



Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Emergency Response Project

Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

March, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. *The Palestinian Authority (PA)* will implement the West Bank and Gaza COVID-19 Emergency Response (P173800) Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the *Ministry of Health (MoH)*. The *International Development Association, (hereinafter the Bank/the Association)* has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The PA 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 PA 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 Bank by the PA 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 PA, 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 PA and MoH 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 PA and MoH. The PA and MoH 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 PA 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	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, stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log.	First report after three months of project implementation and thereafter quarterly throughout Project implementation.	MoH
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The MoH shall establish and maintain a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including a health and safety specialist, and social specialist.	Health and safety specialist hired or appointed one month after the Effective Date of the Project. PIU should be maintained throughout Project implementation	MoH
1.2	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS/ CONTRACTORS a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities in accordance with ESS1 and the ESMF to be prepared for the Project, including to ensure that individuals or groups who, because of their circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project. b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans or other instruments required for the respective Project activities as per the screening process, in accordance with the ESSs, the Project ESMF, Labor Management Procedure (LMP), the ESHGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including the relevant WHO guidelines on COVID19 and in a manner acceptable to the Bank. 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.	a. The ESMF to be prepared one month after by Effectiveness Date. b. Follow-up ESMPs shall be prepared before the carrying out of the respective Project activity. Other Plans or instruments as needed shall be prepared before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities. c. before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the implementation of the relevant Project activities.	MoH

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1.3	<p>EXCLUSIONS: Exclude the following type of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any items not included in the positive list of Goods specified in the ESMF and Operation Manual. All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project. 	During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	MoH
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>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, the Labor Management Procedure (LMP), and 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>	LMP prepared one month after effectiveness and carried out throughout Project implementation.	MoH
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
	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.		
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
	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.		
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
	Not relevant		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			

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	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.	A draft SEP was already prepared and disclosed and shall be updated no later than 30 days following the Effective Date. The SEP shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.	MoH
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/Association].	Throughout Project implementation.	MoH
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
	Training topics for personnel involved in Project implementation will among others include: · 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 · Security management plan.	Throughout project implementation	MoH