

**Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands (MILLs)**

**Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project Phase II (LLRP II)
(P180076)**

Appraisal

**Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
December 2023**

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (the Recipient) will implement the **Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project, Phase II (LLRP II)** (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands (MILLs), as set out in the Financing Agreement. The International Development Association (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 and the Association agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Borrower's designated official, the Minister for Irrigation and Lowlands. 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 Environmental and Social (E&S) instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanisms.</p> <p>The FPCU shall conduct an independent E&S audit every two years and submit the audit report to the Association.</p>	Submit quarterly and annual reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date.	MILLs, Federal Project Coordination Unit (FPCU)
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, including those that could be caused due to exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals (pesticides). 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.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report to the Association within fifteen (15) days or within a timeframe acceptable to the Association.</p>	MILLs, FPCU
C	<p>CONTRACTORS’ QUARTERLY 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>	Submit the monthly reports to the Association as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.	MILLs FPCU Regional Project Coordination Units (RPCUs)
d			
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>(a) Maintain the Federal Project Coordination Units (FPCU) and the Regional Project Coordination Units (RPCUs) for Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP I) (P164336) within MILLS, including the current Federal Level E&S staff and provide adequate resources to support the management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project. Each Project implementing Regional State, including the newly added regions, shall recruit One Environmental and One Social Specialist. E&S focal persons shall be assigned in each Project implementing Woreda and Kebele</p> <p>(b) Hire a qualified SEA/SH specialist at the FPCU to provide support for any activities related to the GBV/SEA/SH including implementation of the GBV/SEA/SH action plan.</p>	<p>Recruit all E&S experts and focal persons prior to disbursement for component I and It activities and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Hire the SEA/SH specialist within three (3) months from the Project Effective Date, and maintain position throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MILLS FPCU</p> <p>MILLS FPCU</p>
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>a) Implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which have been prepared for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.</p> <p>b) Adopt and implement site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) in line with the screening, assessment, and mitigation procedures of the ESMF.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Adopt before launching the bidding processes for the respective Project subproject activities, and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MILLS FPCU</p>
1.3	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with terms of</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MILLS FPCU</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<p>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>		
<p>1.4 Exclusion Criteria:</p> <p>Exclude the following type of sub-projects/ activities as ineligible for financing under this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sub-projects/ Activities that have significant adverse Environmental and Social risk and impacts which cannot be easily managed or mitigated to acceptable level. ○ Sub-projects/ Activities that may cause damage to physical and cultural resources. ○ Activities that involve construction of reservoir dams that are above 15 meters height. ○ Involve removal or conversion of forests and other designated natural resources and wildlife reserved areas. ○ Activities that may cause degradation of biodiversity and living natural resources as well as on habitats of significant value for biodiversity such as critical and natural habitats. ○ Involve land use changes such as drainage of wetlands and cultivation. ○ Activities that may potentially affect the quality or quantity of water or a waterway shared with other nations. ○ Activities that may cause significant loss of biodiversity. ○ Activities that may have any potential adverse direct impacts on village centers (because it is located inside a village or close enough to a village); ○ Activities which are likely to have significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, irreversible or unprecedented use. 	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MILLS FPCU</p>
<p>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</p>		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), prepared as part of the ESMF, including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health and safety (OHS) (including personal protective equipment and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (including provisions relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for all Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.</p>	Implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	MILLs FPCU RPCUs
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.</p>	Enhance and maintain the operation for the existing grievance mechanism for Project workers prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	MILLs FPCU
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p>WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</p> <p>a) Prepare and implement Waste Management Plans (WMPs) where relevant following the procedure outlined in the ESMF .</p> <p>b) Incorporate waste management measures under site-specific ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2 above, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.</p>	<p>a) Prepare WMPs, where relevant, prior to bidding for works and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>b) Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs under action 1.2 above.</p>	MILLs FPCU RPCUs
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT		MILLs FPCU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<p>a) Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMPs.</p> <p>b) An Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) shall be developed for the subprojects that may involve the use of pesticides and shall follow the guidelines provided for in the annex of the ESMF.</p>	<p>a) Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.</p> <p>b) Throughout the project implementation</p>	
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY</p> <p>Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2 above.</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.	MILLs FPCU
4.2	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</p> <p>Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, e.g., behavior of Project workers, risks of labor influx, response to emergency situations, and include mitigation measures in the ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.	MILLs FPCU RPCUs
4.3	<p>SEA AND SH RISKS</p> <p>Implement the Gender-based violence/Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and Sexual Harassment (GBV/SEA/SH) Action Plan, which has been prepared as part of the ESMF, to assess and manage the risks of GBV, SEA and SH.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MILLs FPCU
4.4	<p>SECURITY MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Implement 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 (SMP) which has been prepared and adopted prior to appraisal, 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>	Throughout Project implementation.	MILLs FPCU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
4.5	<p>DAM SAFETY</p> <p>Engage qualified engineers to design dam safety measures for the small dams planned under this Project, in accordance with good international industry practice, and thereafter adopt and implement such measures.</p>	Throughout the project implementation	MILLs FPCU
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	<p>RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK</p> <p>Implement the Resettlement Framework (RF) for the Project which has been prepared prior to appraisal, consistent with ESS5.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MILLs FPCU
5.2	<p>RESETTLEMENT PLANS / PROCESS FRAMEWORKS</p> <p>Adopt and implement a Resettlement Plan (RP) for each activity under the Project for which the RF requires such RP, as set out in the RF, and consistent with ESS5. If restrictions in access to natural resources in legally designated parks were to occur, adopt and implement a Process Frameworks (PF) in accordance with ESS5.</p>	<p>Adopt and implement the respective RAP, including ensuring that before taking possession of the land and related assets, full compensation has been provided and displaced people have been resettled and moving allowances have been provided,</p> <p>Prepare PFs and implement them, where applicable, before the commencement of any subproject activities that involve restrictions in access to natural resources in legally designated parks.</p>	MILLs FPCU
5.3	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>A grievance mechanism (GM) to address resettlement related complaints shall be described in the RPF, RAPs, and SEP.</p>	Establish the GM in the timeframe specified in 10.2 below.	MILLs FPCU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		Establish GRC from Kebele to Woreda level prior to commencement of Project implementation and maintain it throughout the Project life.	
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	<p>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS</p> <p>Incorporate mitigation measures for potential adverse impacts on biodiversity in ESIA/ESMPs consistent with ESS6.</p> <p>Where significant risk and adverse impacts on biodiversity have been identified, a Biodiversity Management Plan shall be developed.</p> <p>If any potential adverse impacts on biodiversity are identified based on E&S screening of the subprojects (following a screening procedure included the ESMF that helps to exclude protected areas and critical habitats), the subproject E&S risk management instruments (ESIAs/ESMPs) will include mitigation measures for potential risks on biodiversity. In case of significant impacts due to subprojects in or potentially adversely affecting non-critical habitats (those habitats that are not legally protected or proposed for protection and do not have as high a conservation value), if any, Biodiversity Management Plans (BMPs) will be developed.</p>	<p>Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.</p> <p><i>Throughout Project implementation</i></p>	<p>MILLs FPCU</p>
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	<p>SOCIAL ASSESSMENT / SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN</p> <p>Implement the Project’s Social Assessment (SA) including the Social Development Plan (SDP) prepared prior to appraisal, consistent with ESS7. Ensure that distinct social and cultural groups are appropriately informed and benefit from the Project in an inclusive and culturally appropriate manner.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	<p>MILLs FPCU</p>
7.2	Maintain and operationalize the existing GRM under ESS10, and, where applicable, establish new subproject GRMs in new subproject implementing area, as described in the SEP and consistent with ESS7. Ensure that GRMs are culturally appropriate and accessible to affected Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities and	In the timeframe specified in Section 10.2, and thereafter implemented throughout Project implementation.	<p>MILLs FPCU RPCUs</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	considers the availability of judicial recourse and customary dispute settlement mechanisms among the communities.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	<p>CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS: Incorporate measures in the ESMPs/ESIA for subprojects to:</p> <p>a) Protect cultural heritage from adverse impacts of project activities and support preservation.</p> <p>b) Conduct meaningful consultation with stakeholders regarding cultural heritage both tangible and intangible.</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.	MILLs FPCU RPCUs
8.2	<p>CHANCE FINDS Implement the chance finds procedure that has been included as part of ESMF, consistent with ESS8.</p>	Same timeframe for the adoption and implementation of ESMF.	MILLs FPCU
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
9.1	ESS9 is not relevant to the Project.		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION Implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that has been prepared and disclosed prior to Project appraisal, consistent with ESS10 and ESS7, including 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>	Throughout Project implementation.	MILLs FPCU
10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p>	Establish grievance mechanism for new sites and update it for the existed site prior to project implementation, and thereafter maintain and operate the	MILLs FPCU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<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, ESS7, and ESS5.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of the different project grievances, including SEA/SH complaints and refer survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner; land-acquisition and involuntary resettlement grievances, and complaints that reflect the concerns of the historically underserved people who meet the criteria of ESS7, among others.</p>	mechanism throughout Project implementation.	
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
CS1	<p>In addition to staffing support provided in 1.1 above, conduct capacity building training for targeted groups, including, Project workers and Project staff, stakeholders, communities on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stakeholder mapping and engagement. ● Specific requirements on the SA/SDP, ESMF, SEP, RF, ESMPs, LMP, IPMP, SMP, and SEA/SH Action Plan. ● Subprojects' E&S screening and specific aspects of E&S assessment as established in the updated ESMF and preparation of ESMPs. ● GBV/SEA/SH, OHS, appropriate mechanical equipment operation and maintenance, etc. ● Occupational and Community Health and Safety including safe working procedures. <p>Specific training on implementing the IPMP, vector and disease control prevention plan, chance finds procedure etc.</p>	Regularly, throughout Project implementation.	MILLs FPCU RPCUs

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
CS2	<p>Organize training for Project workers and other project beneficiaries on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occupational and Community Health and Safety risk management • Proper use of personal protective equipment • Project GBV/ SEA/SH action plan • Community on emergency preparedness and response • Code of conduct • Grievance mechanisms 	<p>After the Project Effective Date, and regularly, throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MILLs FPCU RPCUs</p>