



**The World Bank**

Rwanda Health Emergency Preparedness, Response And Resilience Program Using The Multiphase Programmatic Approach (P504764)

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# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

### ( ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 03/18/2024 | Report No: ESRS04182



**I. BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Operation Data**

|   |  |                             |                                |
|---|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Operation ID                            | Product  | Operation Acronym           | Approval Fiscal Year           |
| P504764                                 | Investment Project Financing (IPF)   | Rwanda HEPRR                | 2024                           |
| Operation Name                          | Rwanda Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience Program Using the Multiphase Programmatic Approach |                             |                                |
| Country/Region Code                     | Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)  | Region                      | Practice Area (Lead)           |
| Rwanda                                  | Rwanda   | EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA | Health, Nutrition & Population |
| Borrower(s)                             | Implementing Agency(ies)   | Estimated Appraisal Date    | Estimated Board Date           |
| Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance | Rwanda Biomedical Centre   | 21-Mar-2024                 | 22-May-2024                    |
| Estimated Concept Review Date           | Total Project Cost   |                             |                                |
| 22-Feb-2024                             | 120,000,000.00   |                             |                                |

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**Proposed Development Objective**

The Development Objective (DO) is to strengthen health system resilience and multisectoral preparedness and response to health emergencies in Rwanda.

**B. Is the operation being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?**

No

**C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities**

*[Description imported from the Concept Data Sheet in the Portal providing information about the key aspects and components/sub-components of the project]*

The project comprises four complementary components that focus on strengthening the preparedness and resilience of Rwanda’s health system to respond to health emergencies under a multisectoral collaboration for interventions:

Component 1: Strengthening the Preparedness and Resilience of Regional & National Health Systems to Manage Health



Emergencies This component will support multisectoral collaboration and the strengthening of the health system's resilience to respond to Health Emergencies. The Component comprises four sub-components: Subcomponent 1.1: Multisectoral cross-border planning, financing, and governance for improved resilience to HEs. Subcomponent 1.2: Health Workforce skills development Subcomponent 1.3: Building capacity for the National Health Institute and improving access to quality health commodities Subcomponent 1.4: Information systems for HEs and the digitalization of the health sector Component 2: Improving Early Detection of and Response to HEs through a Multisectoral approach. This component will support operational readiness and capacities across critical subsystems to effectively detect and respond to national, regional, and global health emergencies. The component has three sub-components. Subcomponent 2.1: Collaborative multisectoral gender-responsive surveillance and laboratory diagnostics Subcomponent 2.2: Emergency management, coordination, and essential service continuity Subcomponent 2.3: Risk Communication and Community Engagement, empowerment, and Social Protection for all HEs Component 3: Project Management. This component will ensure efficient and effective management and implementation of the project by the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC). Subcomponent 3.1 Strengthening project monitoring and evaluation (M & E). Subcomponent 3.2: Providing need-based technical assistance and facilitating learning agenda Subcomponent 3.3: Strengthening project management through support of the implementing institutions and the multisectoral collaboration (RBC, RABA, RDB, REMA, GMBO) Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC). This Component will facilitate access to rapid financing by allowing for the reallocation of uncommitted project funds in the event of a natural disaster in a country, either by a formal declaration of a national emergency or upon a formal request from the government.

## **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

### **D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings**

*[Description of key features relevant to the operation's environmental and social risks and opportunities (e.g., whether the project is nationwide or regional in scope, urban/rural, in an FCV context, presence of Indigenous Peoples or other minorities, involves associated facilities, high-biodiversity settings, etc.) – Max. character limit 2,000]*

The Project will finance the expansion of the cross-border functional surveillance systems at points of entries that will entail minor civil works to refurbish and equip surveillance facilities at border posts. In 2018 Rwanda implemented the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response System (IDSR) for risks associated with the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) focusing on urban communities of 15 priority districts. The 15 districts that were considered most at risk of the EVD outbreak in Rwanda comprised urban communities of Rusizi, Nyamasheke, Karongi, Rutsiro, Rubavu bordering DRC; Nyabihu, Musanze, Burera, Gicumbi and Nyagatare bordering Uganda; Nyanza and Bugesera bordering Burundi; and the City of Kigali area comprised of Gasabo, Kicukiro, and Nyarugenge districts. Rusizi, Rubavu, Musanze, Nyagatare, Muhanga and Huye (Figure 1) are under urban development support as Secondary City growth poles according to the country's urbanization policy. The City of Kigali was considered high risk because of the Kigali international airport and its high population density. This urban community prioritization was also used for COVID-19 Infection Control and Prevention under the Emergency Response Project (ERP) interventions which included the screening of COVID-19 travelers at 31 Ports of Entry and in priority communities and targeted health facilities. Activities under the ERP also included diagnosing cases and referring them for treatment, carrying out contact tracing to minimize risk of transmission, conducting risk assessments to identify hot spot areas of transmission, carrying out multi-sectoral simulation exercises for COVID-19 and other disease outbreaks, and conducting disease surveillance activities to monitor the impact of the COVID-19 vaccination program. The COVID-19 ERP also financed the procurement of



vaccines, cold chain equipment, medical supplies and consumables (e.g. PPEs, syringes and safety boxes, vaccine sharp disposal containers).

**D.2 Overview of Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

*[Description of Borrower’s capacity (i.e., prior performance under the Safeguard Policies or ESF, experience applying E&S policies of IFIs, Environmental and social unit/staff already in place) and willingness to manage risks and impacts and of provisions planned or required to have capabilities in place, along with the needs for enhanced support to the Borrower – Max. character limit 2,000]*

The Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) as the nation's central health implementation agency under the Ministry of Health, will have the overall responsibility for the oversight, coordination, management, and supervision of all components of the proposed project by providing leadership and guidance.

The RBC-SPIU has among its regular staff, an Environmental Specialist and Social Specialist responsible for implementing E&S risk management requirements of the SPRP and COVID-19 ERP. The two specialists will be responsible for E&S risk management requirements for the HEPRR-MPA. Additionally, the RBC-SPIU will recruit a full-time HEPRR-MPA project Gender Specialist responsible for implementing requirements for the management of risks associated with SEA, SH and GBV.

RBC has relatively acceptable record in successfully executing World Bank supported project, having secured additional financing for the SPRP till 2025 and having performed well in executing the COVID-19 ERP and its Afs with the remaining funds allocated to disaster relief following the evocation of its CERC component.

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**II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS**

**A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)**

Substantial

**A.1 Environmental Risk Rating**

Substantial

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 2,000]*

The Project will finance the expansion of the National Health Institute into a Diagnostics Development and Research Center using energy efficient and climate adaptive building design as well as local materials. Both the expansion of cross-border surveillance systems at points of entry and the expansion of the National Health Institute into the Diagnostics Development and Research Center will mainly entail climate adaptive small civil works for refurbishing and/or modifications of existing structures, retrofitting with energy and chemical efficient equipment adapt them to green and climate-smart facilities. However, Environment Health and Safety (EHS) risks and impacts during the small civil works refurbishment and operation surveillance systems of the cross-border entry points can potentially cause soil erosion, contamination, air and/or water pollution, disease spread, and traffic safety and therefore need appropriate measures for avoidance or mitigation. Although environmental risk and impacts from refurbishment small civil works and equipping/retrofitting activities are expected to be minor, the expansion of surveillance systems



of over 30 cross-border entry points subproject will be a national scale intervention with cumulative potential. The Diagnostics Development and Research Center will house a Biosafety Level-3 laboratory in alignment with the One-Health network with capabilities for diagnostic, teaching/training and research facilities handling indigenous or exotic agents which may cause serious or potentially lethal disease as a result of exposure by the inhalation and other route.

**A.2 Social Risk Rating**

Moderate

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 2,000]*

The project will have positive impacts by enhancing Rwanda’s health system and emergency response capabilities, thereby addressing current challenges within the health sector. However, certain social risks have been identified that need to be assessed and mitigated during implementation. These include concerns regarding: i). labor and working conditions including (but not limited to) OHS, in existing hospitals and health center facilities, potential exposure of health workers to communicable diseases, potential exposure of personnel to SEA/SH from workers during civil works; ii). community health and safety issues due to the handling, transportation and disposal of hazardous and infectious healthcare waste, potential incidents of GBV/SEA/SH during service provision at facilities made functional by the project (ESS4); iii). social tension and increase in stigma and isolation of people seeking sensitive treatments such as in cases of GBV if there is resistance to provision of specialized support or referrals among affected families or communities; and iv). social exclusion of comparatively marginalized groups such as women headed household and widows, persons with disabilities, the elderly and the poor, there is need to develop adequate preparedness actions to ensure disadvantaged and vulnerable groups have awareness and able to receive appropriate preventive support such as awareness of basic hygiene. The project implementation will continue to ensure appropriate stakeholder engagement activities outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to ensure broad dissemination of project benefits and establish a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to address any project implementation-related issues. Based on the above, the social risk is assessed as moderate.

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating. This attribute is only for the internal version of the download document and not a part of the disclosable version – Max. character limit 2,000]*

**B. Relevance of Standards and Policies at Concept Stage**

**B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards**

**ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

Although environmental risk and impacts from refurbishment small civil works and equipping/retrofitting activities are expected to be minor, the expansion of surveillance systems of over 30 cross-border entry points subproject will be a national scale intervention with cumulative potential. The Diagnostics Development and Research Center will house a Biosafety Level-3 laboratory in alignment with the One-Health network with capabilities for diagnostic, teaching/training and research facilities handling indigenous or exotic agents which may cause serious or potentially lethal disease as a result of exposure by the inhalation and other route. Appropriate instruments will be prepared and

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implemented guided by the Project ESMF, stipulating material measures to safeguard against exposure and other EHS risks.

**ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

The project has established a structured approach as per the on-going WB funded projects implemented by Rwanda Bio Medical Centre (RBC) to engage with stakeholders based upon meaningful consultation and disclosure of appropriate information, considering the specific challenges associated with Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience Program in Rwanda using the MPA will follow the similar arrangement. In instances where there is a likelihood of more vulnerable groups in attendance, such as the elderly and those with compromised immune systems or related pre-existing conditions, vulnerable groups who have barriers to access to health services or health information campaigns, groups who may have distrust of government health programs, and groups who may be hesitant of health interventions such as vaccinations for cultural or religious reasons, stakeholder engagement should minimize close contact.

**ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions**

Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

The project should comply with ESS 2, focusing on occupational health and safety, including emergency preparedness and grievance mechanisms for workers. The Labor Management Procedures (LMP), integrated into the ESMF, will be updated to align with project activities. Employment of children under 18 is prohibited due to the hazardous nature of tasks, especially in healthcare settings. The MoH will enforce national labor laws against forced labor. RBC will maintain strict entry protocols for healthcare facilities. Worker protection includes training on labor management, hand hygiene, PPE usage, and a grievance mechanism for labor concerns such as insufficient PPE or excessive overtime. The project will finance necessary PPE, and workers will follow a Code of Conduct, receiving training on SEAH/GBV prevention and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)

**ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

Based upon some of the project activities, there are some potential negative impacts and risks during both small refurbishment civil works, equipping/installations and operational phases which require consideration of the ESS3. The small works and operation mitigation measures such as dust suppression, fuel/chemical leakages and vehicle and truck maintenance shall be applied to minimize the impact of air emissions and air pollution. Noise might likely be generated from the use of light construction machinery and truck movements as well as diesel generators. Furthermore, to manage the refurbishment waste (mainly construction debris) produced during extensions of cross-border surveillance points of entry and during the establishment of the Diagnostics Development and Research Center, RBC will implement appropriate waste measures that will be elaborated in the updated IMWMP. The IMWMP will also guide waste management in operational phases of the project at cross-border surveillance po



**ESS4 - Community Health and Safety**

Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

The standard addresses the risks of medical and infectious waste from project activities, which could expose the community to diseases. It mandates an Environment and Social Impact Assessment, including an Infection control and medical waste management plan, to mitigate exposure to hazardous materials and communicable diseases. Additional risks involve disease transmission from workers, privacy in GBV cases, and SEA/SH or GBV risks in emergency medical services. Measures to manage these risks will be part of the Environmental and Social Management Tool. The Ministry of Health (MoH) and RBC will use their GBV Action Plans from other projects to create one for this project, incorporating workers' codes of conduct, monitoring, and training. A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be set up by RBC with special provisions for GBV/SEA/SH cases.

**ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

Not Currently Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

**ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

Not Currently Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

All project activities will be carried out in existing already built facilities.

**ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities**

Not Currently Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

Rwanda does not categorize its people in ethnic groups for service delivery or other reasons due to the associated ethnic divisionism that led to the genocide against the Tutsi. The Country's constitution protects all citizens against ethnic and any other form of discrimination. Specifically, Article 10 of the Constitution on Fundamental principles provides for “eradication of discrimination and divisionism based on ethnicity, religion or on any other ground as well as promotion of national unity” and “building a State committed to promoting social welfare and establishing appropriate mechanisms for equal opportunity to social justice”.

**ESS8 - Cultural Heritage**

Not Currently Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

ESS8 is not currently relevant. No cultural heritage will be impacted by the project activities. Proposed project civil works will be conducted within existing infrastructures.

**ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries**

Not Currently Relevant

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*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

**B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

**OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways**

No

**OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas**

No

**B.3 Other Salient Features**

**Use of Borrower Framework**

No

*[Optional explanation – Max. character limit 1,000]*

None

**Use of Common Approach**

No

*[Optional Explanation including list of possible financing partners – Max. character limit 1,000]*

None

**B.4 Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

*[Description provided will not be disclosed but will flow as a one time flow to the Concept Stage PID – Max. character limit 5,000]*

The environmental risks related medical supplies, and waste management associated healthcare, and hazardous waste handling, disposal and transfer, correlated to occupational health and safety on project workers, and healthcare workers at hospital/ health care facilities (addressed under ESS2), community health and safety risks (addressed under ESS4), and limited pollution risk (addressed under ESS3). Risk and impacts related to the civil works including health and safety risk on workers and communities, construction waste management or within facility air pollution are expected to be site-specific, reversible, and of low magnitude that can be mitigated following appropriate measures. The social risks under ESS1 pertain to (i) social exclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g., persons with disabilities, the elderly, women headed households and widows, children without parents etc.) to project benefits. To mitigate the project risks, the Implementing Agencies (IA), namely RBC will develop an E&S screening template, as part of the Project Environmental and Social Management Framework, which each implementing will use to assess the E&S risks of their respective project activities, and identify proportionate mitigation measures in the form of activity specific E&S management measures (i.e. ESMP checklist, or environmental, social health and safety mitigation measures/clauses to be included in the bidding documents, templates for mitigation measures and other E&S mitigation tools). The social risks under ESS1 pertain to (i) social exclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g., persons with disabilities, the elderly, women headed households and widows, children without parents etc.) to project benefits. To mitigate the project risks, the Implementing Agencies (IA), namely RBC will develop an E&S screening template, as part of the Project Environmental and Social Management Framework, which each implementing will use to assess the E&S risks of their respective project activities, and identify proportionate

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mitigation measures in the form of activity specific E&S management measures (i.e. ESMP checklist, or environmental, social health and safety mitigation measures/clauses to be included in the bidding documents, templates for mitigation measures and other E&S mitigation tools). The project's E&S risks and mitigation measures will be included in the Project Environmental and Social Management Framework that will be prepared by integrating all E&S requirements of the Project. The Project Environmental and Social Management Framework will include, among other aspects, Medical Waste Management Plan (MWMP) to address relevant identified risks under the project. The MWMP will be prepared by RBC in accordance with Rwanda's regulations and consistent with ESS3, relevant World Bank Group's Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (WBG EHS Guidelines). The MWMP will be prepared as part of the Project Environmental and Social Management Framework which will be reviewed and cleared by the Bank and disclosed prior to implementation of relevant activities. Social exclusion and SEA/SH risks will be addressed, as appropriate, in the design of project activities and through relevant mitigation measures included in the E&S documentation prepared during implementation including the Project Environmental and Social Management Framework, Code of Conduct (CoC) for workers, and through availability of effective stakeholder engagement and grievance mechanisms.

**C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities**

**C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by Appraisal?**

*[Description of expectations in terms of documents to be prepared to assess and manage the project's environmental and social risks and by when (i.e., prior to Effectiveness, or during implementation), highlighted features of ESA documents, other project documents where environmental and social measures are to be included, and the related due diligence process planned to be carried out by the World Bank, including sources of information for the due diligence - Max. character limit 3,000]*

SEP by Appraisal

ESCP by Appraisal

ESMP before commencement of activities

ESIA before commencement of the bidding process of laboratory and research center construction

LMP by effectiveness

**III. CONTACT POINT**

**Contact Point**

Task Team Leader: Amparo Elena Gordillo-Tobar Title: Senior Economist

Email: agordillotobar@worldbank.org

TTL Contact: Nkosinathi Vusizihlobo Mbuya Job Title: Senior Nutrition Specialist

Email: nmbuya@worldbank.org

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Rwanda Health Emergency Preparedness, Response And Resilience Program Using The Multiphase Programmatic Approach (P504764)

TTL Contact: Joao Verissimo Figueiredo Rodrigues E Pires Job Title: Senior Health Specialist

Email: [jpires@worldbank.org](mailto:jpires@worldbank.org)

#### IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
Telephone: (202) 473-1000  
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

#### V. APPROVAL

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Task Team Leader(s):          | Amparo Elena Gordillo-Tobar, Nkosinathi Vusizihlobo Mbuya, Joao Verissimo Figueiredo Rodrigues E Pires |
| ADM Environmental Specialist: | Yacob Wondimkun Endaylalu  |
| ADM Social Specialist:        | Chantal Umulinga K   |

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