



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 03/26/2024 | Report No: ESRSA03383



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P504278	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	SMORE	2025
Operation Name	Strengthening Moldova's Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Project		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Moldova	Moldova	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Urban, Resilience and Land
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Republic of Moldova	Ministry of Internal Affairs	27-Mar-2024	05-Sept-2024
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
	41,000,000.00		

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Proposed Development Objective

The Project Development Objective is to enhance Moldova’s preparedness and response to natural hazards and climate-related shocks, and in case of an eligible crisis or emergency, respond promptly and effectively to it.

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 PAD Data Sheet in the Portal providing information about the key aspects and components/sub-components of the project]

The proposed Project is envisaged as part of a long-term strategic engagement on disaster risk management and climate resilience in Moldova, with this first Project focusing on investments and institutional strengthening for emergency preparedness and response, laying the ground for future support for risk reduction investments at scale. The Project will address immediate needs required to enhance the operational readiness of emergency institutions and personnel and proposes operationalizing an updated early warning system (EWS) to allow for more timely and accurate warnings to



save lives and reduce losses and damages, including those resulting from weather and climate events. The Project would also lay the foundations for potential subsequent investment projects by identifying and addressing existing risks in the built environment, and fostering a culture of financial protection and risk-sensitive development. Below is a summary of the Project components and their estimated financing. Component 1: Investments and Institutional Strengthening for Emergency Preparedness and Response (US\$29 million). This component will finance the installation and implementation of a national cell-phone-based PWS, with its respective instrumentation and data servers, and integration with existing meteorological, hydrological, and geological information systems. The component will also finance the acquisition of emergency response vehicles and equipment, and essential emergency response equipment and instrumentation for improved local-level emergency services. All activities would support the GIES to increase its emergency response operations capacity in line with requirements of the EU-CPM, reach compatibility with EU member states, and help the GIES meet its EU Acquis and legislative requirements. The following subcomponents are envisaged: Sub-component 1.1 – Public Warning System (US\$ 5 million). Sub-component 1.2 – Emergency Response Vehicles (US\$ 22.5 million). Sub-component 1.3 – Community Emergency Preparedness (US\$ 1.5 million). Component 2: Improving Hydrometeorological Services (US\$6 million). This component will support the strengthening of the SHS’s meteorological monitoring network, forecasting capacity, hydrological observations, EWS, and delivery of weather and climate services. This will include selective essential investments in the modernization of the country’s EWS—which is a key input to the GIES planned PWS financed under Component 1—through improved weather observation, information and communication technology (ICT), and forecasting infrastructure and institutional strengthening and capacity building. The improved weather forecasting and climate services will provide a critical value-add in decision-making for a variety of public and private users, particularly farmers in the context of increasing drought frequency and severity. A well-functioning SHS will also contribute to compliance with the EU legislation, including the EU Flood Directive, EU Directive related to Air Quality, and the INSPIRE Directive related to the free availability of environmental data including weather data. The component includes the following subcomponents: Sub-component 2.1– Modernization of Hydrometeorological Observation Systems and ICT Capabilities (US\$ 3.8 million). Sub-component 2.2 – Improving SHS Service Delivery by Enhancing SHS Forecasting Capabilities, Institutional Strengthening, and Regional Collaboration (US\$ 2.2 million). Component 3: Policy and Regulatory Support for Risk Reduction of Critical Infrastructure and Fiscal Resilience (US\$3 million). This component will provide support for policy and regulatory measures and technical studies to better assess and manage natural hazards and climate-related risks. This would include financing of the structural vulnerability assessments; geotechnical and other site investigations; and feasibility and design studies for rehabilitating, rebuilding, or reinforcing vulnerable critical infrastructure assets whose failure may cause loss of lives and livelihoods and significant economic damages and losses to the Moldovan economy. Activities financed under this component are intended to be used as pilots of good practices and later used as models for scale-up investments (by the World Bank, other development partners, and/or the Government as part of Moldova’s EU accession process) with a focus on seismic risk reduction. Finally, the component will also support DRF reforms in Moldova to reduce the post-disaster funding gap and improve management of disaster-related contingent liabilities. The component will support three subcomponents as follows: Subcomponent 3.1 – Policy and Regulatory Support to Reduce Seismic Risk (US\$ 1.5 million). Subcomponent 3.2 – Feasibility Studies for Selected Risk Reduction Investments of Critical Infrastructure (US\$ 0.5 million). Subcomponent 3.3 – Financial Protection to Mitigate Disaster Impacts (US\$ 1 million). Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) (US\$0). This component will enable the reallocation of credit proceeds from other components to provide immediate recovery and reconstruction support following an eligible crisis, as needed. Due to the vulnerability to natural disasters and the precarious regional security situation with potential repercussions on Moldova’s stability, the GoM has opted to include a CERC that can be activated in case of an eligible emergency event. Following such an event, the GoM may request the World Bank to reallocate uncommitted project

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funds to emergency response. The CERC design will be contingent on the impact and type of emergency and will not be a-priori limited to any sectors, regions, or specific activities. CERC-financed activities will be demand- and event-driven and will be detailed in a GoM Action Plan of Activities. An eligible emergency, conditions for triggering the CERC, and a positive list of financed activities will be defined in the project's legal documents, and mechanics of the decision-making process and implementation will be reflected in the CERC Operations Manual, as part of the overall Project Operations Manual (POM). Component 5: Project Management (US\$3 million). This component will finance operational costs (except salaries of the Project Implementation Unit [PIU] staff), consulting services, non-consulting services, goods, and training to finance the overall project management cost, including consultants hired by the PIU to carry out project management functions to ensure efficient project implementation and close cooperation between the line ministries and implementing agencies, as well as other project stakeholders. It will finance capacity-building activities for the PIU staff and other implementing agencies. These functions will cover procurement, financial, environmental, social management, monitoring/evaluation, and communication and outreach activities.

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 10,000]

The project will be implemented throughout Moldova.. Moldova is considered as the most climate vulnerable country in Europe. The country is exposed to various natural hazards, particularly hydro meteorological disasters such as droughts, floods, and severe weather events. Climate change is likely to render disaster impacts worse over the medium term. Climate models predict future rises in mean temperature of more than 2 degrees by mid-century, and a significant decline or a slight increase in precipitation, depending on the region. The poor and vulnerable groups are disproportionately affected, especially in view of their dependence on agricultural income. Agriculture employs 30 percent of the population and is the backbone of the rural economy. Droughts have been a recurring threat undermining the country's resilience. The 2020 drought caused a drop of 26 percent in agricultural production and significant socio-economic impacts with almost 20 percent of overall job losses in the agriculture sector, contributing to the recession and putting additional strains on the budget as the Government of Moldova (GoM) responded with relief measures. The 2022 drought, combined with very high fertilizer and fuel prices due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, caused a drop of 62 percent in cereal production. Extreme temperatures are also a risk in Moldova, with heatwaves, wildfires, and cold spells leading to power outages and water shortages. While earthquakes are rarer, their impacts could be devastating. The country is situated in a high-seismicity area due to its proximity to Vrancea, one of the most active seismic areas of Europe. Moldova has suffered 16 major earthquakes since the past 200 years, with the 1940 earthquake being recorded as the worst earthquakes in recent history at a moment magnitude of 7.7. Over 324,000 people or about one in every two inhabitants in Chisinau reside in the high-risk buildings prone to result in casualties in the event of a severe earthquake.

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 10,000]

The project will be implemented by the Office for External Assistance Programs Management (OEAPM) that will function as the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and perform all project management functions. OEAPM has long experience in managing implementation of external assistance projects and demonstrated its capacity to act as a PIU for projects with international financial institution financing, including through a series of World Bank-financed operations between 1996 and 2021, the most recent being the Competitiveness Enhancement Project, Phase II (CEP 2). The OEAPM PIU has a strong track record and experience with the World Bank's general policies and procedures, but has no specific experience with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework, due the novelty of them.

The project is multi-sectoral in nature. All key ministries and agencies engaged under the Project, including the MoIA, MoF, and MoE together with the SHS, and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MoIRD) will serve as implementation agencies, each leading the technical work for their respective components. To ensure cohesive overall coordination, strategic guidance, and accountability across the implementation agencies, the PIU will sign Implementation Agreements with each of the implementation agencies defining their respective roles and responsibilities in implementation of the project, including regarding environmental and social aspects. In addition, the already existing Steering Committee, which oversees OEAPM, will be enlarged to also include all key ministries and agencies engaged under SMORE, including the MoIA, MoE together with the SHS, and the MoIRD. This Steering Committee will provide strategic project oversight and ensure overall coordination between various implementing line ministries for effective project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

The PIU will be led by a project director and composed of dedicated staff and consultants for the project with adequate qualifications (including experience in World Bank policies and procedures). It will be directly responsible for (a) carrying out the procurement of works, goods, and services required under the project; (b) administering funds and maintaining separate accounting records in accordance with its own financial regulations, rules, policies, and procedures; (c) performing monitoring and evaluation functions to prepare periodic progress reports; (d) ensuring compliance with the World Bank's ESF processes; and (e) conducting adequate stakeholder and citizen engagement.

The PIU will hire a dedicated Environmental Specialist and a dedicated Social Specialist that will be responsible for implementing the ESF instruments including preparation of sub-project ESMPs and incorporating requirements into tender an procurement documents, and implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Each implementing agency will appoint an E&S Focal Point within their respective PIU.

The MoIA's current capacity to deliver public messages including public warning (PWS) and early warning systems (EWS), engage stakeholders is limited. The existing emergency communication systems are outdated, poorly maintained, and lack comprehensive nationwide coverage, forecasting, and monitoring capabilities. This significant gap hinders their ability to effectively disseminate timely warnings to authorities and the public, crucial for saving lives and protecting livelihoods during disasters. In addition, the national communication system has lack resources, infrastructure, and technical expertise for managing modern emergency systems. Component 1 of the project is largely dedicated to strengthening emergency communication systems. The project also includes World Bank executed trust funds to support institutional strengthening, capacity-building activities, and outreach for SHS, citizen engagement participatory mapping exercises related to community emergency preparedness, and supporting the implementation of DRF reforms.

II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS



A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

A.1 Environmental 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 4,000]

The proposed environmental risk classification is moderate. The project's activities will include small civil works (as rehabilitation and extension of selected existing weather stations and will have no permanent construction impacts on the human populations and the environment. The project will generally have positive effects due to the acquisition and replacement of fire and rescue vehicles with ones requiring less manpower that will reduce critical response times and improve the safety and efficiency of interventions under sub-component 1.1. It will also enable GIES to increase emergency response operational standards in order to meet requirements of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and reach compatibility with EU Member States. The equipment choice will be driven by low energy consumption and high efficiency. Traffic safety and road safety risk measures from fire and rescue vehicle usage will need to be implemented as part of the project design and applying good international industry practice and standard operating procedures. Component 2 will include small civil works needed for improving the hydrometeorological forecasting system. These works are related to rehabilitation of existing stations with new sensors and telemetry, as well as upgrading and renovation of existing weather radar and installation of a lightning detection system. The impact of such Works will be limited , only for duration of Works and with known methods for mitigation of their effects. There is also a TA component would finance consulting services for detailed structural condition assessments, geotechnical and other site investigations, feasibility design studies, detailed engineering designs (incorporating multi-hazard resilience measures as appropriate to site-specific exposures), and design reviews of critical infrastructure addressing flood, drought and/ or earthquake risks. Any feasibility study/ design funded under this component will take in consideration ESF requirements and green building requirements, towards lowering the consumption of the buildings by higher level of insulation, proper use of LED lighting and ventilation/ heating systems combined with use of renewable energy sources as photovoltaic panels, heat pumps and wind farms as applicable. All potential environmental risks of the project are expected to be low in magnitude, predictable and temporary if identified, mitigated and adequately addressed.

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 4,000]

The proposed social risk classification is moderate. The Project will finance small scale civil works to renovate, demolish, or construct new hydrometeorological stations in locations throughout Moldova, mainly in rural areas. No land acquisition will be supported under the project; all new and renovated hydrometeorological stations are on public lands. Adverse social risks associated with these works are limited, and related to labor conditions and health and safety risks for small crews of contracted workers, and for health and safety risks for surrounding communities during works. These risks are considered to be site-specific and readily mitigated using conventional methods. Other activities financed under the project to install and implement a multi-hazard cell phone public warning system and acquire emergency response vehicles are expected to predominantly result in social benefits, particularly for communities residing in disaster-prone areas through improved preparedness against future disaster shocks as well as adaptation to slow onset events induced by the climate change. In the long term, enhanced disaster preparedness

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and institutional capacity to respond to disasters could potentially result in the reduction of the loss of lives and economic damages as a consequence of disasters. Adverse social risks are limited and mostly residual, in the event that vulnerable people such as the elderly or people with disabilities are not able to access the benefits of such equipment or systems. A critical element to deliver social benefits is the ability of the implementing agencies to actively involve relevant stakeholders, communities, and in particular vulnerable groups on awareness raising and capacity building about emergency preparedness and responses. Provisions of emergency communication and early warning may have social implications with regards to individual and collective decision making if information is inaccurate and/or not delivered in a timely and accessible manner. Such risks are addressed as part of the project’s design and stakeholder engagement through implementation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The project will also finance a number of technical studies (e.g. developing methodologies for assessing seismic vulnerability vulnerability assessments) and feasibility studies for retrofitting existing building such as schools and hospitals for seismic retrofitting). These studies are not expected to result in significant social risks and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the ESS, as per the ESCP.

[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 8,000]

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESS) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

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

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS1 is relevant. The project comprises a variety of activities to support disaster risk management in Moldova, including procuring and installing equipment, renovating and constructing small buildings, as well as technical assistance for coordination and communication activities, and undertaking regulatory reforms, towards improved systems. The activities under Project Component 1 do not comprise civil works. The are expected to have a positive impact on the population of Moldova, particularly those living in rural areas and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. These activities will focus on strengthening Moldova's emergency preparedness and response capabilities through investments in a national cell-phone-based Public Warning System, emergency response vehicles, and equipment. This will enable timely notification of the population and rapid reaction of disaster risk management institutions, potentially saving lives in case of disasters. The risks associated with this component are related to inadequate inclusion of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the design and development of the warning notification process. For example, persons with disabilities require notifications in accessible formats, such as through audio or visual alerts or assistive technologies. Even if they receive a warning, they might be unable to respond due to limited mobility, lack of resources, or other factors. Tailored approaches are essential to ensure that those receiving the warnings contribute to the design and development of the EWS so that their needs are met. Project Component 2 will finance small-scale civil works to renovate, demolish, or construct new hydrometeorological stations in various locations throughout Moldova, primarily in rural areas. The environmental risks relates to potential soil, air or water pollution generated by the Works, as well as construction waste management. These aspects are well known, are low impacts, temporary for the duration of Works and mitigation measures will be put in place in order to minimize their

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impact on environment. In cases where surrounding land will be affected by the works, that land will be brought to initial stage on project funding. There will be no land acquisition supported under the project, as all new and renovated meteorological stations will be on public lands. Adverse social risks associated with these works are limited and mainly related to labor conditions, health, and safety risks for small crews of contracted workers, as well as health and safety risks for surrounding communities during the works . The Project under Component 3 will support policy and regulatory measures for risk reduction of critical infrastructure and fiscal resilience, including seismic risk reduction, feasibility studies for risk reduction investments, and financial protection to mitigate disaster impacts. Positive environmental and social effects of the project include resilience to climate change and health and safety of people in the event of a natural disaster. MIA and SHS, as key implementing agencies of the project, have prepared an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project. As the activities and locations of sub-projects have not all been fully identified and finalized , the ESMF assesses the environmental and social risks at the project and component level; sets out the environmental and social assessment requirements for the various future activities and sub-projects; and provides guidance on the preparation of site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs). The ESMPs will be an integral part of bidding documents for contractors carrying out works and supplying equipment and machinery under the Project (Component 2). Contractors will also be required to prepare their own ESMP/ESMPs checklist accordingly. The ESMF provides monitoring requirements as well as roles and responsibilities for ensuring effective implementation throughout the project lifecycle. Screening and assessment criteria in the ESMF will inform identification and mitigation of risks associated with the project activities, identifying and proposing measures to address risks of exclusion or non-participation, protection against gender-based violence and other needs for targeted assistance associated with vulnerable groups. ESMF refers to activities that can be addressed by preparing and implementing adequate mitigation measures and applying the adequate work-related health and safety practices (OHS aspects) during construction both for the construction workers and the related communities. The environmental and social requirements of ESSs will be taken into account for all activities to be provided under the project Component 3. The Terms of References (ToRs) for supporting policy and regulatory measures, development technical studies to better assess and manage natural hazards and climate-related risks will incorporate relevant environmental and social risk assessments and mitigation measures and provisions for stakeholder consultations including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups to promote transparency and public participation. For the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of equipment, relevant capacity building to operators and project workers from OHS risk perspectives will be incorporated in the operation manual. The ESMF has been disclosed and consulted upon prior to Appraisal alongside a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including a project Grievance Mechanism (GM). Measures and actions required for the project to achieve compliance with the ESF over a specified timeframe were codified in an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) which has been developed by the client in agreement with the Bank. The Borrower will provide to the Bank and disclose final or updated documentations as specified in the ESCP.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

MIA and SHS have prepared, disclosed, consulted the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) prior to appraisal to: map out the various stakeholders; present a summary of the engagements that have happened to date and have contributed to project design; develop a strategy to engage with stakeholders during implementation and share project information (including but not limited to relevant environmental and social issues and risks); and, solicit input and feedback on the implementation of the project. The Project has adopted the SEP prior to appraisal. The PIU will



be responsible for implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). A critical element in delivering social benefits for this project is the active involvement of implementing agencies in engaging stakeholders, communities, and particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged groups in raising awareness and building capacity about emergency preparedness and responses. The provision of emergency communication and early warning systems may have social implications for individual and collective decision-making if information is inaccurate or not delivered in a timely and accessible manner, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. The SEP identifies the various project stakeholders, and the proposed methods to engage with them during project implementation based on timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information. Project affected parties include the beneficiaries, consisting of the entire population of Moldova, as well as local government officials, including municipal administration and environmental protection authorities responsible for a coordinated disaster response. Other interested parties include various governmental entities that will be directly involved in project implementation, as well as different governmental agencies and other local public authorities. The most vulnerable groups are rural populations who have limited access to technology and information, restricted internet, and mobile network coverage, elderly people and persons with disabilities who might have physical accessibility barriers for notifications (audio, visual, assistive technologies), limited mobility, low-income communities with limited access to technology, etc. The SEP also sets out the methods to engage with non-governmental and civil society organizations representing various stakeholders and vulnerable groups, as well as think tanks. The SEP also covers broader citizen engagement activities such as participatory disaster risk mapping at the community level (as part of Subcomponent 1.3) to input into tailored approaches for system design, and processes to close the feedback loop by assessing beneficiary satisfaction with service delivery and resource provision. The project will support a communications campaign including targeting vulnerable groups to raise awareness of emergency services. The SEP sets out a grievance mechanism for the Project to be established, publicized, maintained and operated in an accessible, transparent and culturally appropriate manner for all project stakeholders, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10. The grievance mechanism will also be equipped to receive, register and address grievances related to the sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment in a safe and confidential manner, including through the referral of survivors to gender-based violence service providers. Uptake channels include physical grievance boxes, as well as a hotline to be established. The SEP along with other ESF instruments were disclosed at the MIA website and consulted prior to project appraisal.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS2 is relevant. The project will involve direct workers of the PIU and implementing agencies (i.e., OPEAM consultants and experts, government secondees), as well as contracted workers (i.e. consultant firms undertaking technical studies and workers of contractors undertaking civil works). The project entails routine, small-scale civil works to be completed by small contracted work crews and do not entail significant or unique labor or OHS risks. The ESMF identifies typical labor and health and safety risks associated with such works such as working at heights, trenches and exposure to hazardous materials and identifies standard mitigation measures such as training, and use of personal protective equipment. Dedicated Labor Management Procedures including a worker grievance mechanism will be further prepared, disclosed, and adopted not later than thirty (60) days after the Effective Date, or before launching any procurement processes.

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ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

All equipment to be acquired for this project are designed and expected to be energy efficient and this will be an important part of the choice of such equipment. The project will adopt and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP), to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes generated by the civil Works, including potential e-waste stream generated by replacement of old equipment. All prefeasibility studies/ design financed under this project will take in consideration principles of ESS 3.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

The project is aimed to increase community health and safety through an improvement of the policy and related procedures in case of natural hazard occurring. Potential risk for the project's activities may likely stem from potential weak implementation of contingency plans, poor public awareness, information distortion and/or inadequate maintenance of relevant early warning equipment, leading to malfunction and/or failures. Given that the project will procure emergency and rescue vehicles, the project is required to put in place processes for training of drivers in order to avoid traffic and road safety risks. These risks are expected to be addressed also as part of the project design (to include the training component), operations and maintenance arrangement. Some site-specific risks of adverse impacts on the health and safety of beneficiaries is posed by small-scale civil works for renovation, demolishing, or construction of new hydrometeorological stations. Risks include generation of waste, noise, dust, accidents from transportation of construction materials, fall or trip hazards from failure to safely separate work sites, as well as the possibility of negative interactions between community members and small work crews of contracted workers. Construction works are likely to involve some temporary disruption to road and pedestrian traffic and road access, if not effectively phased and scheduled. All works are done based on permits issued by local authorities, coordinated with police, transport, utilities and telecom services. All mitigation measures required for ensuring health and safety of communities residing in and around sites of the project intervention have been assessed as part of the project ESMF, and will be included into specific ESMPs along with Code of Conduct covering SEA/SH, and made mandatory for adherence by works contractors.

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

Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS5 is not considered relevant at this time. No land is being acquired under the project. Renovations and new constructions of hydrometeorological stations will only take place on public land. There is one demolition of an old hydrometeorological station included as part of the project that is situated on private land; owner's land will be restored to original condition. Feasibility studies for seismic retrofitting is limited to existing buildings (schools and hospitals), and land acquisition is not anticipated.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not Currently Relevant

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[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS 6 is not currently relevant, as majority of civil Works are done in human anthropogenic modified environment and the Project is not expected to support activities that might have permanent adverse impacts on biodiversity or living natural resources.

ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS7 is not relevant. Moldova does not host communities and/or groups who meet the criteria of Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically underserved local communities under ESS7.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS8 is not relevant. The project does not involve community-level disaster preparedness where use of traditional knowledge around disasters may be envisaged. The proposed investments will not have impacts on physical and intangible cultural heritage.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries Not Currently Relevant

[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]

ESS9 is not relevant. The project will not include investments with financial intermediation activities.

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

[Explanation including areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered - Max. character limit 10,000]

Borrower framework is not envisaged to be used in this project

Use of Common Approach No

[Explanation including list of possible financing partners – Max. character limit 4,000]

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No possible financing partners

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 Appraisal Stage PID and PAD – Max. character limit 10,000]

1. The Project's Environmental and Social Risk Classification is Moderate. ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 3, ESS 4, and ESS 10 are considered relevant. The Project will finance minor infrastructure investments under component 2 related to the renovation, demolition, or construction of meteorological stations. No land acquisition will be supported under the project. No significant environmental risks are foreseen, as the major component relates to the purchase of equipment for emergency response personnel and only small civil works related to rehabilitation of some public buildings in urban areas. The risks generated by civil works are known, of medium intensity for duration of the Works, and no permanent environmental damages. Due to their nature, there are known effective mitigation procedures which would be put in place. SMORE may finance feasibility studies for selected risk reduction investments of critical infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. To manage environmental and social impacts and risks, MoF has prepared an ESMF. The ESMF sets out the environmental and social assessment requirements of the project's activities and provides guidance on the preparation of site-specific ESMPs and/or checklists to be prepared by MoF PIU, on behalf of the related ministries, during the Project implementation phase. Adverse social risks are limited and are mainly related to risks of labor and health and safety risks for small crews of contracted workers and for health and safety risks for surrounding communities during civil works. These risks and mitigation measure have been identified in the ESMF and will be further developed in Labor Management Procedures before start of any bidding processes. The small size of the works and work force, located on public lands, contribute to the risks of SEA/SH assessed as low. A critical element to deliver social benefits is the ability of the implementing agencies to actively involve relevant stakeholders, communities, and particularly vulnerable groups in awareness raising and capacity building about emergency preparedness and responses. Such risks have been addressed as part of the project's design and stakeholder engagement through implementation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including an accessible grievance mechanism. The ToRs for Technical Assistance (that is, feasibility studies, regulatory support, and so on) will incorporate relevant risk assessments and mitigation measures and provisions for stakeholder consultations to promote transparency and public participation and will be consistent with the ESS. Depending on the types of equipment and instrumentation to be procured, relevant capacity building for operators and project workers from occupational health and safety (OHS) risk perspectives will be incorporated in the Labor Management Procedures (LMP). The ESMF, SEP, and ESCP have been prepared, cleared by the Bank, disclosed and consulted. All relevant measures are incorporated in the ESCP as time-bound actions and are part of the Loan Agreement.

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 implementation?

[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 10,000]

Prior to appraisal, the project will prepare:



- A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) covering all components under the project and a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)
- Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
- Prior to effectiveness, the project will prepare a Project Operation Manual (POM)
- a standalone Labor Management Plan in line with the ESS2 will be prepared no later than 60 days after effectiveness in accordance with the requirements of ESCP

III. CONTACT POINT

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V. APPROVAL

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