



Luxembourg, 14 December 2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>GLOBAL POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME</i>
Project Number:	<i>20220064</i>
Country:	<i>Regional – Africa, Regional - Asia</i>
Project Description:	<i>Financing to support sustainable immunisation campaigns and health strengthening activities targeting the eradication of poliomyelitis.</i>

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

The Project will support immunisation and surveillance activities under the Polio Eradication Strategy 2022-2026 of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). The GPEI is a public-private partnership led by national governments with six partners – the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

By 2026, the GPEI aims to achieve two elemental goals: (1) permanently interrupt all poliovirus transmission in the final endemic countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan, and (2) stop vaccine-derived poliovirus transmission and prevent outbreaks in non-endemic countries. The Project, which will be implemented by the WHO and UNICEF (the Promoters) in their capacity as partners of the GPEI, concerns the purchase of vaccines, the deployment of associated sustainable immunisation campaigns and immunisation surveillance activities in endemic and non-endemic countries.

Environmental Assessment

While the Project will be implemented in compliance with applicable national laws and in line with the GPEI’s umbrella policies and procedures (such as the GPEI Standard Operating Procedures for Responding to a Poliovirus Event or Outbreak and the GPEI Guidance for Implementation of Environmental Surveillance for Poliovirus), specific activities undertaken by the WHO and UNICEF will further follow the WHO’s and UNICEF’s respective environmental and social policies and procedures.

In particular, WHO-led activities will be implemented in line with the Environmental Management and Monitoring Framework (EMMF) of the WHO Polio Eradication Programme. The EMMF seeks to address environmental risks and impacts related to polio immunisation (in routine circumstances and as part of campaigns) and laboratory and surveillance activities, and

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



Luxembourg, 14 December 2022

covers waste management (including hazardous waste management), occupational health and safety and procurement aspects. The EMMF is currently being updated to include, amongst others, climate change considerations, including mitigation measures. In addition, the WHO is in the process of developing its corporate Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework, which aims at streamlining its approach on E&S aspects across the organisation and which will apply to its activities under the GPEI as relevant once adopted.

Similarly, UNICEF-led activities will adhere to specific environmental policies under the UNICEF Polio Eradication Programme as well as under UNICEF's overall programming policies and guidance. The latter include UNICEF's Procedure on Programme Implementation: Work Planning, Partnerships and Risk Management, as well as UNICEF's Procedure and Guidance on Sustainable Procurement. As in the case of the WHO, UNICEF is further in the process of finalising its consolidated corporate Environmental and Social Standards and Procedures. These will apply to UNICEF-led activities under the Project once adopted.

The Project is considered to be aligned with the Paris Agreement, as defined in the EIB Climate Bank Roadmap. The Promoters are further in scope but screened out of the EIB's Paris Alignment for Counterparties ('PATH') Framework as they do not operate in a high emitting sector and are not considered as highly vulnerable counterparts.

Social Assessment

One of the main challenges for polio eradication efforts has been a lack of access in conflict-affected or security-compromised areas, in hard-to-reach geographies, or in other areas where a lack of community acceptance due to cultural, social, or religious norms have rendered some populations inaccessible to the GPEI programme and other health services. Additionally, as surveillance relies primarily on networks of healthcare providers sensitised to the signs and symptoms of polio, populations that do not seek care in health facilities are more likely to be missed by surveillance activities. This may include nomadic, refugee and/or internally displaced populations, the urban poor and others who choose not to access health care.

The Project will ensure that these populations, who may be particularly vulnerable to polio outbreaks, are captured by surveillance and immunisation activities through specially tailored approaches. In line with the GPEI's Standard Operating Procedures for Responding to a Poliovirus Event or Outbreak and the GPEI's Guidelines for Implementing Polio Surveillance in Hard-to-Reach Areas and Populations, such approaches may include increased community sensitisation and surveillance through culturally appropriate tools or leveraging partnerships with other entities with access to hard-to-reach populations. In terms of security and safety aspects, the WHO and UNICEF will operate in line with the UN Security Management System and will be coordinate, as applicable, with the relevant UN and national agencies.

In addition, the Project will be implemented in line with the GPEI's Gender Equality Strategy 2019-2023, which seeks to promote the integration of a gender perspective into different aspects of the GPEI's programming. In accordance with this Strategy and as relevant, the Project will contribute to addressing gender-related barriers in immunisation, communication and surveillance activities, as well as to increasing women's meaningful participation in the polio programme. UNICEF-led activities will further be aligned with UNICEF's Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment. WHO-led activities will be carried out under the WHO Policy Directive on Protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (SEA) and the WHO policy on Whistleblowing and protection against retaliation. WHO has also increased staff infrastructure to ensure capacity in countries at high risk for SEA.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Project will be implemented in line with the GPEI's community engagement strategy, which is led by UNICEF and which centres on strengthening local engagement and vaccine demand



Luxembourg, 14 December 2022

in endemic and outbreak contexts, where vaccine hesitancy and misinformation may affect vaccination uptake. The GPEI's strategy, which is informed, amongst others, by the GPEI's Polio Communication Global Guide and UNICEF's Minimum Standards and Indicators for Community Engagement, provides for an iterative process to community dialogue and participation tailored to the local social and cultural context. It is supported by locally-based trained health workers and community volunteers and seeks to organise engagement across touch points, including through pre-campaign awareness and community mobilisation and post-campaign feedback processes.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project Promoters, the WHO and UNICEF, are UN specialised agencies with international, regional and in-country presence and networks. They will implement the Project, either directly or through agreements with implementing partners and/or contractors. Their global, regional and in-country teams are expected to have the capacity and systems in place to implement and monitor the Project in line with EIB environmental and social requirements.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project will be implemented in line with the GPEI's policies and procedures, as well as the WHO's and UNICEF's environmental and social policies, standards and procedures, which are broadly aligned with EIB environmental and social requirements. Moreover, the specific environmental and social requirements of the WHO and UNICEF for this type of operation, as well as the environmental and social capacity and management and monitoring arrangements in such multilateral UN agencies, which have a strong local presence, are expected to be robust and in line with best international practice.

The WHO and UNICEF, as Project Promoters, will undertake to provide a copy of the updated Environmental Management and Monitoring Framework for the WHO Polio Programme, as well as copies of the new WHO and UNICEF Environmental and Social Standards and Procedures once available. They will further undertake to report on specific social indicators, including related to gender aspects, and on any issue with significant environment or social impact. .

With these undertakings in place, the project is considered acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.