

**The Government of Moldova / Ministry of
Education and Research
EDUCATION QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
(P179363)**

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

March 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Government of Moldova will implement the Education Quality Improvement Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the following Ministries: 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 Financing Agreement. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the referred agreement(s).
2. The Government of Moldova 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/Association. The ESCP is a part of the Financing Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement(s).
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Government of Moldova 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 Government of Moldova, 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 Government of Moldova and the Bank agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Government of Moldova and the *Bank*. The Government of Moldova shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	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 mechanism(s).</p>	Submit Bi-annual reports within 15 days of end of each Bi-annual throughout Project implementation period.	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 including injuries or fatalities to project workers that could result from armed conflict. 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>A report would be provided within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank, as requested</p> <p>A detailed report of the incident shall be provided within thirty (30) days of making the initial report of the incident or accident</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/Association.</p>	Submit Quarterly reports within seven days of end of each quarter throughout Project implementation period	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) with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the project</p> <p>The PMT will 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>Establish and maintain the PMT as set out in the loan agreement. Hire or appoint the environmental specialist and social specialist within sixty (60) days of Project effectiveness and maintain throughout project implementation.</p>	MoER, NORLD
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>Adopt and implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prepared for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs. Prepare and implement the site-specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), as set out in the ESMF. Screen proposed subprojects/activities against the exclusion list set out in the ESMF and ensure that they shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.</p>	<p>Adopt the ESMF within thirty (30) days of Project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Prepare, disclose and consult on the ESIA and ESMP prior to the carrying out of subproject 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 as specified the legal agreement 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 component, in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>Adopt any environmental and social (E&S) instruments which may be required for activities under the CERC component 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 World Bank is a withdrawal condition under the legal 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 designated authority for the CERC
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Adopt and Implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) that have been developed for the Project, including, inter alia, 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.</p>	<p>Adopt the LMP within thirty (30) days of Project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation].</p>	MoER, NORLD

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish, maintain, and operate grievance mechanisms for relevant types of Project workers (direct and contracted), as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Grievance mechanism operational prior to engaging Project workers and maintained throughout Project implementation.	MoER, NORLD
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT: 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 subproject ESMP in accordance with the ESMF and the WBG Guidelines for Environment, Health and Safety (EHS), and duly apply.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMP	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 ESMP.	MoER, NORLD
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY:	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs and throughout Project implementation	MoER, NORLD

	Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, 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/ESMP to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF and in works contracts.		
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 the construction and operation of high school hubs.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs and throughout Project implementation	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	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION Adopt, and implement Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, inter alia, 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 may be updated (and redisclosed) as needed during Project implementation.	Adopt the SEP within thirty (30) days of Project effectiveness and thereafter implement the SEP throughout Project implementation	MoER

10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: 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>	Establish the Grievance Mechanism no later than thirty (30) days after effectiveness and thereafter operate and maintain throughout Project implementation.	MoER, NORLD
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	<p>Provide training, as needed to relevant PMT 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, 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. <p>Community capacity building to heighten awareness of risks and to mitigate impacts as outlined in the SEP.</p>	Three months after World Bank Board approval followed by a minimum one annual refresher training	MoER, NORLD