

**Republic of the Marshall Islands  
RMI COVID-19 Emergency Response Project  
(P173887)**

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

**Version for Negotiations  
April 11, 2020**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of the Marshall Islands (hereinafter RMI or the Recipient) will implement the RMI COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS). MOHHS will lead and coordinate with the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and other government ministries/agencies/units on Project implementation as may be necessary. The International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient 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 Recipient is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry, agency or unit referenced in 1. above.
4. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Association by the Recipient as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Association will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
5. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, 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 Recipient will agree to the changes with the Association 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 Association and the Recipient. The Recipient 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 Recipient 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
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<b>REGULAR REPORTING:</b> Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to, the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log, Labor Management Procedures, contractor’s ESHS implementation, ESHS incidents and the functioning of the grievance mechanisms.	Six-monthly throughout Project implementation.	<i>Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS) to provide data and Ministry of Finance (MOF) Department of International Development Assistance (DIDA) Central Implementation Unit (CIU) to prepare and submit reports.</i>
B	<b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</b> 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. Provide sufficient detail regarding 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 supervising entity, as appropriate. Subsequently, as per the Association’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence. These activities are outlined in the Project’s Grievance Mechanism.	Minor incidents will be reflected in the six-monthly reports to the Association, serious incidents will be notified to the Association immediately.  A report would be provided to the Association, as requested.	<i>MOHHS to provide data and MOF DIDA (CIU) to prepare and submit reports.</i>
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</b> The Project management and implementation will be led by a Project Director within the MOHHS. Assessment and management of the environmental and social risks and impacts are delegated to the environmental and social staff of the Central Implementation Unit (CIU) who will provide operational support to the Project. The CIU staff will coordinate with the Project Director and other key staff of the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS) to manage environmental and social risks and impacts. CIU staff will include at least two individuals with responsibility for implementation, monitoring and reporting for relevant environmental and social aspects including but not limited to the ESMF, LMP and SEP.	Two CIU environmental specialists, one international and one national, are already on board and a social specialist shall be recruited no later than two months of the effective date of the Financing Agreement for the Project (Effective Date). At a minimum, one environmental specialist and one social specialist shall thereafter be maintained by the MOF DIDA CIU throughout Project implementation period.	<i>MOHHS and MOF DIDA (CIU)</i>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 <b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</b></p> <p>a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, in accordance with Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be prepared, disclosed and adopted for the Project. The ESMF will include measures to 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.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans or other instruments required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the EHSs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including relevant WHO guidelines on COVID-19, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, 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 contracts with contractors and consultants. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and consultants comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>a. ESMF to be prepared, disclosed and adopted no later than 30 days after the Effective Date and prior to commencement of relevant Project activities. Assessments to be conducted prior to the carrying out of the relevant Project activities. Until the ESMF is approved, the Project will apply the WHO standards on COVID-19 response in a manner consistent with ESS1.</p> <p>b. Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p>	<p><i>MOF DIDA (CIU) to prepare and disclose the instruments with MOHHS review and input. MOHHS and MOF DIDA (CIU) to adopt and implement instruments.</i></p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.3 <b>EXCLUSIONS:</b> The following type of activities shall not be eligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g. loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts;</li> <li>• Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment not related to the treatment of COVID-19 cases;</li> <li>• Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and /or may give rise to significant social conflict;</li> <li>• Activities that may involve adverse impacts on cultural heritage;</li> <li>• Activities involving the acquisition of land, land use restriction or the involuntary resettlement of affected persons;</li> <li>• The disposal of medical waste in any site adversely impacting natural habitats or ecosystem services; and</li> <li>• All the other excluded activities set out in the <i>ESMF</i> of the Project.</li> </ul>	<p>During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	<p><i>MOHHS and MOF DIDA (CIU)</i></p>
<p><b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b></p>		
<p>2.1 <b>LABOR MANAGEMENT:</b> The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS2, in a manner acceptable to the Association, 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 consultants. These requirements will be outlined in the Labor Management Procedures (LMP).</p>	<p>The LMP shall be prepared, disclosed and adopted as part of the ESMF no later than 30 days after the Effective Date and before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</p> <p>All measures specified in this action 2.1 shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period.</p>	<p><i>MOF DIDA (CIU) to prepare and disclose the instruments with MOHHS review and input. MOHHS and MOF DIDA (CIU) to adopt and implement instruments.</i></p>
<p>2.2 <b>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES</b> Adopt, implement and update the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures in line with the ESMF, LMP, Infection Prevention Control &amp; Waste Management Plan (IPC&amp;WMP) and WHO guidelines on COVID-19 in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>MOHHS will make available the necessary training, infrastructure and supplies to enable adherence to their infection prevention and control standards and the IPC&amp;WMP.</p>	<p>The IPC&amp;WMP will be prepared, disclosed and adopted as part of the ESMF, no later than 30 days after the Effective Date and before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</p> <p>All measures specified in this action 2.2 shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period.</p>	<p><i>MOF DIDA (CIU) to prepare and disclose the instruments with MOHHS review and input. MOHHS and MOF DIDA (CIU) to adopt and implement instruments.</i></p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.3	<p><b>WORKER CODE OF CONDUCT</b></p> <p>Ensure that all health workers adhere to the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional conduct.</p> <p>Provisions to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) shall be included in the Code of Conduct (CoC) for workers in line with relevant national laws and legislation and adopted and applied under the Project in a manner consistent with ESS2.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHHS
2.4	<p><b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b></p> <p>Establish, maintain, and operate a Grievance Mechanism (GM) for project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2, with focal points to address these grievances established within MOHHS.</p>	<p>Prepare and implement a GM as part of LMP.</p> <p>GM for project workers to be established and functional within 30 days after the Effective Date and thereafter implement/update throughout Project implementation. Any grievances received before the GM is functional will be managed consistent with ESS2.</p>	<p>MOF DIDA (CIU) to prepare the GM, with MOHHS review and input. MOHHS and MOF DIDA (CIU) to implement the GM.</p> <p>MOF DIDA (CIU) to collect data and report.</p>
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
	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.		
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
	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 the use of security personnel; manage the risks of gender based violence; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.		
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
	Not relevant.		
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
	Not relevant.		
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
	Not relevant.		
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
	Not relevant.		
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
	Not relevant.		
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN:</b> Adopt, update and implement the Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.	Update, disclose and adopt the preliminary SEP no later than 30 days after the Effective Date and implement the SEP throughout the Project implementation period.	<i>MOF DIDA (CIU) to update and disclose the SEP, with MOHHS review and input. MOHHS and MOF DIDA (CIU) to implement the SEP.</i>
10.2	<b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</b> 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 Association. Without limitation to the foregoing, the Recipient shall adopt, implement and update the Project GM, included in the Project’s SEP, throughout Project implementation.	Adopt the GM for the Project and implement and update the GM and all requirements under this action 10.2 throughout the Project implementation period.	<i>MOF DIDA (CIU) to prepare the GM with MOHHS review and input. MOHHS and CIU to implement the GM. MOF DIDA (CIU) to collect data and report.</i>
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</b>			
CS1	MOHHS, Pacific Island Health Officer’s Association (PIHOA) and other relevant agency and support staff responsible for the Project to receive training on the Project’s ESF instruments and WHO guidelines on COVID19, and the roles and responsibilities of different key agencies in the ESF implementation. Specifically, training will be provided on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training in safe handling and disposal of hospital waste, including protective personal equipment (PPE)</li> <li>• Training in effective stakeholder engagement processes</li> <li>• Sensitization training on sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.</li> </ul>	Relevant implementing agency and support staff to be identified and to receive ESF training within two months of the Effective Date. Refresher and support trainings to be provided throughout the Project implementation period.	<i>MOF DIDA (CIU) to provide training</i>
CS2	Contractors to receive training on the relevant aspects of the Project ESF instruments and relevant ESHS requirements.	Prior to work commencing, throughout Project implementation.	<i>MOF DIDA (CIU)</i>
CS3	MOHHS to prepare and implement training as per Component 1 on infection prevention and control for facility staff to limit risk of hospital-based infection.	Throughout Project Implementation.	<i>MOHHS</i>