

Republic of Serbia
Serbia COVID-19 Emergency Response Project

Draft
ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

April 24, 2020



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Serbia (hereinafter the Borrower) shall implement the COVID-19 Response Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and respective Project Coordination Unit (PCU). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Borrower shall 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 Borrower is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry or unit referenced in 1. above.
4. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP shall be monitored and reported to the Bank by the Borrower 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 Borrower, 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 Borrower shall agree to the changes with the Bank and shall update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP shall be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Borrower. The Borrower shall 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 Borrower shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	REGULAR REPORTING: 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 the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism.	Quarterly throughout Project implementation, starting from the Effective Date	PCU of the MOH
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The Project shall be implemented by the Ministry of Health as the overall coordinator. The MoH shall rely on its existing structure and the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) established to implement the World Bank supported Second Serbia Health Project SSHP (P129539) which shall assume the responsibility for project implementation. The PCU shall, at all times during Project implementation, maintain qualified staff and resources to support management of E&S risks and impacts of the project, including through the recruitment of one environmental specialist and one social specialist.	The PCU in MOH shall recruit one environmental specialist and one social specialist before carrying out the relevant Project activities and shall thereafter retain said specialists throughout Project implementation.	MOH

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Prepare, disclose and adopt an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), and assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities in accordance with ESS1 and the ESMF, 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.</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, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including the WHO Country & Technical Guidance - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the WHO Guidelines on Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities in a manner consistent with the ESSs and acceptable to the Bank.</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 to be prepared, disclosed and adopted on or about 1 month 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. Screening shall be conducted before the carrying out of the respective Project activity.</p> <p>b. ESMPs or instruments acceptable to the Bank, shall be prepared, disclosed and adopted before beginning the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the implementation of such activities.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter ensure that contractors comply with the ESHS specifications in their contracts through their involvement in the respective Project activities.</p>	<p>PCU of the MOH</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<p>1.3 EXCLUSIONS: The following types of activities shall not be eligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g. loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts on the environment • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict • Activities that may affect lands or rights of minorities, • Activities that may involve any resettlement (temporary or permanent) or land acquisition/use restriction or adverse impacts on cultural heritage • All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project. 	<p>These exclusions shall be applied as part of the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	<p>PCU of MOH</p>
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS		
<p>2.1 LABOR MANAGEMENT: 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.</p> <p>The Borrower shall prepare and include in the ESMF Labor Management Procedures addressing labor and OHS issues related to exposure to COVID19 and beyond, before the carrying out the relevant Project activities.</p>	<p>The LMP as part of the ESMF shall be adopted on or about 1 month following the Effective Date.</p>	<p>PCU of the MOH</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 the use of security personnel; manage the risks of labor influx; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.</p>		
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	Not relevant.		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	Not considered currently relevant.		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Update, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.	The SEP will be updated and re-disclosed on or about 1 month from Effective Date. The SEP will then be continuously updated during Project implementation.	PCU of MOH
10.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Accessible grievance mechanisms as defined in the SEP shall be operational and 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.	GRM to be established on or about 1 month from the Effective Date and kept operational throughout Project implementation.	PCU of MOH
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<p>12. <u>Training topics for personnel involved in Project implementation shall inter alia include, but not limited to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training topics as per the WHO Country & Technical Guidance - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations - Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the COVID-19 - Specimen collection and shipment - Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients - Risk communication and community engagement - Establishment of quarantine • Training topics as per the WHO Guidelines on Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/85349/9789241548564_eng.pdf;jsessionid=EE45FF4B510A5297A7DFF6030A3BED25?sequence=1 • Country Sanitary legal framework 	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PCU of the MoH in cooperation with the National health institutions experienced in the relevant topics and/or in coordination or guided by WHO.</p>