



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Health
Department of Planning and Corporation

Laos COVID-19 Response Project (P173817)

Draft

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

25 March 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) through the Ministry of Health (hereinafter the MOH/Client) will implement the Laos COVID-19 Response Project (the Project), with the involvement of Prime Minister Office, the Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), and Provincial Health Offices, District Health Offices, and Health Centers. The International Development Association (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The MOH 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 MOH 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 MOH 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 MOH, 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 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 MOH. The 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 MOH 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.	Quarterly, six-monthly, annual throughout Project implementation.	MOH-DPC
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The Department of Planning and Corporation (DPC) at MOH shall establish and maintain a National Coordination Office for project management and coordination with qualified staff, including safeguard officers, healthcare waste management specialist, and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.	Environmental (1 ESHS) and Social (1) Focal Points need to be appointed immediately for preparation and implementation of ESF instruments throughout project period.	MOH-DPC
1.2	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS 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 for the Project, 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. b. A Social Assessment will be undertaken that will inform the development of specific management measures to be included in the ESMF. The ESMF will include specific measures to address the needs of ethnic groups under the project. c. 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 ESHGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including the WHO standards on COVID-19 response in a manner acceptable to the Bank. d. 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. ESMF to be prepared before implementation of any on ground activity and assessment to be conducted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities. b. Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities. c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.	MOH-DPC

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p>EXCLUSIONS: Exclude the following type of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New infrastructure such as building etc. to avoid land acquisition and physical and or economic displacement, and other possible impact from construction activity on local environment. <p>All the other excluded activities will be set out in the ESMF of the Project.</p>	<p>During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	MOH-DPC
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT: As part of the ESMF, Labour Management Procedures (LMP) will be prepared and implemented 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 labour requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms.</p>	<p>LMP prepared before implementation of any on ground activity and assessment to be conducted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</p> <p>Implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	MOH-DPC
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			
	<p>Not relevant</p>		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	<p>Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.</p>		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	<p>Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.</p>		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above. A chance finds procedure will also be prepared and provided as part of the ESMF and apply if needed.		
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 Association.	A draft SEP was already prepared and disclosed and shall be updated no later than 30 days following the Effective Date.	MOH-DPC
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.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOH-DPC
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
	A capacity assessment will be undertaken, and which will inform the development of the training and capacity building plans, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on the management and disposal of health management, particularly focus on infectious and biohazard wastes will be provided to health care works at all levels. • Training on management and disposal of infectious wastes to be provided to all health volunteer, interns, and social workers involved in the Project. • Development, production, and distribution of the IEC materials on management and disposal of infectious wastes. 	Throughout Project implementation.	MOH-DPC