

**Solomon Islands
COVID-19 Emergency Response Project
(P173933)
and
Additional Financing**

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

DRAFT: 04 February 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

Preamble

1. Solomon Islands (hereinafter the Recipient) shall implement the Solomon Islands COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (the Parent Project), including the activities to be supported under the Additional Financing to the Parent Project (hereinafter collectively, the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS). The MHMS shall 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] shall carry out the Project in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**). To this end, this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (**ESCP**) sets out material measures and actions to be carried out or caused to be carried out by the Recipient, including the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, grievance management and the environmental and social assessments and instruments to be prepared or updated, disclosed, consulted, adopted and implemented under the ESCP and the ESSs, all in a manner acceptable to the Association
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 referenced in 1. above.
4. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP shall be monitored and reported to the Association by the Recipient as required by the ESCP and the provisions of the Financing Agreement.
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, shall update the ESCP to reflect the agreed-upon changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP shall be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the Association and MHMS. MHMS 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 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	<p>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, ESHS incidents, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).</p>	<p>Six-monthly throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS)</p>
B	<p>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.</p>	<p>Minor incidents shall be reflected in the six-monthly reports to the Association, major issues and/or severe incidents shall be reported to the Association within 72 hours.</p> <p>Other reports shall be provided to the Association, as requested.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</p>
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The MHMS shall maintain a Project Management Unit (PMU), led by the Undersecretary Administration and Finance (USAF), with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including a full-time, local Environmental, Social and Health and Safety and Community Engagement Specialist. b. A GBV specialist shall be engaged to ensure quality messaging of the risk of GBV which shall include a communication campaign in all forms of community outreach in all phases of the emergency response. c. An international part-time Environmental, Social and Health and Safety Specialist shall be retained on an as-required basis. d. The Project Operational Manual (POM), developed to support the PMU to meet its responsibilities for management and implementation of the Parent Project, shall be updated to reflect any changes required as a result of the Additional Financing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A local Environmental, Social and Health and Safety and Community Engagement (ESHS&CE) Specialist (full-time) shall be maintained throughout Project implementation. b. A part time international Environmental, Social and Health and Safety Specialist and a GBV specialist shall be recruited/appointed upon Project approval and retained on an as-required basis. These roles shall be recruited/appointed within 9 months after the PP Effective Date and maintained throughout Project implementation. c. A GBV specialist shall be recruited/appointed upon Project approval and retained on an as-required basis. These roles shall be recruited/appointed within 9 months after the PP Effective Date and maintained throughout Project implementation. d. The POM shall be updated within 30 days after the Effective Date of the Financing Agreement for the Additional Financing (AF Effective Date). 	<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>e. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), to be updated, disclosed, consulted and adopted for the Project, the ESSs, the Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including relevant WHO guidelines. This ESMF will include measures to ensure access to and allocation of Project benefits in a fair, equitable and inclusive manner, taking into account the needs of individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, including, as relevant, with regards to vaccines.</p> <p>f. Prepare, disclose, consult, adopt, and implement the Infection Prevention Control and Waste Management Plan, and any other 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 EHSGs, 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>g. 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>h. Adopt procedures, protocols and/or other measures to ensure Project beneficiaries that receive vaccines deployed under the Project do so under a program that does not include forced vaccination and is acceptable to the Association, as set out in the ESMF.</p>	<p>a. ESMF shall be updated, disclosed, consulted and adopted no later than 1 month after the AF Effective Date and prior to commencement of relevant Project activities. Assessments to be conducted prior to the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</p> <p>b. Plans/instruments shall be prepared, disclosed, consulted and adopted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities. The relevant ESHS measures shall be incorporated into the procurement documents before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and shall thereafter be complied with throughout the carrying out of such activities</p> <p>c. before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>d. Protocols/procedures and/or measures shall be adopted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and shall thereafter be implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</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 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; • 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 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>	<p>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</p>
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 personal protective equipment and emergency preparedness and response measures), setting out grievance mechanisms for Project workers, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. These requirements shall be outlined in the updated ESMF and updated Labor Management Procedures to cover AF activities.</p>	<p>Labor Management Procedures shall be updated, disclosed and adopted as part of the ESMF, no later than 1 month after the AF 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>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</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 carry out the storage, transportation and handling of vaccines (including, ultra-cold chain management) in a safe manner and in accordance with the EHSs, and other relevant GIIP including relevant WHO guidelines; and adequately manage and dispose of health care wastes (including vaccine waste) and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</p>
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>4.1 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; establish and implement appropriate quality management systems to manage the risks and the impacts that services provided and activities carried out under the Project may have on community health and safety; 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		
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		
<p>The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS7, including, inter alia: (i) ensuring that the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) includes meaningful consultations with indigenous peoples throughout Project implementation; (ii) implementing procedures, protocols and/or other measures to ensure that indigenous peoples have access to Project benefits in a fair, equitable, inclusive and culturally appropriate manner, including, as relevant, with regards to vaccines, as set out in the ESMF and the SEP; and (iii) implementing measures to ensure that indigenous peoples are able to access the Project's grievance mechanism in a culturally appropriate manner.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE		
Though the standard is not deemed relevant, a chance finds procedure shall be prepared and integrated into the ESMF for the project for precautionary purposes.		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES		
Not relevant		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>10.1 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Update, disclose, consult, adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.</p>	<p>A draft updated SEP for the Additional Financing dated 4 February 2022 has been prepared, disclosed, and shall be, consulted, updated and adopted within 30 days of the AF Effective Date. The SEP shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</p>
<p>10.2 GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: An accessible grievance mechanism shall be established, publicized, maintained and operated to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all Project-affected parties, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall also receive, register and address concerns and grievances related to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment in a safe and confidential manner, including through the referral of survivors to gender-based violence service providers.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall also receive, register and address concerns arising from unintended health consequences after vaccination especially those resulting in serious adverse effects, and, as appropriate, requests for compensation.</p>	<p>Continue to implement and update as required the GM and all requirements under this action 10.2 throughout the Project implementation period.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</p>
<p>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</p>		
<p>Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Policy and Planning Division, Divisions of Provincial Health, and other relevant implementing support staff responsible for the Project shall receive training on the Project's ESF instruments, Code of Conduct and provisions to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)/Sexual Harassment (SH), the relevant requirements of the ESMF, Labor Management Procedures, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Infection Prevention and Waste Management Plan (IP&WMP) and WHO guidelines on COVID19, and the roles and responsibilities of different key agencies in the implementation of ESHS measures under the Project.</p>	<p>Within two months of the PP Effective Date and as new Project team members join the Project throughout implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>Contractors to receive training on the relevant aspects of the Project ES instruments and relevant ESHS requirements.</p>	<p>Prior to work commencing, throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health and Medical Services</p>