

**Republic of Uzbekistan
Ministry of Health**

**The Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility
Additional Financing (P174956)**

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

September 16, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Uzbekistan has requested to receive a Recipient executed grant from the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF) as **Additional Financing (AF)** to support the healthcare component of **the Uzbekistan Emergency COVID-19 Response Project** (the **Parent Project**). Within the approval, Uzbekistan is eligible to receive US\$4.29 million to support its efforts in pandemic response. The Ministry of Health (**MoH**) will be responsible for the implementation of AF activities. AF will support the range of activities indicated in Component 1 of the Uzbekistan Emergency COVID-19 Response Project, hence environmental and social risks are assessed to be the same as for the Parent Project.
2. The Republic of Uzbekistan (the **Recipient**) will implement the Uzbekistan Emergency COVID-19 Response Project (the **Parent Project**), with the involvement of the following Ministries/agencies/units: the Ministry of Health (**MOH**) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF). The *International Development Association* (*hereinafter the Association*) has agreed to provide financing for the Parent Project.
3. The Recipient will implement material measures and actions so that the Parent Project and AF (together referred to as **the Project** for the purposes of this ESCP) 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.
4. The Recipient is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministries, agencies, or units referenced in 1. above.
5. 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 PEF grant agreement, and the Association will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout the implementation of the Project.
6. 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.
7. 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.	<i>Quarterly throughout Project implementation</i>	<i>MOH and MOF</i>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The existing MOH Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will implement activities under the AF to the healthcare component. The MoH PIU currently has an environmental management specialist, who is also doubling as a social risk management specialist. MoF PIU will assign social and communication responsibilities to internal staff. Both PIUs commit to maintain adequate qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including environmental and social risk management specialists or consultants.	<i>Hire consultants to support PIUs' E&S responsibilities on needs basis, throughout the timeframe of Project implementation.</i>	<i>MOH and MOF</i>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Assess and include the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed activities covered under the AF in accordance with ESS1 and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prepared for the Project. Risks and mitigation measures are expected to be same as for the parent project. The ESMF will include templates for site specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) and Infection Control and Medical Waste Management Plan (ICWMP). 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>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans (ESMPs) or other instruments required for the respective Project activities as per the screening process, in accordance with the ESSs and the ESMF, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, 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 and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>a. <i>The ESMF is being prepared and shall be applied prior to commencement of relevant AF and Parent Project activities (together referred to as Project). Screening under the ESMF shall be conducted before the carrying out of Project activities that may have environmental and social implications. Until the ESMF is approved, the Project will apply the WHO standards on COVID-19 response in a manner consistent with ESS 1.</i></p> <p>b. <i>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.</i></p> <p>c. <i>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.</i></p>	<p>MOH</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.3 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; • Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment not related to COVID-19 treatment; • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict; • Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or adverse impacts on cultural heritage; and • All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project. 	<p><i>These exclusions shall be applied as part of the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</i></p>	<p>MOH</p>
<p>1.4 TARGETED SOCIAL ASSISTANCE: Prepare a Guidance Note detailing all the eligibility criteria for targeting, service delivery, and monitoring arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting the same, a list of the households to be covered under the program will have to be prepared and disclosed prominently and invite objections/ request for alterations etc., for each district; • Subsequently, this will be re-visited and up-dated, as appropriate. 	<p><i>The Guidance Note is to be prepared prior commencement of relevant Project activities under the MOF.</i></p> <p><i>The initial list of households will also be disclosed prior to the commencement of activities. It will be reviewed and, as necessary be updated and re-disclosed, on a bi-monthly basis throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	<p>MOF</p>
<p>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</p>		
<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. Labor Management Procedures (LMP) reflecting the above measures, being prepared as a part of ESMF/ POM, shall be valid for AF activities as well.</p>	<p><i>Throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	<p>MOH and MOF</p>
<p>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</p>		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	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.	<i>Throughout Project implementation.</i>	<i>MOH</i>
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
	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.	<i>Throughout Project implementation.</i>	<i>MOH and MOF</i>
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered (as part of the ESMF in preparation), as needed, under action 1.2 above.	<i>Throughout Project implementation.</i>	<i>MOH</i>
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	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP): Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement a SEP consistent with ESS 10, in a manner acceptable to the Association. The SEP contains a separate plan for both the healthcare and social assistance components.	<i>Draft SEP was already prepared and disclosed.</i>	<i>MOH and MOF</i>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.3	<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, consistent with ESS 10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	<i>Throughout Project implementation.</i>	<i>MOH and MOF</i>
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
	<p><u>Training topics for personnel involved in Project implementation will among others include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESF training to the Ministries and PIUs • 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; and • WHO guidelines on quarantine and Uzbekistan Sanitary Regulations and Norms. 	<i>Throughout Project implementation.</i>	<i>MOH</i>