

**Government of the Central African  
Republic/Ministry of Health and Population**

**Central African Republic COVID-19 Preparedness  
& Response Project (P173832)**

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

**March 29, 2020**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Central African Republic (the **Recipient**) will implement the CAR COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health and Population. The International Development Association (the **Association**) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient 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 Recipient is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry referenced in 1. above.
4. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will 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 will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
5. 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 will agree to the changes with the Association 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 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.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<b>REGULAR REPORTING:</b> 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 the Project implementation period.	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</b> The Ministry of Health and Population will manage the ESHS arrangements for the Project through the National Technical Committee (CTN) retained as the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) as it is already implementing the WB-financed Health System Support and Strengthening (SENI) project (P164953) and the Regional Disease Surveillance and System Enhancement project IV (REDISSE4). The PIU shall recruit and maintain qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, including risks of gender-based violence (GBV), which encompasses sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH). Staff to be recruited include an environmental specialist and a social specialist. The social specialist should have a background in stakeholder and community engagement, as well as in gender-related programming and/or prevention and response of gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH). The project will also utilize the services of an existing GBV Specialist, who was hired by the CTN to support the current SENI project and will be able to oversee implementation of GBV/SEA/SH risk mitigation measures.	The PIU coordinator, an Environmental Specialist and a Social Specialist to be hired/appointed before the carrying out of Project activities and no later than one month after the Effective Date. The PIU shall be maintained throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
1.2	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</b> a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts, including GBV/SEA/SH risks, of proposed Project activities, in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be prepared, disclosed and adopted for the Project, and the Good Practice Note on Addressing SEA/SH in Investment Projects Financing Involving Major Civil Works (GPN SEA/SH), 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. The ESMF will include a template for Infection Control and Waste Management Plan (ICWMP) as well as a template for Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as necessary for relevant activities, such as the rehabilitation and/or construction of isolation centers.	a. ESMF to be prepared no later than two months after the Effective Date. Assessments to be conducted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	<p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement Infection Control and Waste Management Plans (ICWMP), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), GBV/SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan, and/or any other environmental and social management plans or instruments required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the EHSs, the GPN SEA/SH, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including the WHO guidelines on COVID-19, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, any environmental and social management plans, including the GBV/SEA/SH Action Plan, or other instruments, ESS2 requirements, and any other required ESHS measures, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms, including provisions specifically addressing GBV/SEA/SH. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p> <p>d. Update environmental and social management plans, including the GBV/SEA/SH Action Plan, or other instruments based on updated guidance by WHO on COVID19.</p>	<p>b. Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out 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>d. Throughout the Project implementation</p>	
1.3	<p><b>EXCLUSIONS:</b> Exclude the following type of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g. loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts</li> <li>Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment not related to treatment of COVID19 cases</li> <li>Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict</li> <li>Activities that may affect lands or rights of indigenous people or other vulnerable minorities</li> <li>Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or adverse impacts on cultural heritage</li> <li>Activities which would require Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).</li> <li>All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project</li> </ul>	During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.1	<b>LABOR MANAGEMENT:</b> The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS2, in a manner acceptable to the Association, including through, inter alia, implementing labor management procedures (LMP) as set out in the ESMF and adequate occupational health and safety measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures), setting out grievance arrangements for project workers, as well as codes of conduct that address GBV/SEA/SH, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms, including specific provisions that address. Training sessions on GBV/SEA/SH will be mandatory for all staffs, and induction sessions will be organized for temporary workers before the start of work-related risks.	Initial LMP will be prepared before engaging project workers in relevant Project activities, and to updated and revised periodically as necessary; LMP and other measures specified in action 2.1 to be implemented throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
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.	Throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
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 (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH), especially at quarantine/isolation centers.	Throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
4.2	The Recipient will ensure the avoidance of any form of SEA by relying on the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional conduct for all workers in the quarantine facilities as well as the provision of gender-sensitive infrastructure such as segregated quarantine centers and toilets and adequate lighting in quarantine and isolation centers.	Throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
4.3	The Recipient will operate quarantine and isolation centers and screening posts in a conflict-sensitive manner, avoiding any aggravation of local communal conflicts.	Throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
4.4	The Recipient will ensure that any security personnel engaged in the construction activities associated with the project will follow strict rules of engagement, code of conduct, and avoid any escalation.	Throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
4.5	The Recipient will operate quarantine and isolation centers in line with the applicable requirements of ESS3, the ESHGs and other relevant GIIP including the WHO guidelines on “Key considerations for repatriation and quarantine of travelers in relation to the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV”.	Throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	Not currently relevant. In the event that any proposed Project activity involves potential risks and impacts related to this standard, relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	Not relevant.		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.		
7.2	The Recipient will ensure that SSAHUTL Communities are appropriately informed and can share in the benefits of the Project in an inclusive and culturally appropriate manner (i.e. prevention and treatment) with provisions included in the ESMF/ESMP and SEP.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
7.3	In case SSAHUTLC communities would be addressed by quarantine provisions, site-specific approaches would be prepared in accordance with the ESMF/ESMP and SEP to ensure adequate consideration of their specific cultural needs, to the satisfaction of the Bank.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
9.1	Not relevant.		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN:</b> Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association. The SEP shall be updated to include the Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) strategy, to be prepared under the Project in line with WHO provisions “Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) readiness and response to the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)” (January 26, 2020).	A draft SEP was already prepared and disclosed and shall be updated no later than two months after the Effective Date. The SEP shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period.	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.2	<b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</b> 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 Association. Without limitation to the foregoing, the Recipient will establish a project-wide grievance redress mechanism (GRM), with specific procedures sensitive to treat GBV/SEA/SH complaints ethically, safely, and confidentially, with assignment of properly trained focal points to handle and address these grievances within MoH. The SEA/SH-sensitive GRM will adopt reporting and complaint/allegation procedures as well as regarding GBV/SEA/SH, an accountability framework, and the response framework that are designed to handle GBV/SEA/SH complaints appropriately and ethically and in accordance with guiding principles for survivor care.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</b>			
	Training topics for personnel involved in Project implementation will among others include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication strategy on COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations</li> <li>• COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations</li> <li>• Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the COVID-19</li> <li>• Specimen collection and shipment</li> <li>• Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients</li> <li>• Risk communication and community engagement</li> <li>• WHO and Africa CDC guidelines on quarantine including case management</li> <li>• Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)</li> <li>• GBV/SEA/SH Action Plan, content and sanctions of CoCs addressing GBV/SEA/SH, and GRM procedures established to handle GBV/SEA/SH-related complaints for project</li> </ul>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health and Population/ CTN PIU