

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)

**Bangladesh COVID-19 Emergency Response and
Pandemic Preparedness Project (P173757)**

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

March 31, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) (the **Recipient**) will implement the Bangladesh COVID-19 Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**). The International Development Association, IDA (the **Association**) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient 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 Recipient is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the MoHFW 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 Recipient 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 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 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 Recipient. The Recipient 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 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	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.	Half Yearly (every six months) throughout the Project implementation period.	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), hereinafter the Implementing Agency (IA)
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: MoHFW will recruit an Environmental and a Social Specialist in the PIU, who is responsible for preparing the required environmental and social (E&S) documents as well as addressing environmental and social risks/impacts which include among others: the monitoring of the implementation of all E&S instruments, , community health and safety measures, the functioning of the grievance redress mechanism (GRM) etc.	Recruitment will be completed within 60 days of Project effectiveness. The specialists will be retained throughout the implementation of the Project. Until the recruitment, the IA's in house capacity will support the Project's E&S due diligence and E&S related other issues.	IA
1.2	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, in accordance with ESS1 and the 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, have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project.	a. ESMF to be prepared within 30 days after the Effective Date. Assessments to be conducted before carrying out of the respective Project activity. Activities that require screening will be done in the first month in line with ESS1. b. Plans or instruments prepared before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.	IA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Medical Waste Management Plan (MWMP), Community Health and Safety Plan. Human and Occupational Resources Management Procedures (HORMP), 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 EHSs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including relevant WHO Guidelines on COVID-19.</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>c. Before initiating the procurement process for the relevant activities and thereafter throughout the implementation of such Project activities.</p>	
<p>1.3 EXCLUSIONS: Exclude the following type of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible adverse environmental or social impacts • Activities that may affect lands or rights of indigenous people or other vulnerable minorities, • Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or adverse impacts on cultural heritage • Any other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project 	<p>During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	<p>IA</p>

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), ensuring appropriate working condition in health centers amidst a public health emergency (including potential mass outbreak of COVID-19); provision of training on handling emergency situation especially health related issues; and setting out grievance arrangements for Project workers, and incorporating labor requirements in the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. The Recipient will prohibit child labor (any person under the age of 18) due to the hazardous work situation.</p> <p>The government will be required to develop and follow a Human and Occupational Resources Management Procedures (HORMP). A requirement for preparing this Plan for the contractors will be included in the bidding and contract documents</p>	<p>HORMP will be prepared before commencement physical work and implemented throughout Project implementation, and all other ESS2 measures will be implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	IA and Contractor
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<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 safe usage and disposal of PPEs. The IA will adopt the proven technology on medical waste management ‘Integrated autoclave/microwave with built in shredder and sterilizer’. Given the potential resource scarcity in the face of an outbreak, the IA will commit to the provision of services and supplies based on the urgency of the need, in line with the latest data related to the prevalence of the cases.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	IA

ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<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; to ensure that community is safe from potential wastes, especially disposed PPEs; risk associated with visits to health centers,; and 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 labor influx and related issues (OHS, GBV etc); A Community Health and Safety Plan will be developed by the Recipient</p>	<p>Community Health and Safety Plan developed before the commencement of any Project activities affecting community health and safety and implemented throughout Project implementation, and all other ESS4 measures implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	IA
4.2	<p>The Recipient will put measures in place to prevent or minimize the spread of the infectious disease/COVID-19 to the community.</p> <p>The Recipient will implement emergency preparedness measures in case of laboratory accidents/ emergencies e.g. a fire response or natural phenomena event</p> <p>The Recipient will operate quarantine and isolation centers in line with the applicable requirements of ESS3, the ESHGs and other relevant GIIP including the WHO guidelines on “Key considerations for repatriation and quarantine of travelers in relation to the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV”.</p> <p>The Recipient will ensure the avoidance of any form of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by relying on the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional conduct for all workers in the quarantine facilities as well as the provision of gender-sensitive infrastructure such as segregated toilets and enough light in quarantine and isolation centers.</p> <p>The Recipient will operate quarantine and isolation centers and screening posts in a conflict-sensitive manner, avoiding any aggravation of local communal conflicts.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	IA

	The Recipient will ensure that any security personnel operating for quarantine and isolation centers and screening posts follow strict rules of engagement and avoid any escalation.		
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	The project is not expected to require any land acquisition. However, in case squatters are found inside health complexes included in the scope of Project activities and are likely to be affected by Project activities, an abbreviated RAP will be prepared and adopted, and any other relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above	Throughout project implementation and before the commencement of any Project activity involving involuntary resettlement.	IA
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	Not currently considered relevant.	NA	
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above. Any project activities affecting ethnic communities will be implemented in a culturally sensitive manner in accordance with the provisions of ESS7. Screening will be done prior commencement of project activities affecting ethnic communities which will confirm whether an Indigenous People Plan (IPP) will be required.	Throughout project implementation and before the commencement of any Project activities affecting Indigenous Peoples. If screening confirms IPP is required, IPP to be prepared prior to the commencement of any Project activities affecting Indigenous Peoples	IA
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	Not currently considered relevant	NA	
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
9.1	Not relevant.	NA	
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			

10.1	<p>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 draft SEP shall be prepared and disclosed before Negotiations. The SEP be updated within 60 days of the beginning of Project implementation as early as possible and implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	IA
10.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Accessible grievance arrangements through a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) 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. The IA’s web-based, text message-based and phone-based platforms for citizen engagement will be used as the GRM for the project (http://app.dghs.gov.bd/complaintbox/?actn=adsrch)</p>	Throughout Project implementation	IA
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
	<p>Training topics will among others include (for health workers, administrative and operational personnel, construction workers and community in general):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and disposal of PPE (for all) • Working in COVID-19 environment (construction workers) • COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations (Health care workers) • Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the COVID-19 (Laboratory personnel) • Specimen collection and shipment (Laboratory personnel) • Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients (Health care workers) • Risk communication, prevention and community engagement (Administrative and operational personnel) • WHO and CDC guidelines on quarantine including case management • Waste disposal and management (Waste disposal staffs and healthcare personnel) 	Throughout Project implementation.	IA

