

**The Republic of Nicaragua
Ministry of Health
COVID-19 Response**

**[Draft /Version for Negotiations]
ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

March 30, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Nicaragua, through the Ministry of Health (MoH) will implement the COVID-19 Response Project (the Project). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Republic of Nicaragua 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 Republic of Nicaragua is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the MoH.
4. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Bank by the Republic of Nicaragua 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 Republic of Nicaragua, 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 Republic of Nicaragua 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 MoH on behalf of the Republic of Nicaragua. The MoH 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 Republic of Nicaragua 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 Bank 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.	Every six-months during the Project's implementation in conjunction with the Project's progress reports	MoH
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The Ministry of Health (project implementer) will establish and maintain adequate capacity, consisting of at least one environmental and one social specialist equivalent, within the existing Environmental Management Unit of the General Directorate of Public Health Surveillance (DGVS for its acronym in Spanish) as well as the Institute of Natural Medicine and Complementary Therapies (IMNTC), for the management of environmental and social standards relevant to project. The DGVS will be in charge of the environmental aspects, and the IMNTC for the social aspects, as is the current arrangement under the two existing World Bank financed projects with Ministry of Health.	One Environmental and one social specialist to be available to support the project no later than 30 days of Project Effectiveness and maintained throughout Project implementation.	MoH

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<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 and develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to detail measures and procedures for effective management of risks and impacts, in accordance with the Nicaragua Preparedness and Response Plan (NPRP) for COVID-19, the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) prepared by the World Health Organization (WHO), readiness and response actions for COVID-19 and the Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), and in a manner consistent with ESS1. This will include 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>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans or other instruments required for the respective Project activities as per the project ESMF, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, requirements detailed in 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 (in the unexpected case of any civil works activities under the project) any 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 adopted, in a manner acceptable to the Bank, no later than thirty (30) days after the Effectiveness Date. Until the ESMF is approved, the Project will apply the WHO standards on COVID-19 response in a manner consistent with ESS1.</p> <p>b. Plans or instruments prepared before carrying out the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant activities, and thereafter ensure that suppliers, contractors and supervising firms (as applicable) comply with the ESHS specifications in their contracts through their involvement in the respective Project activities.</p>	<p>MoH</p>
MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
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. Measures shall be reflected in the ESMF.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MoH</p>
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: manage health care wastes, and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.</p>		
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<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>		
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT		
<p>Not currently relevant.</p>		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES		
<p>Not currently relevant</p>		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES		
<p>The standard is relevant. Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.</p>		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE		
<p>Not currently relevant.</p>		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES		
<p>Not currently relevant.</p>		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE		
<p>10.1 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT INFORMATION AND DISCLOSURE: Update the draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) developed for the project as needed, in accordance with the NPRP for COVID-19 pandemic and in a manner acceptable to the Bank, and adopt it for ongoing implementation to ensure that the carrying out of all Project activities includes stakeholder engagement and information disclosure consistent with ESS10.</p>	<p>Update within 30 days of Project Effectiveness, and adopt/implement throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MoH</p>
<p>10.2 GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Accessible grievance arrangements shall be 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.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MoH</p>
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)		
<p>TRAINING: Provide training to staff of health delivery facilities on the adequate use of personal protection equipment, handling and disposal of medical wastes, and on diagnosis, care and notification of positive COVID-19 cases, among other topics as identified during development of the ESMF and throughout implementation of the project.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MoH</p>