



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 10/30/2023 | Report No: ESRSC03888



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P180781	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	TPPHEP	2025
Operation Name	Turkiye Preparedness for Public Health Emergencies Project		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Turkiye	Turkiye	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	Health, Nutrition & Population
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Republic of Turkiye	Ministry of Health	15-Feb-2024	15-Jul-2024
Estimated Concept Review Date	Total Project Cost		
17-Oct-2023	350,000,000.00		

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Proposed Development Objective

To strengthen Türkiye’s health system preparedness to prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies.

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

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

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

This proposed project aims to support the government of Türkiye’s efforts to establish an effective national cross sectoral coordination platform for pandemic prevention, preparedness, strengthening laboratory and surveillance capacity for early identification of outbreaks, and addressing gaps in primary health care system to support response to disease outbreaks.



D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

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

Project activities would be implemented across Türkiye, including allocated sites in Ankara (VPC) and Istanbul (IDEA ABSL 2 and 3 labs). The VPC site is located in Akyurt district of Ankara province. The site is located in an urban setting, surrounded by factories and commercial enterprises. The parcel adjacent to the VPC site to the southeast is currently occupied by a vaccine and pharmaceuticals storage warehouse. The warehouse belongs to and is operated by the MoH. The facility also operates a warehouse building that is located on the Project site currently used for storage of vaccines. The ABSL 2 and 3 labs to be refurbished and equipped under the proposed project for experimental animal studies, are being set at premises of the Istanbul Experimental Research Center (IDEA). Capacity building and TA activities would be done at the national and subnational levels. The project activities would also focus on reducing climate vulnerability by strengthening health system preparedness to prevent and respond to public health emergencies, including those exacerbated by climate change.

With the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak, Türkiye successfully mobilized its health resources to respond to the pandemic. Türkiye also launched its vaccination program and demonstrated high vaccination capacity. However, it also had supply chain challenges and shortages in this period. To address these challenges, the Turkish Health Institutes Presidency (TÜSEB) supported the manufacturing and commercialization of several essential products for COVID-19 treatment. The earthquakes in February 2023 also significantly affected surveillance and laboratory capacities in many provinces leading to increased risk of exposure to zoonoses and other infections. Moreover, public health risks and emerging infectious diseases have been on the rise in recent years, with more zoonotic pathogens spilling over from animals to humans. This provides the context for the necessity of the present project.

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

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

The Project will be implemented by the Ministry of Health (MoH) as the key implementing agency, with support from the existing Project Management Support Unit (PMSU) of the Türkiye Health Systems Strengthening and Support Project (P152799) and the Emergency COVID-19 Response Project (P173988). The MoH, which has the overarching responsibility for Türkiye's health sector and related policy oversight, will be responsible for project's financial management, procurement, and ESF compliance of the project through its PMSU and will ensure the technical implementation of all components. The MoH has a proven track record as a reliable partner. Since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, the World Bank has been working closely with the MoH to strengthen its response to COVID-19 and prepare for future public health threats. The ongoing Emergency COVID-19 Health Project supports Türkiye's actions to curb the spread of COVID-19 and strengthen the overall health system to detect and treat cases. The ongoing Health Systems Strengthening and Support Project P152799 also funded the procurement of pharmaceuticals, goods, and supplies to combat COVID-19 and is supporting Türkiye's efforts to strengthen its vaccine production capabilities. Current E&S performance rating of the project is Moderately Satisfactory due to some delays in updating the relevant E&S documents to accommodate project restructurings. The PMSU is experienced in implementing ESF and safeguards policies of WB and includes well-qualified environmental and social specialists who received ESF training from the Bank



and have been handling E&S management of previous projects, both under safeguard policies and ESF. PMSU has one environmental and one social specialist who both also oversee OHS. In addition, the MoH has engaged with a biosafety expert who provides his services as needed. Additional E&S and OHS staff may be hired to assist with project activities as needed, which will be determined during the Appraisal stage.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

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

The overall environmental risk of the project is rated as “Substantial”. This is due to the potential risks related to: (i) the construction and operation of BSL3 Vaccine Production Center (VPC) in Ankara, including impacts of the implementation of large scale construction works, and biological safety of storing, experimenting, researching and production of vaccines. While the proposed project will not support the construction of the VPC, it will procure equipment and laboratory supplies for the VPC. Thus, VPC has been classified as an associated facility to the project and is subject to the E&S due diligence, considering construction and operation phases; , and (ii) operation of ABSL 2 and 3 laboratory facilities in Istanbul, for which the proposed project will procure equipment and laboratory supplies and will support refurbishment of the IDEA labs. The other groups of risks will vary from “Low to “Moderate” and relate to (i) minor refurbishment and operation of laboratories and the Ankara Simulation-Based Training Center (SEUM); (ii) TA to identify vaccine manufacturing technologies which in future will inform and guide the vaccine production processes at VPC; and (iii) OHS and personal protection during the refurbishment, construction and operation of VPC, IDEA labs and other research and training facilities to be refurbished and equipped under the proposed project.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Moderate

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

The social risk rating for the project is “Moderate”. The moderate risk classification is based on the nature and scale of the project investments which do not include major infrastructure (or new construction of laboratories and VPCs), land acquisition with resettlement and livelihoods impacts nor activities which pose risks to human health. The project's social risks and impacts can be mitigated through implementation of Good International Industry Practices (GIPPs) in the health sector. Hence, adverse risks and impacts are residual due to poor implementation of the required measures, such as unintended spread of infectious diseases due to improper Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and disease containment. Also, the construction of BSL3 Vaccine Production Center (VPC) is considered as Associated Facility and may cause some labor and working conditions risks and impacts. MoH has already developed an ESIA for construction and operation of VPC under the ongoing Health Systems Strengthening and Support Project including measures to prevent infections and diseases, to manage labor and working conditions risks and impacts, and relevant staff assignment to manage these risks. Activities planned under sub-components 2.2 and 3.3. will involve minor refurbishment works for the establishment of the Ankara Simulation-Based Training Center (Ankara SEUM), which is already designated area managed by public authorities and hence, considered as public land with no prior use by private individuals for livelihood activities. There is also minor risk related to exclusion of certain



beneficiaries or stakeholders from project benefits due to inadequate consultation in designing the planned interventions.

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

B. Relevance of Standards and Policies at Concept Stage

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

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

Relevant

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

The risks are related to the construction and operation of the Ankara VPC, and refurbishment and operation of the IDEA ABL 2 and 3 laboratories. The project does not finance the VPC construction, but it's considered as Associated Facility. The project will support the procurement and installation of equipment and laboratory supplies for both VPC and Istanbul IDEA ABSL 2 and 3 labs, thus the need to address the related impacts and ensure environmental and social sustainability and biological safety. Other risks are those associated with E&S practices of MOH's laboratory and training facilities to be equipped under the project, technical advisory services, capacity building activities as well as minor refurbishment works. The impacts of VPC construction are considered under the ESIA Study, the MOH is conducting under the ongoing health project (P152799). It is expected that the ESIA will be finalized, consulted and disclosed within the scope HSSSP before the appraisal of this project.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

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

The key stakeholders for this project include entities at various levels within the Ministry of Health as well as healthcare workers across different entities such as the Presidency of Turkish Health Institutes (TUSEB), Vaccine Production Center (VPC), IDEA Biosafety lab, laboratories part of the national laboratory system, primary health care facilities (PHCs) etc. A SEP would be prepared by the end of November as draft final and then disclosed, consulted, and finalized by the end of appraisal. The existing national GM systems (SABIM – MoH Communication Center and SBN - GM for health workers) can be utilized for the project and be strengthened to ensure feedback, consultation, and effective communication with stakeholders during the preparation and implementation phase. The SEP will be disclosed prior to the appraisal, consistent with the requirements of ESS10, and will be updated, as necessary. The proposed project and the SEP will build upon existing government systems.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

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

This standard is relevant. Project workers will include direct workers (MoH staff and full-time project staff); contracted workers (construction workers, experts, consultants, trainers, etc.) and primary supply workers. Project activities are likely to affect direct and contracted healthcare staff employed either by the MoH (directly, indirectly or contractually)



as well as technical support agencies for technical support and capacity building work. Primary supply workers and Community workers are not involved in the Project activities. Compliance with applicable laws, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) guidelines as well as guidelines for the prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace will apply to these workers. The MoH will prepare an LMP that will outline the policies and procedures for all categories of workers, identify key labor requirements and risks associated with the project, and assist the MoH in determining the resources required to address project labor issues.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

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

While the proposed project will not support physical construction, considerations will be taken to ensure investment in equipment is safe from climatic hazard. Where feasible, greenhouse gas emissions will be mitigated by selecting energy-efficient equipment compliant with one of the efficiency standards. The construction of the VPC will generate various streams of wastes which will be managed in accordance with ESMP and detailed waste management plan developed as part of ESIA Study. The use of resources during construction will be subject to resource efficiency measures specified in IDEA labs ESMP. Wastes that may be generated from medical facilities and labs could include liquid contaminated waste, chemicals, and other hazardous materials. The beneficiary facilities and laboratories will implement the provisions of Medical Waste Management Plans which are developed in accordance with the requirements of, and following the content and format established by national regulations.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

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

There is a risk to community health and safety due to accidental release of experimental and vaccine production materials, which will be addressed within the scope of Ankara VPC ESIA and Istanbul IDEA ABSL 2 and 3 labs, suggesting respective mitigation and monitoring measures. Also, the facilities will undergo international certification at the commencement and then regularly as envisaged by international biosafety standards. Community-level surveillance and monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with site-specific and project level SEPs. Other community health and safety risks will be caused by minor refurbishment and installation works, such as noise and dust emissions, lack of security precautions that could create risks for workers and building users, etc., and will be managed by the application and integration of WB EHSs and GIIPs into respective TORs and contracts. Large-scale labor influx and worker accommodation are not expected.

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

Not Currently Relevant

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

This standard is not relevant as no land acquisition is expected under the proposed project. All the rehabilitation will take place in the existing facilities and within the existing premises.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Relevant

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

This standard is relevant. While no protected, sensitive or ecologically and biologically valuable areas are determined with the area of influence of the VPC site, the construction and operation of the Ankara VPC may pose temporary disturbance to flora and fauna species as well as some loss of modified habitat identified on the site. These potential impacts are being considered within the ESIA Study and site-specific Biodeiveristy Management Plan. All other interventions will be within the existing footprint of facilities unlikely to raise any risks to biodiversity and natural resources. These will be reconfirmed during the project Appraisal

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

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

This standard is not applicable, since there are no Indigenous People known to reside in Turkiye.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage Not Currently Relevant

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

This standard is not relevant. While no cultural heritage objects were found within the study areas of the Ankara VPC and Istanbul IDEA ABL5 2 and 3 labs, and these facilities are not categorized as cultural heritage by the government, chance finds procedures are incorporated into the respective ESMPs. These will be reconfirmed during the project Appraisal.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries Not Currently Relevant

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

The project does not involve Financial Intermediaries.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework No

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

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Use of Common Approach

No

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

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

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

The overall environmental risk of the project is rated as “Substantial”. This is due to the potential risks related to: (i) the construction and operation of BSL3 Vaccine Production Center (VPC) in Ankara, including impacts of the implementation of large scale construction works, and biological safety of storing, experimenting, researching and production of vaccines. While the proposed project will not support the construction of the VPC, it will procure equipment and laboratory supplies for the VPC. Thus, VPC has been classified as the associated facility to the project and is subject to the E&S due diligence, considering construction and operation phases; and (ii) operation of ABSL 2 and 3 laboratory facilities in Istanbul, for which the proposed project will procure equipment and laboratory supplies and will support refurbishment of the IDEA labs. These risks are assessed and addressed within the scope of site-specific Ankara VPC ESIA and IDEA Labs ESMP. The risks of the minor refurbishment and those of TA on identifying the vaccine production technologies will be captured by incorporating relevant WB EHSGs provisions and references to ESIA and ESMP findings and measures into respective technical specifications and TORs. The social risk rating for the project is “Moderate” based on the nature and scale of the potential investments which do not include major infrastructure, land acquisition nor activities which pose risks to human health. The project's social risks and impacts can be mitigated through implementation of Good International Industry Practices (GIPPs) in the health sector. Some adverse risks and impacts may be residual due to poor implementation of the required measures, such as unintended spread of infectious diseases due to improper Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and disease containment. MoH has already developed an ESIA for construction and operation of VPC under the ongoing Health Systems Strengthening and Support Project including measures to prevent infections and diseases and relevant staff assignment to manage these risks. Although no major labor risks and impacts are expected, the MoH will prepare an LMP by the appraisal to define the policies and procedures for all categories of workers to be involved in the project.

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

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

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

Ankara VPC Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Study is being conducted under the ongoing Health Systems Strengthening and Support Project (HSSSP) P152799 and expected to be finalized, cleared and disclosed before the appraisal of this project.

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Istanbul IDEA ABSL 2 and 3 Labs Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) was prepared and disclosed in 2020, and revisited in 2023 to accommodate the new project context and comments of Bank's biosafety expert.

The risks of the minor refurbishment and those of TA identifying the vaccine production technologies will be captured by incorporating relevant WB ESHGs provisions and references to ESIA and ESMP findings and measures into respective technical specifications and TORs.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including GM, will be prepared prior to Appraisal. The SEP will lay out a strategy to identify and map key stakeholders, including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. It will define the mode and frequency of engagement with stakeholders at various stages of the project cycle and ensure that consultations and engagement with stakeholders are conducted in a timely, relevant, clear, comprehensible manner with easy access to project information.

The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will be prepared prior to Appraisal.

Labor Management Procedures will be prepared by the Appraisal.

III. CONTACT POINT

Contact Point

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IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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V. APPROVAL

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