

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Peace – Independence – Democracy – Unity – Prosperity

MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Health and Nutrition Services Access Project Phase II (P178957)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

(FINAL DRAFT)

September, 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) (hereinafter the Recipient) will implement the Health and Nutrition Services Access Project Phase II Project (HANSA II), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health through its Department of Planning Cooperation (DPC)/Project Coordination Office (PCO). The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the referred agreement.
2. The Recipient shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Association. The ESCP is a part of the Loan Agreement and the Project Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement(s).
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Recipient shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) instruments that shall be adopted and implemented under the Project, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Association. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association.
4. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Recipient through the Department of Planning and Cooperation (DPC)/Project Coordination Office (PCO), the Ministry of Health and the Association agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Ministry of Health. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>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 instruments required under the ESCP, status of environmental hygiene in PHC facilities measured by quality performance scorecard, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism (GRM)</p>	<p>Six-monthly starting after the Effectiveness Date and annual throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>National Project Coordination Office (NPCO), Ministry of Health (MOH)</p>
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>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, including, inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury. Provide sufficient detail regarding the scope, severity, and possible causes of 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/or supervising firm, as appropriate.</p> <p>Subsequently, at the Association’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p>Notify the Association no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report to the Association within a timeframe agreed.</p>	<p>NPCO</p>
C	<p>CONTRACTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>If contractors are hired, they should submit monthly monitoring report summarizing the implementation of environmental and social (ES) mitigation measures to the National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) which can submit them biannually and subsequently to the Association.</p>	<p>Monthly, throughout the construction period</p>	<p>NPCO</p>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>a. Establish and maintain a National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) at MOH with qualified staff and resources to support management of</p>	<p>Environmental and Social Officer (1) to be recruited within 60 days of project</p>	<p>NPCO</p>

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<p>ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, including a minimum of one full time environmental and social officer (ESO) and one environmental and social consultant (ESC) based in NPCO to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.</p> <p>b. The ESO with support from ESC will be responsible for planning, monitoring, and reporting on implementation of the ESF instruments and Project activities including provide training to Project staff and those of key implementing entities on the management and reporting of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.</p> <p>c. At provincial and district levels (PHO/DHO), an ES focal point (ESFP) will be assigned and responsible for implementation, monitoring, and reporting on the ESF implementation including ensuring that GRM is functioning effectively.</p> <p>d. Recruit provincial environmental and social consultants (PESCs) to support the ESFPs, as required, to fulfill their tasks.</p>	<p>effectiveness. The appointment of E&S officer will be maintained for implementation of ESF instruments throughout Project implementation period.</p> <p>Recruitment of the environmental and social consultant (ESC) to be completed within 90 days after the Effectiveness Date.</p> <p>Environmental and Social Focal point at PHO and DHO to be appointed within 90 days after project effectiveness.</p> <p>When required during project implementation.</p>	<p>NPCO</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>a. Prepare, disclose, consult, adopt and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.</p> <p>b. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).</p> <p>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 specified in the ESMF, the ESHGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including relevant WHO guidelines on COVID-19 response in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>a. Adopt the ESMF as soon as Project becomes effective, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</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.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p>	<p>NPCO</p>
<p>1.3 MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S instruments, the Labor Management Procedures, and code of conduct, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and cause subcontractors to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation</p> <p>Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>NPCO</p>
<p>1.4 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association and are consistent with the relevant ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>NPCO</p>
<p>1.5 CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING (CERC)</p> <p>a) Ensure that the CERC Manual as specified by the legal agreement includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management</p>	<p>a) The adoption of the CERC manual and, if applicable, other instruments, as relevant in</p>	<p>The responsible entity, as assigned by GOL to be</p>

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	<p>arrangements, if applicable, for the implementation of the CERC component, in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>b) Prepare, disclose, consult and adopt any environmental and social (E&S) instruments which may be required for activities under the CERC component of the Project, in accordance with the CERC Manual or CERC-ESMF Addendum and, if applicable, and the ESSs, and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&S instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&S instruments.</p>	<p>form and substance acceptable to the Association is a withdrawal condition under Section of Schedule 2 of the legal agreement for the Project.</p> <p>b) The E&S management plans or instruments shall be prepared, disclosed, consulted, and thereafter adopted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities under CERC component. The E&S management plans or instruments shall be implemented in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.</p>	responsible for CERC
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project, including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.</p>	<p>Before engaging Project workers in the implementation of any on ground activity.</p> <p>All measures specified in this action 2.1 shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	NPCO
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.</p>	<p>Establish grievance mechanism prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.</p>	NPCO PHO and DHO
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p>HEALTHCARE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</p> <p>Adopt and implement a Healthcare Waste Management Plan (HCWMP), based on Sharp Waste Management Guideline and MOH’s regulations, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.</p>	<p>Adopt the HCWMP prior to commencing provision of result-based payment to health centers, and thereafter implement the</p>	NPCO

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<p>3.2 CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AT PRIMARY HEALTHCARE FACILITIES</p> <p>Incorporate Environmental Hygiene criteria in the Quality Performance Scorecard as part of the Project Operational Manual, assess and improve Environmental Hygiene status at the primary healthcare facilities continuously throughout project life.</p>	<p>HCWMP throughout project life.</p> <p>Adopt Environmental Hygiene criteria in the Quality Performance Scorecard as part of the Project Operational Manual as soon as project becomes effective, and thereafter implement the Environmental Hygiene criteria throughout project life. .</p>	<p>NPCO & PHC facilities</p>
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY		
<p>4.1 TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY</p> <p>Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in LMP prepared under action [2.1] above and as outlined in the ESMF.</p> <p>Traffic and road safety measures are applied to all project workers, including community workers (in the role of Village Facilitator to be engaged for all project villages)</p>	<p>Adopt ESMF related measures as soon as Project becomes effective, and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation, including before project workers commence their works/contract in the project activities.</p>	<p>NPCO</p>
<p>4.2 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</p> <p>Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, risks related to traffic safety, risks related to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment, Violence Against Children, Domestic Violence, and include mitigation measures in Project Operation Manual to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.</p>	<p>Adopt ESMF related measures as soon as Project becomes effective, and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>NPCO</p>
<p>4.3 SEA/SH/VAC RISKS</p> <p>Update, adopt, and implement measures including Code of Conduct (CoC) to avoid/minimize the risks related to SEA/SH/VAC as part of SS-ESMPs based on the ES assessment, and manage the risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) and Violence Against Children (VAC).</p> <p>Provide training on SEA/SH/VAC risks and measures including the CoC for Project workers</p>	<p>Adopt ESMF related measures as soon as Project becomes effective, and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation. The SEA/SH/VAC risk management measures applied and training before Project workers commencing their works/contract on project activities.</p>	<p>NPCO</p>

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ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
	Not relevant, given that office/health facility upgrading to be financed under the Project will be undertaken within the existing premises of health centers (HCs)		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	Not relevant. The Project does not have any activities that affect Biodiversity in the project area.		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES			
7.1	<p>ETHNIC GROUP DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK INCORPORATED INTO STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN</p> <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 ethnic peoples throughout Project implementation; (ii) implementing procedures, protocols and/or other measures to ensure that ethnic peoples have access to Project benefits in a fair, equitable, inclusive and culturally appropriate manner, including, as relevant, with regards to project benefits, as set out in the ESMF and the SEP; and (iii) implementing measures to ensure that ethnic peoples are able to access the Project’s grievance redress mechanism (GRM) in a culturally appropriate manner.</p>	Adopt the SEP as soon as the project becomes effective, and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.	NPCO
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	<p>CHANCE FINDS PROCEDURES</p> <p>Prepare, adopt and implement chance find procedures, as part of the ESMF.</p>	Throughout Project implementation for any activity requiring construction.	NPCO
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, 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</p>	Adopt the SEP as soon as the project becomes effective, and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.	NPCO

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	manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.		
10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, 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 be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.</p>	Project GRM to be operational and disseminated to stakeholders before the start of project activities and operational throughout Project implementation	NPCO
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
CS1	<p>NPCO/DPC of MOH , PHO, DHO and other relevant stakeholders to receive training on the Project relevant ESF instruments: the ESMF, LMP, and SEP, including on the CoC and other provisions to prevent SEA, GBV and/or VAC, on the ESCOP application for the civil works, and on the roles and responsibilities of each entity in the preparation and implementation of these instruments as outlined in the ESMF.</p> <p>NPCO/DPC and related implementing agencies at project level to receive training on TOR preparation and contract management to ensure that the ESS obligations, especially ESCOP, ESHS and LMP requirement are included in all relevant bidding documents.</p> <p>Contractors/project workers to receive training on the preparation and implementation of relevant ESF instruments, Contractor-ESMPs covering ESHS, occupational health and safety, community health and safety, and emergency preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations.</p>	<p>Before the carrying out of the Project activities, and thereafter throughout the Project period.</p> <p>Training to be provided before bidding is conducted.</p> <p>Prior to work commencing, throughout project implementation.</p>	NPCO