

**Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Health and Population**

**Second Additional Financing: COVID-19  
Emergency Response and Health Systems  
Preparedness Project (P178205)**

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

**November 13, 2021**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Government of Nepal (hereinafter the Recipient]) shall implement the Additional financing for the Nepal COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health and Population. The International Development Association (*hereinafter the Association*) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient shall carry out the Project in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**) of the Association. To this end, this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (**ESCP**) sets out material measures and actions to be carried out or caused to be carried out by the Recipient, 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 Association.
3. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP shall be monitored and reported to the Association by the Recipient as required by the ESCP and the provisions of the Financing Agreement.
4. 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 *or delegate(s)* shall update the ESCP to reflect the agreed-upon changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP shall be documented through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipient *or delegate(s)*. The Recipient/*or delegate(s)* shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
5. 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
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<b>REGULAR REPORTING:</b> 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 grievance log.	Four-monthly throughout the project implementation. Reports shall be submitted no later than 45 business days after the end of each reporting period.	Chief, Health Coordination Division (HCD), MoHP
B	<b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS:</b> 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, 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 Association's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence.	Notify the Association within 24 hours after learning of the incident or accident; followed by a report with details within 72 hours on the incident or accident.	MoHP
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</b> The MoHP shall maintain the Health Emergency Operations Centre (HEOC) with the qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the project throughout the project implementation	MOHP has deployed qualified staff, including E&S specialist, and resources under the parent project. The environmental and social specialists will be retained throughout the Project implementation.	MoHP

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 <b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</b></p> <p>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 updated, disclosed, consulted and adopted for the Project, the ESSs, the Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including relevant WHO guidelines.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, consult, adopt and implement any environmental and social management plans (e.g. health-care waste management plans), instruments or other measures (such as fire and life safety management plans for health facilities supplied with IDA financed equipment that may pose fire hazard) required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the EHSGs, GESI, National Health Care Waste Management standards and procedures, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including relevant WHO guidelines to, inter alia, 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, with regards to access to vaccines.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, the ESMF, 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>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>a. The ESMF of the project will be updated, consulted, disclosed and adopted to include emerging risks on life and fire and safety within 30 days after effectiveness of this AF. Risk Assessment shall be conducted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</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. 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 throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>d. Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p>	<p><i>MOHP</i></p> <p><i>Project supplier(s), MD</i></p> <p><i>MoHP, MD</i> <i>Project Suppliers</i></p> <p><i>MOHP</i></p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p><b>EXCLUSIONS:</b> Exclude the following types of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g. loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts.</li> <li>▪ Activities that may affect lands or rights of indigenous peoples or other vulnerable minorities.</li> <li>▪ Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or adverse impacts on cultural heritage.</li> <li>▪ Activities or events (including consultation sessions) that present highest likelihood of COVID-19 transmission among workers and community members.</li> <li>▪ All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.</li> </ul>	During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	MoHP
1.4	<p><b>CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING</b></p> <p>a. Ensure that the <i>CERC Manual as specified the financing agreement</i>] includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements [including [, if applicable, insert name of any CERC-ESMF/ESMF Addendum that has been included or referred to in the CERC Manual] for the implementation of [name of CERC component, e.g. ERF CERC Part], in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, consult and adopt any environmental and social (E&amp;S) management plans or instruments which may be required for activities under [name CERC component, e.g. ERF CERC Part] of the Project, in accordance with the [insert name of CERC Manual and, if applicable, CERC-ESMF or CERC-ESMF Addendum and/or Emergency/Early Response Plan] and the ESSs, and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&amp;S management plans or instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&amp;S management plans or instruments.</p>	<p>a. The adoption of the <i>manual and, if applicable, other documents as relevant</i>] in form and substance acceptable to the Bank is a withdrawal condition under Section 1 E 7(e) of Schedule 2 of the Financing Agreement for the Project.</p> <p>b. The E&amp;S management plans or instruments shall be prepared, disclosed, consulted, and thereafter adopted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities under component 4. The E&amp;S management plans or instruments shall be implemented in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoHP
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.1	<p><b>LABOR MANAGEMENT:</b> 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, and emergency preparedness and response measures), setting out grievance mechanisms for Project workers, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms.</p> <p>A separate grievance mechanism will be maintained for SEA/SH-related grievances, as provided in the parent project.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	<p>MoHP</p> <p>Project supplier(s) and Supervising firms</p>
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
3.1	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 GIIIP including relevant WHO guidelines; and adequately manage and dispose of health care wastes (including, vaccines) and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP
3.2	While upgrading existing and/or installing new equipment in (hospitals, laboratories, quarantine centers), the Recipient shall ensure adoption of energy and water efficiency measures consistent with ESS3, as guided in the ESMF, and as per the national law, guidelines and policies. The recipient will consider the need for energy and fuel efficiency in the procurement and operation of project-financed vehicles and cold-chain infrastructure	Throughout Project Implementation.	MoHP
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
4.1	<p><b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY:</b></p> <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; 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 risk of life and fire safety; manage the risks of the use of security personnel; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP
4.2	The Recipient will implement emergency preparedness measures in case of laboratory accidents/ emergencies, e.g. a fire response or natural phenomena event.	The ESMF will be updated, consulted, and disclosed within 30 days after project effectiveness.	MoHP

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	The ESMF will be updated to include emergency preparedness and L&FS measures/protocols.	The Emergency preparedness measures will be implemented throughout Project implementation.	
4.3	<p><b>USE OF MILITARY OR SECURITY PERSONNEL:</b> While use of military or security personnel (Security Personnel) is not anticipated, in the event that they do need to be engaged for Project activities, the following measures shall be adopted to ensure that the engagement of Security Personnel in the implementation of Project activities is carried out in accordance with the ESSs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assess the risks and impacts of engagement of the Security Personnel, as part of the assessment referred to in action 1.2 a) above, and implement measures to manage such risks and impacts, guided by the principles of proportionality and Good International Industry Practice, and by applicable law, in relation to hiring, rules of conduct, training, equipping, and monitoring of such Security Personnel.</li> <li>b. Ensure standards, protocols and codes of conduct are followed for the selection and use of security personnel, and ensure that such personnel have not engaged in past unlawful or abusive behavior, including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH) or excessive use of force.</li> <li>c. Ensure that such Security Personnel is adequately instructed and trained, prior to deployment and on a regular basis, on the use of force and appropriate conduct (including in relation to civilian-military engagement, SEA and SH, and other relevant areas), as set out in the ESMF;</li> <li>d. Ensure that the stakeholder engagement activities under the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) include a communication strategy on the involvement of Security Personnel under the Project; and</li> <li>e. Ensure that any concerns or grievances regarding the conduct of Security Personnel are received, monitored, documented (taking into account the need to protect confidentiality), resolved through the Project's grievance mechanism (see action 10.2 below) and reported to the Association no later than 30 days after being received, From the moment the security forces deployment is planned till the end of the Project implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assessment carried out in the same timeframe as action 1.2 a) above <i>shall be adopted before deploying security personnel under the Project and thereafter implemented throughout Project implementation or a stand-alone Security Management Plan shall be prepared and adopted before deploying security personnel under the Project and thereafter implemented throughout Project implementation</i>].</li> </ul> <p>[b, c and d] before deploying security personnel under the Project and thereafter throughout Project implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. As set out under actions 10.1 and 10.2 respectively, and <i>within the timeframes requested by the Association</i>.</li> </ul>	Chief, Health Coordination Division (HCD), MoHP
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	Not relevant	Not Applicable	<i>Not Applicable</i>
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout project implementation	<i>MoHP</i>
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
7.1	<b>MEASURES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES:</b> 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 indigenous peoples throughout Project implementation; (ii) implementing procedures, protocols and/or other measures to ensure that indigenous peoples have access to Project benefits in a fair, equitable, inclusive and culturally appropriate manner, <i>including, as relevant, with regards to vaccines, and set out in the updated ESMF and the SEP</i> ; and (iii) implementing measures to ensure that indigenous peoples are able to access the Project’s grievance mechanism in aculturally appropriate manner.	Throughout Project implementation.	<i>MoHP</i>
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	<i>Throughout project implementation</i>	<i>MoHP</i>
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
	Not relevant. No financial intermediary in involved in the project	<i>Not Applicable</i>	<i>Not Applicable</i>
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN:</b> Revise, disclose, consult, adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) of the parent project consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders (including children) with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.	A revised SEP has been prepared and disclosed and shall be updated again as the project evolves. The stakeholder engagement has been updated for this AF and will be disclosed within 30 days after effectiveness of the AF. The SEP shall be implemented throughout the period of Project implementation.	<i>Chief, Health Coordination Division, MOHP</i>



MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.2	<p><b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</b> 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 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 also receive, register and address concerns and grievances related to the, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment (including child SEA/SH risks) 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.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>SEA/SH Action plan will be completed within 30 days after effectiveness of the AF.</p>	<p>MoHP [Curative Services Division/HEOC/FWD/MD /EDCD and the Department of Health Services]</p>
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</b>			
CS1	<p>Relevant implementing support staff responsible for the Project will participate in training on the Project’s ESHS plans and instruments; Fair, equitable and inclusive access and allocation of Project benefits [including with regards to vaccines], Bank procurement procedures, and the roles and responsibilities of different key agencies in the ESF implementation.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MoHP/Curative Services Division/Recipient Hospitals/Nursing Division/Management Division/NHTC</p>
CS2	<p>Training themes will among others include (for health workers, administrative and operational personnel, construction workers and community in general):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Proper Use of PPE (for all)</li> <li>▪ COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations (Health care workers)</li> <li>▪ Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the COVID-19 (Laboratory personnel)</li> <li>▪ Training on sustainable procurement</li> <li>▪ Specimen collection and shipment (Laboratory personnel)</li> <li>▪ Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients (Health care workers)</li> <li>▪ Risk communication, prevention and community engagement</li> <li>▪ WHO and CDC guidelines on quarantine facilities</li> <li>▪ Waste disposal and management (Waste disposal staffs and healthcare personnel)</li> <li>▪ Gender and social inclusion Guidelines</li> </ul>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Few trainings were provided under the parent project. Trainings on WASHFIT and waste management has been delivered. Radio program on COVID related issues have been produced and aired across the country to inform communities about the covid-19 preventive, treatment and response contents. Other trainings will be delivered periodically.</p>	<p>MoHP/Curative Services Division/HEOC/EDCD/FWD/ NHTC, Recipient Hospitals/Nursing Division</p>

