

**Panama COVID-19
Emergency Response Project
(P173881)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

April 22, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Panama, through the Ministry of Health (MINSA in Spanish), will implement the COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (the **Project**). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter the **Bank**) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Republic of Panama will implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) sets out material measures and actions, any specific documents or plans, as well as the timing for each of these.
3. The Republic of Panama is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Health, Administrative, and Financial Management Unit (UGSAF).
4. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Bank by the Republic of Panama as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Bank will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
5. As agreed by the Bank and the Republic of Panama, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to assessment of Project performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, the Republic of Panama will agree to the changes with the Bank and will update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP will be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the MINSA on behalf of the Republic of Panama. The MINSA will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
6. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the Republic of Panama shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to, stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log.</p>	Every six-months during the Project's implementation in conjunction with the Project's progress reports.	MINSA
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Establish and maintain adequate capacity, consisting of environmental and social specialists, for the management of environmental and social standards relevant to the Project. A team comprised of existing specialists within the General Sub-Directorate of Environmental Health and the Directorate of Indigenous Health Affairs within the MINSA will provide support to the UGSAF in the implementation of ESHS aspects.</p>	The [MINSA] environmental and social team will be determined and available to support the project no later than 30 days after the Effective Date, before works initiate, and will be maintained throughout Project implementation.	MINSA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities and develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to detail measures and procedures for effective assessment and management of ESHS risks and impacts, in accordance with the Panama’s COVID-19 Action Plan and Good International Industry Practice including the COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP) prepared by the World Health Organization (WHO)), all in a manner consistent with the ESSs. This will include ensuring that individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project. An assessment of gender-based violence risks will be included in the ESMF and the necessary measures will be completed during project implementation.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans or other instruments required for the respective Project activities as per the project ESMF, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, requirements detailed in the ESMF, any environmental and social management plans or other instruments, ESS2 requirements, and any other required ESHS measures, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and (in the unexpected case of any civil works activities under the project) any contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>a. ESMF to be disclosed and adopted, in a manner acceptable to the Bank, no later than thirty (30) days after the Effective Date. Until the ESMF is approved, the Project will apply the WHO standards on COVID-19 response in a manner consistent with ESS1. Assessment to be conducted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</p> <p>b. Plans or instruments prepared before carrying out the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant activities, and thereafter ensure that suppliers, contractors and supervising firms (as applicable) comply with the ESHS specifications in their contracts through their involvement in the respective Project activities.</p>	<p>MINSA</p>

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<p>1.3 EXCLUSIONS</p> <p>Exclude the following type of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of pesticides and high energy consumption equipment or equipment that generates emissions that affect the ozone layer. • Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment not related to treatment of COVID-19 cases, such as transport and disposal of highly infectious waste that have not been duly treated for the purpose. • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict • Activities that may affect lands or rights of indigenous people or other vulnerable minorities • Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or adverse impacts on cultural heritage. • All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project. 	<p>During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	<p>MINSA</p>
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS		
<p>2.1 LABOR MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS2, in a manner acceptable to the Bank, including through, inter alia, implementing adequate occupational health and safety measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures), setting out grievance arrangements for Project workers, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Measures shall be reflected in the Labor Management Procedures to be included in the ESMF as determined in the ESRS.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MINSA</p>
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT		
<p>Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above, including, inter alia, measures to: manage health care wastes, and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.</p>		
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY		
<p>Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above including, inter alia, measures to: minimize the potential for community exposure to communicable diseases; ensure that individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project; manage the risks of labor influx; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment. The project is not expected to rely on security personnel for the implementation of project activities. Should security personnel be required, the ESMF will screen and identify the risks related to the use of security forces to support project activities, to ensure that the Borrower meets and follow the guidelines set forth in the Bank's Technical Note for "Use of Military Forces to Assist in COVID-19 Operations".</p>		

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ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
This standard is not currently relevant.			
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
This standard is not currently relevant.			
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
This standard is not currently relevant.			
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
This standard is not currently relevant.			
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN Update the draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) developed for the project as needed, in accordance with the COVID-19 Action Plan (mentioned under action 1.2(a) above), in a manner acceptable to the Bank, and adopt it for ongoing implementation to ensure that the carrying out of all Project activities includes stakeholder engagement and information disclosure consistent with ESS10.	Update and adopt the SEP within 30 days after the Effective Date and implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.	MINSA
10.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Accessible grievance arrangements shall be made publicly available to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.	Throughout Project implementation.	MINSA
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
	TRAINING Provide training to staff of health delivery facilities on the adequate use of personal protection equipment, handling and disposal of medical wastes, and on diagnosis, care and notification of positive COVID-19 cases, among other topics as identified during development of the ESMF and throughout implementation of the Project.	Throughout Project implementation.	MINSA