

**Central African Republic / Ministry of Urban
Development, Land Reform and Housing**

**Inclusive and Resilient Cities Project – PROVIR
(P178774)**

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

July 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Central African Republic (the Recipient) will implement the Inclusive and Resilient Cities Project – PROVIR (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Urban Development, Land Reform and Housing (MURFVH), as set out in the Financing Agreement. The International Development Association (hereinafter as the Association), has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the referred agreement.
2. The Recipient 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 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.
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Recipient 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 Association. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association.
4. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP will 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 Recipient through Ministry of Urban Development, Land Reform and Housing (MURFVH) and the Association agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Minister of MURFVH. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on the 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 instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).</p>	<p>Submit quarterly and annually reports to the Association throughout Project implementation Unit, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Association/ no later than 15 days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	<p>Ministry of Urban Development, Land Reform and Housing (MURFVH), Project Implementation Unit (MURFVH /PIU)</p>
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Promptly notify the Association 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, at the Association’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p>Notify the Association no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident and within 24h in case of SEA/SH or fatality.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report to the Association within a timeframe acceptable to the Association/.</p>	<p>MURFVH/PIU</p>
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 Association.</p>	<p>Submit the monthly reports to the Association upon request and as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.</p>	<p>MURFVH/PIU</p>
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ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<p>1.1 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Establish and maintain a Project Implementation Unit with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including one Environmental (with expertise in occupational health and safety), one Social, one Gender Based Violence (GBV), one Security specialist. Supervising Firm and Contractors should also recruit a Social Specialist, GBV specialist, an environmental and OHS Specialist among their staff to implement project activities in compliance with their contracts and to ensure the completion of Action B and C above.</p>	<p>A PIU has been established and will be maintained throughout Project implementation. One (1) Environmental Specialist, one (1) Social Specialist and (1) Gender/GBV specialist have been recruited, One (1) Security specialist will be recruited, no later than 3 months after the Effective Date and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation. The PIU shall seek the support of the specialist of another Bank financed project while waiting to finalize recruitment of Project security specialist.</p> <p>The Owner Engineering Firm with E&S team is hired and in place prior to the signing of key contracts and shall be maintained throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MURFVH/PIU</p>
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>1. Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) consistent with the relevant ESSs and in a manner acceptable to the Bank</p> <p>2. Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt and thereafter implement the subproject- specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP)s, which will include OHS Plans, waste management and Traffic Management plans and emergency response plans and implemented by contractors and other instruments, as necessary, as set out in the ESMF for project. The proposed subprojects activities described in the exclusion list set out in the ESMF shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.</p>	<p>1. The ESMF was prepared, consulted upon, and disclosed on June 27, 2024, and will be implemented throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>2. Adopt the ESMPs prior to the carrying out of project activity that requires the adoption of such ESMP. Once adopted, implement the respective ESMP throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MURFVH/PIU</p>
<p>1.3 MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p>	<p>1. Prior to the preparation of bidding documents</p> <p>2. The C-ESMP shall be submitted by the contractors, once the Contract is signed and prior to the start of works.</p>	<p>MURFVH/PIU</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S instruments, 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>Under procurement contracts and granted contracts include the requirement for contractors to prepare a Contractor Environmental and Social Management Plan (C-ESMP) and ensure they are implemented.</p>	Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.	
1.4	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project, including, inter alia, the environmental and social instruments to be supported under the TA, are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MURFVH/PIU
1.5	<p>CONTINGENT [EMERGENCY] [EARLY] RESPONSE FINANCING</p> <p>a) Ensure that the CERC Manual includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements including, CERC-ESMF/ESMF Addendum that will be included or referred to in the CERC Manual for the implementation of CERC Component, in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>b) Adopt any environmental and social (E&S) instruments which may be required for activities under CERC Part of the Project, in accordance with the CERC Manual and, CERC-ESMF or 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>a) The adoption of the CERC manual and, CERC-ESMF/ESMF Addendum in form and substance acceptable to the Association is a withdrawal condition under Section [III of Schedule 2 of the Financing Agreement for the Project.</p> <p>b) 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>	MURFVH/PIU
1.6	<p>EXCLUSIONS: Exclude the following types of activities as ineligible for funding under the project in accordance with the exclusion list of the ESMF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities that may result in long-term, permanent and/or irreversible negative impacts (e.g. loss of major natural habitat), 	Completed during the above assessment process under Action 1.2. ESMF and to be considered in preparation of ESMPs to be prepared prior to the carrying out of project activity that requires the adoption of respective ESMPs.	MURFVH/PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities that have a high probability of causing serious adverse effects on human health and / or the environment, - Activities that may have significant negative social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflicts, - Any activity or subprojects with significant risks and/or adverse impacts on critical habitat and the biodiversity that it supports and those that would need clearing of any type of critical habitats or forests in protected areas shall be excluded from receiving financing, - Negative list of activities (if activation of CERC). 		
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Prepare, consult upon, disclose, adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project, including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response), 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>These procedures will also include clauses for the use of national and foreign workers (skilled and unskilled) in accordance with the Labor Code and ESS2. These clauses require suppliers and subcontractors to behave in a way that does not create or exacerbate the risks of SEA/SH by signing the code of conduct and following regular training on GBV, and SEA/SH risks and consequences, prohibited conduct and applicable sanctions, and reporting incidents under GRM sensitive to SEA/SH. A labor influx management plan shall be prepared which prescribe transparent procedures for recruitment of temporary local employees to reduce risk of social unrest.</p>	<p>Prepare, disclose, consult upon, LMP no later than two months after the project effective date and before civil works start, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MURFVH/PIU</p>
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2. MURFVH shall ensure that Project Workers using this GM shall not be subject to any form of discrimination or repression and that it includes measures to address SEA/SH complaints.</p>	<p>Establish grievance mechanism no later than two months after the project effective date (and before recruitment of contracted workers) and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation. Workers engaged before this date shall adhere to the internal regulations governing worker behaviors of MURFVH.</p>	<p>MURFVH/PIU</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Require contractors carrying out the works to establish, operationalize and maintain a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the labor management procedures, and in accordance with the provisions of ESS 2, to be reflected in the C-ESMP.		
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN Incorporate waste management procedures in the ESMF and all subproject ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMF and ESMPs under action 1.2.	MURFVH/PIU
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMF and site-specific ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMF and ESMPs under action 1.2.	MURFVH/PIU
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 ESMF and all subproject ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMF and ESMPs under action 1.2.	MURFVH/PIU
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities including risks related to labor influx such as traffic and road safety risks, community exposure to noise and dust from construction, sexual abuse and exploitation (SEA), the spread of COVID-19, and the emergency response plan, as specified in the ESMP in points 1.3 and 1.4 and the SEA/SH Prevention and Response Plan (see point 4.4 below). Include mitigation measures in the ESMPs/ESMP Checklists to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMF and ESMPs under action 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4.	MURFVH/PIU
4.3	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES Incorporate OHS guidelines and Plans in the ESMF and all subproject ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2 above	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMF and ESMPs under action 1.2.	
4.4	SEA AND SH RISKS	Prepare, consult upon, and disclose no later than 2 months after the Project Effective Date, and thereafter adopt and implement the SEA/SH Action Plan throughout Project implementation.	MURFVH/PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<p>Prepare, consult upon, disclose, adopt and implement SEA/SH Risk Assessment and plan to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH associated with the Project consistent with ESS4.</p>		
<p>4.4 SECURITY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Prepare, consult upon, and disclose (executive summaries of), adopt and implement security risk assessment (SRA) and security management plan (SMP) that covered the assessment and implementation measures to manage the security risks of the Project, including the risks of engaging security personnel to safeguard Project workers, sites, assets, and activities, as set out in the Security Management Plan, guided by the principles of proportionality and GIIP, and by applicable law, in relation to hiring, rules of conduct, training, equipping, and monitoring of such personnel.</p>	<p>Prepare, consult upon, and disclose (executive summaries of) SRA and SMP no later than 3 months after the Project Effective Date, and thereafter adopt and implement the SRA and SMP throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MURFVH/PIU</p>
<p>4.5 INVOLVEMENT OF SECURITY PERSONNEL</p> <p>Ensure the following measures are carried out before deploying the security forces for the provision of security to Project workers, sites and/or assets, consistent with the ESSs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assess and implement measures to manage the security risks of engaging the security personnel as set out in the Security Management Plan and consistent with ESS4, guided by the principles of proportionality and GIIP, and by applicable law, in relation to screening, hiring, rules of conduct, training, equipping, and monitoring of the security personnel. b. Adopt and implement standards, protocols, and codes of conduct, as relevant, for the selection and assignment of the security personnel to the Project, and make reasonable inquiries to verify that security forces that are employed have not engaged in past unlawful or abusive behavior, including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH) or excessive use of force as set out in the SMP and consistent with ESS4; 	<p>Carry out a, b), and c) before deploying security personnel under the Project and implement throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>d) and e) as set out under actions 10.1 and 10.2 respectively. Notify the Association after receiving the concern or grievance in the timeframe specified in action B above.</p> <p>f) within the timeframes requested by the Association.</p>	<p>MURFVH/PIU</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Ensure that adequate instruction and training is provided to security personnel, prior to deployment and on a regular basis, on the use of force and appropriate conduct (including in relation to civilian-military engagement, SEA and SH, and other relevant areas), as set out in the SMP and consistent with ESS4; d. Ensure that the stakeholder engagement activities under the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) include communication on the involvement of security personnel in the Project; e. Ensure that any concerns or grievances regarding the conduct of the security personnel are received, monitored, and documented (taking into account the need to protect confidentiality) by the Project’s grievance mechanism (see action 10.2 below), which shall facilitate its resolution, in accordance with ESS4 and ESS10. Notify the Association after receiving the concern or grievance, as set out under action B above; and f. Where the Association so request in writing, after consultation with the Recipient: (i) promptly appoint a third- party monitor consultant, with terms of reference, qualifications and experience acceptable to the Association, to visit and monitor the Project area where security personnel are deployed, collect relevant data and communicate with Project stakeholders and beneficiaries; (ii) require the third-party monitor consultant to prepare and submit monitoring reports, which shall be promptly made available to and discussed with the Association; and (iii) promptly take any actions, as may be requested by the Association upon its review of the third-party monitor consultant reports. 		
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT		
<p>5.1 RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK</p> <p>Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt and implement a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) for the Project, consistent with ESS5.</p>	<p>The RPF was prepared, disclosed on 27 June 2024, consulted upon and adopt and shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MURFVH/PIU</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
5.2	<p>RESETTLEMENT PLANS</p> <p>Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt and implement a resettlement action plan (RAP) including a Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) for each activity under the Project RPF for which such RAP is needed, and consistent with ESS5.</p>	Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt and implement once sites for project works are known, and before the start of related works, the respective RAP annexed with LRP, including ensuring that before taking possession of the land and related assets, full compensation has been provided and, as applicable, displaced people have been resettled and moving allowances have been provided. In addition, ensure that all measures planned in the Livelihood Restoration Plan shall be applied.	MURFVH/PIU
5.3	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>Develop and implement the arrangements for the grievance mechanism for resettlement in accordance with the grievance mechanism under ESS10. The grievance mechanism (GM) to address resettlement related complaints should be described in the RPF, RAPs and SEP. Ensure that the RF, RAPs and SEP provide detailed information on the grievance mechanism (GM) to which complaints and feedback on involuntary resettlement under the Project can also be directed.</p>	The GM shall be operational before the start of resettlement activities under each investment and maintained throughout Project implementation.	MURFVH/PIU
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	<p>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS</p> <p>As per ESMF, conduct a preliminary screening and assess each subproject activity proposed for financing in terms of its risks and impacts on biodiversity and adopt relevant measures, as required by the ESMF and in line with ESS6, to be included in the ESMPs.</p>	Same timeframe as for the ESMF and ESMPs under Action 1.2 above	MURFVH/PIU
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
Not currently relevant.			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	<p>CHANCE FINDS</p> <p>Describe and implement the chance finds procedures, as part of the ESMF and all subproject ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2 above</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMF and ESMPs under action 1.2.	MURFVH/PIU
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
Not currently relevant			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt and implement a 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.</p>	The SEP was prepared, consulted upon, and disclosed on June 27, 2024 and will be implemented throughout Project implementation.	MURFVH/PIU
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>	Establishing the grievance mechanism, no later than 2 months after the Effectiveness Date and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation. In the event of project complaints before the GM is operational, Bank projects with GM in shared project zones will be sensitized to process PROVIR complaints.	MURFVH/PIU
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
CS1	<p>Training shall be required for PIU staff, stakeholders including local authorities, community leaders and community members supporting project implementation and monitoring, and project workers on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank Environmental and Social Framework and national environmental and social legislation • Project specific instruments namely, ESMF, LMP, SEP and preparation and implementation of site-specific E&S instruments, including waste management, traffic safety, biodiversity etc • Monitoring and reporting of E&S aspects of the Project • Occupational health and safety (OHS), emergency prevention and response • Environmental, OHS and social requirements related to procurement (bidding documents, Contractor ESMP, etc.), labor requirements for primary suppliers and specific LMP measures 	<p>Initial training shall be provided by the PIU not later than ninety (90) days after the establishment of the PIU and before start of activities of the Borrower's Respective Parts of the Project.</p> <p>Refresher trainings at least once a year or more frequently, during the implementation of the Borrower's Respective Parts of the Project.</p>	MURFVH/PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation, prevention and response including case management of SEA/SH and implementation of the SEA/SH Action Plan • Project grievance mechanism and Worker grievance mechanism • Compensation arrangements in cases of physical and economic displacement and other aspects touching RAP preparation and implementation • Emergency preparedness and response • Use and management of security forces • Other relevant topics, as needed. 		
CS2	<p>Training provided by the PIU shall be required for Project workers and contractors on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupational health and safety (OHS), emergency prevention and response, traffic safety, pollution management, vehicular safety, safe use of tools, machinery and equipment, working at heights, environmental, OHS and social requirements related to procurement (bidding documents, Contractor ESMP, etc.), • Specific LMP measures including worker GMs, and diverse and respectful workplaces, free of SEA/SH. • Project and workers GM • Solid and liquid waste management • STI/HIV AIDS sensitization 	As soon as possible after project effectiveness and throughout project implementation.	MURFVH/PIU