

The Government of Liberia/Ministry of Health

Liberia COVID-19 ERP [P173788] and Second Additional Financing (P178479)

Final Version for Negotiations ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Government of Liberia (hereafter the Borrower/Recipient) is planning to implement the second Additional Financing (AF) support for the Liberia COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (hereafter the Project) to enable affordable and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and effective vaccine deployment in Liberia. The project will be implemented through the Ministry of Health (MoH) and National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) with the funding from the World Bank and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA) (hereafter the Bank).
2. The Borrower/Recipient through the MoH and the NPHIL shall ensure the Project is carried out in accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**). To this end, this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (**ESCP**) sets out material measures and actions to be carried out by the Government of Liberia, including the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, grievance management and the environmental and social assessments and instruments to be prepared or updated, disclosed, consulted, adopted and implemented under the ESCP and the ESSs, all in a manner acceptable to the World Bank.
3. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP shall be monitored and reported to the **World Bank** by the Government of Liberia through the MoH and the NPHIL as required by the ESCP and the provisions of the Financing Agreement.
4. As agreed by the World Bank and the Government of Liberia, 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 Government of Liberia through the MoH and NPHIL shall update the ESCP to reflect the agreed action upon changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP shall be documented through an exchange of letters signed between the World Bank and the Government of Liberia. The Government of Liberia through the MoH and NPHIL shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the Government of Liberia shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts, which may include environmental, health, and safety impacts and gender-based violence.

MATERIALS MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
Monitoring and Reporting			
A	REGULAR REPORTING: MoH will prepare and submit to the World 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.	Starting from the Effective Date, quarterly E&S Compliance Monitoring reports shall continue to be submitted no later than 10 days after the end of each reporting period, throughout Project Implementation.	Ministry of Health (MoH) through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU),
B	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS: Promptly notify the World Bank 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, any COVID outbreak in the Project area. Provide sufficient detail regarding 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 supervising entity, as appropriate. Subsequently, as per the Bank's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence. Additionally, the project should promptly notify on vaccination abnormality and adverse effect that may likely occur during the administering of the vaccine.	<i>Notify the Bank within 48hours after learning of the incident or Accident. Upon request from the Bank, investigate the incident or accident and report the details of the root causes and corrective action within 15 working days</i>	MoH through the PIU
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The Ministry of Health and the National public Health Institute of Liberia manage the project through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The PIU includes Project Manager and deputy project manager, Technical Coordinator, one Environmental and one Social Safeguard Specialist, finance officer, procurement officer, program officer, communication officer and other supportive staffs	The PIU shall be maintained throughout project implementation. Specifically, the PIU shall maintain the one full-time Environmental and one Social Safeguard Specialists with experience in SEA/H risks management. These two E&S staffs shall be maintained throughout the project.	MoH
1.2	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS a. Assess the environmental and social risks (E&S), including SEA/SH-related risks, and impacts of proposed Project activities, in accordance with the <i>Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prepared under parent project and updated for the AF1 financing arrangements</i> , the ESSs, the Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and	a. The ESMF of the parent project was updated, consulted on, re-disclosed and adopted for the AF1. With project design been modified to address waste management and site security at the National Reference Laboratory , the ESMF	MoH through the PIU

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	<p>other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including relevant WHO guidelines. ESMF for the additional financing (one) will be adopted for this AF2 project.</p> <p>With project design been modified to address waste management and site security at the National Reference Laboratory, the ESMF will be updated, consulted upon, adopted and redisclosed within three (3) months of Project effectiveness. The Additional Financing will adopt the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) prepared and disclosed under AF-1 and the National Guidelines for the Safe Management of Healthcare Waste in Liberia (NGSMHW) will also be used consistent with ESS2 and ESS3.</p> <p>b. Ensure access to and allocation of Project benefits in a fair, equitable and inclusive manner, taking into account the needs of individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, including, undocumented migrants.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, the ESMF and environmental and social management plans or other instruments, ESS2 requirements, and any other required ESHS measures, into the terms of reference (ToRs) 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>d. Adopt procedures, protocols and/or other measures to ensure Project beneficiaries that receive vaccines under the Project do so under a program that does not include forced vaccination and is acceptable to the Bank, as set out in the ESMF.</p> <p>e. National Deployment and Vaccine Plan, which covers health and safety aspects related to vaccine deployment, distribution, vaccination, and waste management. This is to be thoroughly reviewed and assessed prior to the application for the AF2.</p>	<p>will be updated, consulted upon, adopted and redisclosed within three (3) months of Project effectiveness and shall be extended to all AF2 activities in accordance with ESS1.</p> <p>I. In line with the WHO Interim Guidance (February 12, 2020) on “Laboratory Biosafety Guidance related to the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV),” the National Guidelines for the Safe Management of Healthcare Waste in Liberia has been revised and printed for distribution. The plan includes training of staff to be aware of all hazards they might encounter. Distribution and training of Staff on the revised National Guidelines for the Safe Management of Healthcare Waste in Liberia shall be carried out within three months after project effectiveness.</p> <p>II. Plans/instruments prepared, disclosed, consulted and adopted under previous financing arrangements shall be implemented throughout implementation of the AF2 project activities</p> <p>b. The relevant ESHS measures shall be incorporated into the procurement documents before launching the procurement process for the relevant project activities and shall thereafter complied with ESHS activities throughout the carrying out of such project.</p>	
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	MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p>EXCLUSIONS: Exclude the following types of activities that are ineligible for financing under the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) activities will be excluded if there are no appropriate OHS capacity and infrastructure is in place. • All the other excluded activities are set up in the ESMF of the project. 	<p>These exclusions shall be applied as part of the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p> <p>(Before carrying out the relevant Project activities and will be maintained throughout project implementation).</p>	MoH through the PIU
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 including through, inter alia, implementing adequate occupational health and safety measures (including personal protective equipment, emergency preparedness and response measures, as well as relevant measures to mitigate risk of SEA/SH on the worksite), setting</p>	<p>The LMP, annexed to the updated AF1 ESMF, shall be maintained, implemented, monitored and evaluated throughout AF2 Project implementation. All other measures specified</p>	MoH through the PIU/ NPHIL

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	<p>out grievance mechanisms for Project workers, which will likewise include specific procedures to address workplace SH claims, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms, including contract requirements to address SEA/SH risk.</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, the LMP annexed to the ESMF, 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 comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>shall also be implemented throughout the AF2 Project implementation period.</p>	
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: carry out the purchase, storage, transportation and handling of vaccines (including, ultra-cold chain management) in a safe manner and in accordance with the EHSs, and other relevant GIIP including relevant WHO guidelines; and adequately manage and dispose of health care.</p>	<p>Throughout the AF2 project implementation</p>	<p>MoH through the PIU/ NPHIL</p>
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
<p>4.1</p>	<p>a) 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; establish and implement appropriate quality management systems to manage the risks and the impacts that services provided and activities carried out under the Project may have on community health and safety; 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> <p>b) Strictly follow the SOP, provisions, and directive National Guidelines for the Safe Management of Healthcare Waste in Liberia at each facility</p> <p>c) Restrict access to the National Reference Laboratory Located at Charlesville.</p>	<p>a. All related measures including SEA/SH action Plan shall be implemented accordingly before effectiveness and throughout project implementation</p> <p>b. Throughout the project implementation</p> <p>c. Before effectiveness;</p> <p>d. No later than (3) months of project effectiveness;</p> <p>e. No later than (3) months of project effectiveness;</p> <p>f. Until functional incinerator with ashpit is available at the national reference laboratory;</p>	<p>MoH through the PIU/ NPHIL</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Immediately halt the open burning of waste generated at the National Reference Laboratory e) Immediately fence the current waste facility at the National Reference Laboratory to prevent access to pets, animals and scavengers, f) In the interim and upon the halting of open burning practices at the facility, all waste generated at the National Reference Laboratory should be securely transported to a nearby approved hazardous waste disposal sites for final disposal, g) A mini-incinerator be constructed at the National reference laboratory for the disposal of waste generated at the facility h) Engage with communities living around NRL, educate them about the risks related to the site and infections, install signages and bords indicating hazardous site i) Ensure functional incinerator in place for all healthcare facilities and halt practice of open burning of waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. No later than three (3) months of project effectiveness; h. Over the life of the project i. Prior to the project effectiveness 	
	<p>USE OF MILITARY OR SECURITY PERSONNEL: The project shall NOT engage or involve the use of the military or security personnel for the roll out of the vaccination process</p>	Not relevant	Not relevant
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
	In the unlikely event of involuntary resettlement leading to displacement of people and their livelihood in connection with any project activities including fencing of NRL facility, ESS5 will be triggered to inform the preparation and implementation of Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) to address the issues related to land acquisition, restriction on land use and involuntary resettlement	Not relevant at present The PIU shall prepare and implement a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), if required and obtain NO from Bank prior to start any activities under ESS5	MoH though the PIU
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			

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	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Prepared or revised, to be disclosed, consult, adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with stakeholders in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. Continue community engagement to manage the community perception and expectations. Engage consciously, targeting vulnerable groups and people living with disability and allocate resources for CSOs and CBOs for downstream engagement and engage with them in constructive manner.</p>	<p>The SEP for the AF1 has been updated for AF2 and shall be disclosed prior to Negotiation and adopted prior to effectiveness. It shall be implemented throughout the project cycle.</p>	<p>MoH through the PIU</p>
	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: An accessible grievance mechanism shall be established, publicized, maintained and operated to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, promptly, effectively, and in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all Project-affected parties, at no cost and without retribution. The grievance mechanism shall also accommodate concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall also receive, register and address concerns and grievances related to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. This shall be done in a safe and confidential manner, including through the referral of survivors to gender based violence service providers</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall also receive, register, and address concerns arising from unintended health consequences after vaccination especially those resulting in serious adverse effects, and, as appropriate, requests for compensation. Complaints could also be lodged in respect of the handling, transportation, storage and disposal of vaccines and vaccine wastes</p>	<p>The AF1 project GRM shall be retained, ensured to be functional prior to the carrying out of any project activities and complete the establishing in the remaining counties, within 3 months of the project effectiveness, and shall be maintained throughout project implementation.</p>	<p>MoH through the PIU</p>
	<p>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</p>		
	<p>Project Implementation Unit and other relevant implementing support staff responsible for the Project to receive training on the Project's ESHS plans and instruments. This is to ensure a fair, equitable and inclusive access and allocation of Project benefits <i>including with regards to vaccines</i>, and the roles and responsibilities of different key agencies in the ESMF implementation. In specific, develop a capacity enhancement plan and training for the waste management team and all relevant staff.</p>	<p>No later than 30 days from the project effectiveness date and periodically when there is addition of new Project team members. This shall continue throughout the project implementation.</p> <p>Undertake the Institutional Capacity Assessment and Institutional Capacity</p>	<p>MoH through the PIU</p>

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		<p>Strengthening Plan prior to project effectiveness date.</p> <p>The training plan developed within the framework shall be implemented throughout the duration of the AF2 project.</p>	
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