



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) and Its
Additional Financing (P175771)

Draft

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

12 April 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) through the Ministry of Health (hereinafter the MOH) will implement the Additional Financing to the Lao PDR 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 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 line departments under the MOH, 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 MOH 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 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 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 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	<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, stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log.</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on COVID-19 vaccine deployment and vaccination, which includes a section on ESS management and monitoring.</p>	Starting from the Effective Date, six-monthly and annual reports shall be submitted no later than 45 days after the end of each reporting period, throughout the Project implementation	MOH-Department of Planning and Coordination (DPC)
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The MOH, agency or unit referenced in 1. above shall establish and maintain a Project Implementing Unit (PIU) with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including environmental and social risk management specialist, as well as part time consultant as required, environmental and social focal point in each PIU, healthcare waste management specialist, and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.</p>	<p>The ESF Focal Point designated/ appointed by MOH and other PIEs to continue support the Project activities and will be maintained throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Part time consultants/specialist will be hired and retained on an as-required basis.</p>	MOH/DPC and other Project Implementing Entities (PIEs)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.2	<p>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 Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), prepared pursuant to the provisions of the Financing Agreement, 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.</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 COVID-19 response 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>a. Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</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>	MOH/DPC and PIEs
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"> All the other excluded activities set out in the <i>ESMF</i> of the Project. 	During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	MOH/DPC and PIEs
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 and the project's Labor Management Procedures (LMP), 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 detailed in the LMP.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MOH/DPC and PIEs
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<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, including the adoption, implementation and update of the IPC & WMP in a manner acceptable to the Association.</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. The project will not involve the use of security personnel.</p>		
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT		
<p>Not relevant, given that civil works to be financed under the Project will be undertaken in the land area and existing premises of MOH.</p>		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES		
<p>Not relevant</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> <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 vaccines, 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 mechanism in a culturally appropriate manner.</p>		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE		
<p>Not relevant</p>		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES		
<p>Not relevant</p>		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE		
<p>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.</p>	<p>A SEP was already prepared and disclosed under the parent project, and shall be updated, consulted, redisclosed, and adopted no later than 30 days following the Effective Date. The SEP shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MOH/DPC and PIEs</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.2	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT INFORMATION AND DISCLOSURE: Adopt measures as set out in ESMF to ensure that the carrying out of Project activities include stakeholder engagement and information disclosure consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOH/DPC and PIEs
10.3	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 and PIEs
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	MOH (PCO) and other PIEs to receive training on the Project relevant ESF instruments including CoC and provisions to prevent SEA, GBV and/or VAC, the ESMF, LMP, SEP, IPC, HCWMP, ICWMP, ESMP and ESCOP application for the civil works, and the roles and responsibilities of each PIE in the preparation and implementation of these instruments.	Before the carrying out of the Project activities, and thereafter throughout the Project period.	MOH/DPC and PIEs
CS2	MOH (PCO) and related PIEs to receive training on TOR preparation and contract management to ensure that the ESS obligations, especially, ESCOP, ESMP, ESHS and LMP requirement included in the bidding documents.	Training to be provided before bidding is conducted.	MOH/DPC and PIEs
CS3	Contractors to receive training on the preparation and implementation of relevant ESF instruments.	Prior to work commencing, throughout project implementation.	MOH/DPC and PIEs