

**REPUBLIC OF GHANA**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**GHANA COVID-19 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROJECT (P173788)**

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

**17 March 2020**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Ghana (the **Recipient**) will implement the GHANA COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Response Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the following ministries/agencies/units: Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service (GHS). The International Development Association (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, stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log.	Quarterly throughout the Project implementation period.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</b> The Ministry of Health/ GHS shall establish and maintain a PIU with qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project including environmental and social risk management specialists.	The PIU coordinator and dedicated Environmental Specialist and Social and Community Engagement Specialist shall be assigned before the commencement of Project activities. The PIU shall be maintained throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service

<p>1.2</p>	<p><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, including 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, in accordance with the ESSs and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of GARID Project (P164330) to be updated, disclosed and adopted for the Project. <b>The updated ESMF will also include E&amp;S arrangements and procedure for the activation and implementation of the CERC under the GARID project.</b> The ESMF will include a template for Infection Control and Waste Management Plan (ICWMP) as well as a template for Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as necessary for isolation centers construction.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement the ICWMP, updated ESMF/ESMP and/or any other instruments, if 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 the relevant part of COVID-19 Quarantine Guidelines and WHO COVID-19 biosafety guidelines 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 supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>a. The ESMF for the GARID project shall be updated before the commencement of Project activities. Assessment to be conducted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities</p> <p>b. Before carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities, if required by the ESMF once available.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant activities and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>d. Throughout project implementation</p>	<p>Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service</p>
------------	--	---	--

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	d. Update environmental and social management plans or other instruments based on updated guidance by WHO on COVID19.		
1.3	<p><b>EXCLUSIONS:</b> Exclude the following type of activities as ineligible 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 may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict</li> <li>• Activities that may affect lands or rights of vulnerable people</li> <li>• Activities that may have adverse impacts on cultural heritage</li> <li>• All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.</li> </ul>	During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	Labor Management Procedures (LMP) will be prepared, disclosed, adopted, and implemented consistent with ESS 2	LMP shall be prepared before the engagement of project workers in Project activities	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
2.2	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 supervising firms.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.3	The Recipient shall implement adequate occupational health and safety measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures) in line with the ESMF and WHO guidelines on COVID19 in all facilities, including laboratories, quarantine and isolation centers, and screening posts.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
2.4	The Recipient shall ensure a non-discriminatory, decent work environment; including by ensuring that all health workers adhere to the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional conduct.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
2.5	The Recipient shall establish a grievance hotline and assignment of focal points to address these grievances within MoH.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
3.1	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.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
4.1	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 labor influx; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
4.2	The Recipient will put measures in place to prevent or minimize the spread of the infectious disease/COVID-19 to the community.	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
4.3	The Recipient will implement emergency preparedness measures in case of laboratory accidents/ emergencies e.g. a fire response or natural phenomena event	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
4.4	The Recipient will operate quarantine and isolation centers in line with WHO guidelines on “Key considerations for repatriation and quarantine of travelers in relation to the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV” as well as the Africa CDC guideline on “Africa CDC Guidance for Assessment, Monitoring, and Movement Restrictions of People at Risk for COVID-19 in Africa”.	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
4.5	The Recipient will ensure the avoidance of any form of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by relying on the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional conduct for all workers in the quarantine facilities as well as the provision of gender-sensitive infrastructure such as segregated toilets and enough light in quarantine and isolation centers.	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
4.6	The Recipient will operate quarantine and isolation centers and screening posts in a conflict-sensitive manner, avoiding any aggravation of local communal conflicts.	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
4.7	The Recipient will ensure that any security personnel operating for quarantine and isolation centers and screening posts follow strict rules of engagement and avoid any escalation.	Throughout project implementation	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
5.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
5.2	All eventual construction is likely to be undertaken within existing facilities which are encumbrance free. In the event of any need of private land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement, the RPF prepared for the GARID project will be updated, disclosed and adopted for the Project (in accordance with ESS5) to provide guidance on the preparation of resettlement action plans or abbreviated resettlement action plan as required, and the implementation of all other measures required in accordance with ESS5 prior to land acquisition and displacement.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
6.1	Not relevant.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
7.1	Not relevant.		
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
8.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
	Not relevant.		
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE:</b> Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, and in line with WHO provisions “Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) readiness and response to the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)” (January 26, 2020) in a manner acceptable to the Association.	A draft has been prepared and will be updated and disclosed before the commencement of Project activities.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
10.2	<b>CASE MANAGEMENT.</b> In line with the SEP, the Project will ensure systematic case management, allowing communication between quarantined people and their relatives.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service
10.3	<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.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service



MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</b>		
<p>Training topics for personnel involved in Project implementation will among others include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations</li> <li>• Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the COVID-19</li> <li>• Specimen collection and shipment</li> <li>• Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients</li> <li>• Risk communication and community engagement</li> <li>• WHO and Africa CDC guidelines on quarantine including case management</li> </ul>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Ghana/ Ghana Health Service