



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Health
Department of Planning and Corporation

Lao PDR COVID-19 Response Project (P173817)

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

Final

12 May 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) (hereinafter the Borrower) through the Ministry of Health (MOH) will implement the Laos COVID-19 Response Project (the Project), with the involvement of Provincial Health Offices, District Health Offices, and Health Centers. The International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Borrower 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 Borrower 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 Borrower 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 Borrower, this ESCP may be revised from time to time after each consultation with stakeholders during Project implementation, to reflect their feedback, 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 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 the Borrower. The Borrower will promptly disclose the updated ESCP. Initial public consultations were conducted by MOH with stakeholders during April 13 to 20, 2020 to inform and sought their feedback and views regarding the project design, Environmental and Social risks and suggested mitigation measures. Given the ongoing restrictions due to COVID-19, consultations were conducted remotely by setting up a WhatsApp group in addition to the Ministry's website where project information was shared and discussed by stakeholders. Second consultation was conducted for ESMF during April 23 to May 4, 2020 using the same methodology that was conducted for ESCP and SEP, the outcomes of all consultations have been incorporated into the revised ESMF to be submitted for World Bank clearance and will be disclosed after along with an updated ESCP and SEP. The ESCP, SEP and ESMF could be further revised subject to the changes (if any) during the project implementation.
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 Association 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 maintain a National Coordination Office for project management and coordination and appoint qualified staff, including environmental and social officers, healthcare waste management specialist, and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.	Environmental (1 ESHS) and Social (1) Officers to be appointed before the carrying out of Project activities with potential ESHS risks and impacts. The appointment of E&S officers will be maintained for implementation of ESF instruments throughout the Project implementation 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, disclosed, and adopted for the Project, including to ensure that individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, including minority ethnic groups, 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 based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the EHSGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including relevant WHO guidelines on COVID-19 response in a manner acceptable to the Association. 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. ESMF to be prepared within 30 days after the Effective Date, and 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 buildings etc. to avoid land acquisition and physical and/or economic displacement, and other possible impacts from construction activity on the local environment. • Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment not related to COVID-19 treatment. • Any activity requiring Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) under ESS7. • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict. <p>All the other excluded activities will be set out in the ESMF of the Project.</p>	During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	MOH-DPC
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 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. 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.</p>	<p>LMP prepared as part of the ESMF within 30 days of project effectiveness and before engaging Project workers in the implementation of any on ground activity.</p> <p>All other measures specified in this action 2.1 shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	MOH-DPC
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.		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY	
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
Project proposed activity will be screened as per Annex II of ESMF and activity will not be eligible for project financing if location is in biodiversity sensitive areas.			
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above. In particular, focus will be placed on ensuring ethnic minority groups are not excluded from project benefits, and that information available to them is well targeted, culturally appropriate and relevant,			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
Project proposed activity will be screened as per Annex II of ESMF. A chance finds procedure has been provided in Annex VI of the ESMF and will be applied 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. The SEP shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period.	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

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
	<p>A capacity assessment will be undertaken which will inform the development of the ESHS training and capacity building plans for personnel involved in the implementation of the Project, including but not limited to:</p> <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 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials on management and disposal of infectious wastes. 	Throughout Project implementation.	MOH-DPC