

Solomon Islands COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (P173933)

ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

10 April 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Solomon Islands Government (hereinafter SIG or the Recipient) will implement the Solomon Islands COVID-19 Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the following Ministries/agencies/units: The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS). The MHMS will lead and collaborate with the Policy and Planning Division (PPD) and other relevant governmental agencies/department/units at the national, provincial and local levels on the 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, through MHMS, 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 MHMS. MHMS 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
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	REGULAR REPORTING: 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 (when required for the improvement of physical facilities/equipping the existing facilities), ESHS incidents, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).	Six-monthly throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS)
B	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS 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, major issues and/or severe incidents will be reported to the Association within 24 hours. Other reports would be provided to the Association, as requested.	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.1 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</p> <p>The MHMS will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU), led by the Undersecretary Administration and Finance (USAF), with a core team of qualified staff and resources to support management (project management, procurement, financial management and environment and social risk management and M&E) of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including a full-time, local Environmental, Social and Health and Safety and Community Engagement Specialist.</p> <p>In the interim, whilst recruitment of PMU staff is underway, the Project will utilize the services of an existing PMU (including Safeguards Officer) from an on-going World Bank financed project. Their role will include capacity building and transition of knowledge and skills to the MHMS via the PMU.</p> <p>An international part-time Environmental, Social and Health and Safety Specialist shall be retained on an as-required basis.</p> <p>The interim PMU will seek clarification on the division of labor and coordination of activities among the development partners (DFAT, MFAT, UNICEF, WHO, Chinese Government). The PMU will agree with development partners to follow the WHO guidelines in executing COVID-19 interventions.</p>	<p>A local Environmental, Social and Health and Safety and Community Engagement (ESHS&CE) Specialist (full-time) shall be recruited/appointed within 6 months after the effective date of the Financing Agreement for the Project (Effective Date) and maintained throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>The interim PMU shall supply the services of its Safeguards Officer for a period of up to 6 months or until the ESHS&CE specialist has been recruited.</p> <p>An additional part time international Environmental, Social and Health and Safety Specialist shall be recruited/appointed upon Project Approval and retained on an as-required basis.</p> <p>PMU shall be maintained throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be prepared, disclosed and adopted for the Project. This 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 the WHO guidelines on Risk Communication and Community Engagement, Migrant camps and camp-like settings; Guidance for schools, workplaces & institutions; Reduction of transmission from animals to humans; Infection protection and control/WASH; and National Laboratories, all 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>d. Include in the ESMF provisions for environmental and social risk management for the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) should it be activated during project implementation. If the ESMF measures of the Project do not fit the type of activities and their environmental and social risks of the CERC, an Addendum to the ESMF would be prepared to address CERC-activities risks.</p>	<p>a. ESMF to be prepared, disclosed and adopted no later than 1 month after the project effectiveness 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>d. CERC provisions included in the ESMF prepared within 1 month after the Effective Date. Addendum, if needed, prepared within 1 month of CERC activation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p>EXCLUSIONS:</p> <p>The following type 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;• Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment not related treatment of COVID-19 cases;• Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict;• Activities that may affect lands or rights of indigenous people or other vulnerable minorities;• Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or adverse impacts on cultural heritage; and• Other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.	<p>These exclusions shall be applied as part of the screening process conducted under action 1.2.a. above</p>	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>These requirements will be outlined in the ESMF and Labor Management Procedures.</p>	<p>Labor Management Procedures shall be prepared, disclosed and adopted as part of the ESMF, no later than 1 month 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>	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
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			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	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			
	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above including screening checklists and due diligence to confirm site land and asset ownership/access arrangements.		
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			
	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: 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: Update, disclose, adopt, 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 1 month after the Effective Date, and implement the SEP throughout the Project implementation period.	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
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 Association.	Adopt the GM for the Project within 1 month of the Effective Date, and implement and update the GM and all requirements under this action 10.2 throughout the Project implementation period.	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Policy and Planning Division, Divisions of Provincial Health, and other relevant implementing support staff responsible for the Project to receive training on the Project's ESF instruments, CoC and provisions to prevent SEA/SH, the relevant requirements of the ESMF, LMP, SEP, IP&WMP and WHO guidelines on COVID19, and the roles and responsibilities of different key agencies in the ESF implementation.	Within two months of the Effective Date and as new Project team members join the Project throughout implementation.	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
Contractors to receive training on the relevant aspects of the Project ESF instruments and relevant ESHS requirements.	Prior to work commencing, throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health and Medical Services