

**The Republic of Moldova
EDUCATION QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
(P179363)**

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

2 May 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Moldova (the Borrower) will implement the Education Quality Improvement Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Education and Research (MoER), the Ministry of Finance (MoF), and the National Office for Regional and Local Development (NORLD), as set out in the loan agreement (the Loan Agreement); the Early Learning Partnership (ELP) Grant Agreement; and the Global Partnership for Education Fund (GPE) Grant Agreement (the Agreements). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, acting in its own name and as a trustee of the GCFF, administrator of the ELP and grant agent of the GPE (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the referred Agreements.
2. The Borrower shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Bank. The ESCP is a part of the Agreements. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred Agreements.
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Borrower shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) instruments that shall be adopted and implemented under the Project, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Bank. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Bank.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the Borrower, this ESCP may be revised from time to time if necessary, during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Borrower, through the MoER, and the Bank agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Borrower, through the Minister of Education and Research, and the Bank. The Borrower shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAM E	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanisms.</p>	Submit six-monthly reports to the Bank within fifteen (15) days after the end of each reporting period throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date.	MoER
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Promptly notify the Bank of any incident or accident related to the Project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers, including, inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury. Provide sufficient detail regarding the scope, severity, and possible causes of the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address it, and any information provided by any contractor and/or supervising firm, as appropriate.</p> <p>Subsequently, as per the Bank's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and to prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p>Notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident using such reporting formats as the Bank may require.</p> <p>Provide subsequent, report to the Bank within thirty (30) days of making the initial notification.</p>	MoER
C	<p>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on ESHS performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Bank.</p>	Submit the monthly reports to the Bank every quarter, within seven (7) days after the end of each quarter throughout Project implementation.	MoER, NORLD

ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Establish and maintain a Project Management Team (PMT), within MoER, with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.</p> <p>Establish and maintain a Team, within NORLD (NORLD's Team), with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.</p> <p>The PMT shall hire on a full-time basis, and with terms of reference, qualifications, and experience satisfactory to the Bank: one (1) environmental specialist and one (1) Social Development specialist for the Project.</p> <p>NORLD shall hire on a full-time basis, and with terms of reference, qualifications, and experience satisfactory to the Bank: one (1) environmental specialist and one (1) Social Development specialist with expertise on SEA/SH prevention for the Project.</p>	<p>Establish the PMT and NORLD's Team no later than thirty (30) after the Effective Date, as set out in the Agreements and thereafter maintain throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Hire or appoint the environmental specialist and social specialist within sixty (60) days of the Effective Date, and maintain throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoER, NORLD
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt and implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.</p> <p>Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt and implement the site-specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), as set out in the ESMF. The proposed Project activities described in the exclusion list set out in the ESMF, including any sites which could potentially cause economic or physical displacement, or which would require land acquisition, shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.</p>	<p>Adopt the ESMF within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Prepare, disclose, consult upon and adopt the ESIA and ESMP prior to launching the bidding process for the respective Project activities that requires the adoption of such ESIA/ESMP. Once adopted, implement the respective ESMP throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoER, NORLD

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.4	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including the ESMF and the Labor Management Procedures, and code of conduct into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and cause subcontractors to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts.</p> <p>Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoER, NORLD
1.5	<p>CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING</p> <p>Ensure that the CERC Manual includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements including, if applicable, any ESMF Addendum that will be included or referred to in the CERC Manual for the implementation of the CERC Part of the Project, in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>Adopt any environmental and social (E&S) instruments which may be required for activities under the CERC Part of the Project, in accordance with the CERC Manual and, if applicable, CERC-ESMF Addendum and the ESSs, and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&S instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&S instruments.</p>	<p>The adoption of the CERC manual and, if applicable, other instruments, as relevant in form and substance acceptable to the Bank is a withdrawal condition under Section III.B.(c) of Schedule 2 to the Loan Agreement for the Project.</p> <p>Adopt any required E&S instrument and include it as part of the respective bidding process, if applicable, and in any case, before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities for which the E&S instrument is required. Implement the E&S instruments in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoER and the authority designated for the CERC by the Borrower in agreement with the Bank.
1.6	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies, if applicable), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Bank that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MoER, NORLD

1.7	ASSOCIATED FACILITIES Cause the operator of Associated Facilities that are not financed by Project to ensure that such activities are carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of this ESCP, the ESSs and the project ESMF.	Throughout Project implementation.	MoER, NORLD
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) that have been developed for the Project, including, <i>inter alia</i> , provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment, and code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.	Adopt the LMP within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	MoER, NORLD

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>Establish, maintain, and operate grievance mechanisms for relevant types of Project workers (direct and contracted), as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.</p>	Establish grievance mechanism prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	MoER, NORLD
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT:</p> <p>Develop and implement measures and actions to prevent pollution, manage water, waste and hazardous materials and energy efficiency during construction and operation and include measures and actions in Project activities ESMP in accordance with the ESMF and the WBG Guidelines for Environment, Health and Safety (EHS)</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	MoER, NORLD

ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the ESMP to be prepared under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	MoER, NORLD
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY: Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, <i>inter alia</i> , risks associated with generation of waste, noise, dust, interactions between community members and project workers, safe separation work sites, adherence to principles of universal access in the physical design of facilities to ease physical constraints and ensure safety of persons with disabilities, incorporation of principles of universal access in quality inputs into teacher-student activities to ensure intuitive use of resources, information customized to needs. Include mitigation measures in ESIA/ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF and in works contracts.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	MoER, NORLD
4.3	SEA AND SH RISKS Adopt and implement an SEA/SH Action Plan as part of the ESMF to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH and Violence Against Children (VAC) in Project sites, including the construction and operation of high school hubs.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMF. The SEA/SH Action Plan shall be updated once the sites for construction of high schools under Part 2.3 of the Project have been identified.	MoER, NORLD
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
CURRENTLY NOT RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT			
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
CURRENTLY NOT RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT			
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
CURRENTLY NOT RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
CURRENTLY NOT RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT			
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
CURRENTLY NOT RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT			
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			

10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Adopt, and implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, <i>inter alia</i>, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation. The SEP shall be updated (and redisclosed) as needed during Project implementation.</p>	<p>A draft SEP was disclosed on March 23, 2023. The SEP shall be updated as needed, re-disclosed and adopted within thirty (30) days of the Effective Date and thereafter implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoER
10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</p> <p>Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all Project-affected parties, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.</p>	<p>Establish the Grievance Mechanism no later than thirty (30) days after the Effective Date, and thereafter operate and maintain throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoER, NORLD
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	<p>Provide training, as needed, and as specified in the POM, to relevant PMT NORLD's Team staff, stakeholders, communities, project workers on basic ESF and related environmental and social issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder engagement and grievance redress • OHS, including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations. • environmental and social assessments • Labor influx, community health and safety • Gender based violence • SEA/SH, VAC prevention and Codes of conduct • Monitoring and reporting, and any other relevant topics, as specified in the POM. <p>Community capacity building to heighten awareness of risks and to mitigate impacts as outlined in the SEP.</p>	<p>No later than three (3) months after the Effective Date, followed by a minimum one (1) annual refresher training.</p>	MoER, NORLD