in particular, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) risks. As mitigation measures, the Borrower will put measures in place to prevent or minimize the spread of the infectious disease/COVID-19 to the community. Emergency preparedness measures will also be developed and implemented to manage unlikely cases e.g. a fire response or natural phenomena event.</p> <p>The Borrower will ensure that the security personnel follow a strict code of conduct in line with ESS4 and avoid any escalation of the situation as well as the potential stress related to it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Borrower will seek to ensure that government security personnel deployed to provide security services act in a manner consistent with paragraph 24 of ES4, and encourage the relevant authorities to disclose the security arrangements for the Borrower’s facilities to the public, subject to overriding security concerns. • The Borrower will update the PIM/ Operating Manual with a plan to manage and monitor security forces in accordance with ES 4, within 30 days of effectiveness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Areas: MRRD and Facilitating Partners (FPs) • Urban Areas: IDLG and FPs • Kabul City: Kabul Municipality
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	Not relevant. Project activities will not require any land acquisition, nor will involve any physical or economic displacement of individuals or communities.		
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			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	Currently considered not relevant.		
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 Bank.	A draft SEP has been completed. It will be further updated and disclosed and adopted not later than 30 days after the Effective Date. The SEP will be implemented and updated and redisclosed as needed throughout the Project implementation period.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural Areas: MRRD and Facilitating Partners (FPs) 2. Urban Areas: IDLG and FPs 3. Kabul City: Kabul Municipality
10.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Accessible grievance mechanisms as defined in the SEP 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 Bank.	Throughout Project implementation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural Areas: MRRD and Facilitating Partners (FPs) 2. Urban Areas: IDLG and FPs 3. Kabul City: Kabul Municipality
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
CS1	<p>Training topics for personnel involved in Project implementation will include, among other things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training topics as per the WHO Guidelines on Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/85349/9789241548564_eng.pdf;jsessionid=EE45FF4B510A5297A7DFF6030A3BED25?sequence=1 • Training on World Bank interim guidelines on Health and Safety in projects ; • ILO Standards for COVID-19 https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---normes/documents/publication/wcms_739937.pdf 	Throughout Project implementation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural Areas: MRRD and Facilitating Partners (FPs) 2. Urban Areas: IDLG and FPs 3. Kabul City: Kabul Municipality
CS2	<p>Virtual and online trainings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESF training (on relevant E&S Standards) • stakeholder mapping and engagement • emergency preparedness and response • GRM and citizen engagement • GBV training (WSH, SEA, GBV action plan) 	Throughout Project implementation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rural Areas: MRRD and Facilitating Partners (FPs) 2. Urban Areas: IDLG and FPs 3. Kabul City: Kabul Municipality