

# Republic of Moldova

## Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection

### Moldova Emergency COVID-19 Response Project (P173776)

## ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

October, 2020

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Moldova (the **Recipient**) will implement the Moldova Emergency COVID-19 Response Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the following Ministries/agencies/units: Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection (**MOHLSP**). The *International Bank for Reconstruction and Development* (hereinafter **the Bank**) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient will also implement a US\$3.5 million grant from the Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility Fund (PEF), which will support diagnostic, testing and laboratory capacity, strengthening the health systems response to COVID-19 in line with their strategic preparedness and response plan, as well as training of health personnel. The PEF grant funding will be implemented as additional financing for the Project. This additional financing will support activities already defined under the Project under the same project development objective.
3. 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.
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 Ministry referenced in 1. above.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Bank by the Recipient 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 the implementation of the Project.
6. As agreed by the Bank 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 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 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
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<b>REGULAR REPORTING:</b> 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.	Quarterly throughout Project implementation	MOHLSP
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</b> Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection (MOHLSP) shall maintain the existing PIU with qualified staff and resources to support the management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including the environmental and social risk management specialists.	PIU should be maintained throughout Project implementation	MOHLSP
1.2	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</b> a. 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. The ESMF will include template for 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. b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans 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. c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including ICWMP, 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.	a. ESMF already prepared and updated in October 2020 to include PEF additional financing. b. Plans or instruments prepared before launching the procurement process for the relevant activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities. c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant 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.	MOHLSP
<b>MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS</b>		<b>TIMEFRAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY</b>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.3 <b>EXCLUSIONS:</b> The following type of activities shall not be eligible for finance 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) impacts</li> <li>• Activities that have a high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment other than during treatment of COVID-19 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 impacts on cultural heritage</li> </ul> <p>All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.</p>	<p>These exclusions shall be applied as part of the screening process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	<p><i>MOHLSP</i></p>

**ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS**

2.1	<p><b>LABOR MANAGEMENT:</b></p> <p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. The necessary protocols for treating patients and handling medical waste, disinfectant protocols, regular testing of healthcare workers, requirements for proper disposal of sharps, along with the environmental health and safety guidelines for staff and necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), will be included in Infection Control and Medical Waste Management Plan (ICWMP) to be adopted by and then implemented by ECs and laboratories participating in the project.</p> <p>c. The Project shall be implemented the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS2, including through workplace safety, management of project workers, and working conditions as indicated in the LMP which is part of the ESMF</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHLSP
<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.	MOHLSP
<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; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHLSP
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
5.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	<i>Throughout Project implementation.</i>	MOHLSP
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			

	All works will be conducted within the existing footprint of selected facilities and the proposed project interventions will have no impacts to the biodiversity and living organisms; hence, this standard is not relevant to the proposed project interventions.		
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
	Not relevant		
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
	All works will be conducted within the existing footprint of selected facilities; hence, this standard is not relevant to the proposed project interventions.		
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
	Not relevant.		
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
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 Bank, which shall include, inter alia, measures to generate community trust and engagement in the carrying out of the Project activities..	SEP is updated and disclosed and will be applied and, updated, throughout Project implementation. Update the simplified version of the SEP to a full version once the lockdown measures are eased	MOHLSP
10.2	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE:</b> Implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, including the use of different, culturally appropriate communication approaches to ensure communication also with the most vulnerable, including illiterate and people with disabilities.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHLSP
10.3	<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 Bank.	The GRM has been established and will be used throughout Project implementation.	MOHLSP
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</b>			
	Training topics for personnel involved in Project implementation will include among others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 guidelines on quarantine and National Sanitary Regulations and Norms</li> </ul>	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHLSP