

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
**Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional
Development**

Water Security and Sanitation Project
(P173076)

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

December 21, 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Moldova will implement the Water Security and Sanitation Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association (collectively, the “Bank”) have agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Republic of Moldova 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 Republic of Moldova will also comply with the provisions of any other E&S documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, such as Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), Resettlement Action Plans (RAP), and Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP), at the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The Republic of Moldova is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry referenced in 1 above.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Bank by the Republic of Moldova as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Bank will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
6. As agreed by the Bank and the Republic of Moldova, 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. In such circumstances, the Republic of Moldova will agree to the changes with the Bank 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 Bank and the Republic of Moldova. The Republic of Moldova will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
7. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the Republic of Moldova 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</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to the implementation of ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).</p>	Bi-annual, throughout Project implementation.	MIRD
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Promptly notify the 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. 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.</p>	<p>Notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>A report would be provided within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank, as requested</p>	MIRD
C	<p>CONTRACTORS MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>As per contracts’ specifications to be signed by PIU or other parties with selected Contractors, all Contractors will be required to provide reports on ESMPs’ implementation and on Occupational Health and Safety issues to their employers. Furthermore, such reports would be submitted to the Bank by MIRd upon request, for Component 1 activities with potentially substantial social and environmental risks.</p> <p>The employers of civil works activities under both Components will be required to provide reports on ESMPs’ implementation and on LMP and Occupational Health and Safety issues to MIRd</p>	<p>Monthly throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Quarterly, throughout Project implementation.</p>	MIRD

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS		
<p>1.1 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE MIRD shall maintain an organizational structure PIU in this case the Moldova Social Investment Fund (MSIF) with qualified staff and resources to support management of E&S risks, including Operational, Health & Safety (OHS) risks and impacts. The organizational structure shall include at least: one environmental specialist, one social specialist and (part-time) communication/citizen engagement and gender specialists. Project implementation will be supported at the regional level through MIRD 's subordinate Regional Development Agencies (RDAs), which will complement their capacity with environmental and social consultants funded by the Project. Develop and Implement the Project Operations Manual (POM).</p>	<p>The PIU has been established and should be staffed with the environmental and social specialists prior to Project effectiveness. The communication/citizen engagement and gender specialist are to be hired within 90 days from effectiveness. RDA's environmental and social consultants hired before commencement of any works activities. This organizational structure, including specified specialists, will be maintained throughout Project implementation. POM should be adopted by MIRD prior to Project effectiveness.</p>	<p>MIRD</p>
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT Implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Framework (RPF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Labor Management Procedure (LMP) that have been prepared for the Project, in a manner acceptable to the Bank. Include in the POM clear references to all ESF documents prepared for the Project. Update the documents if and when necessary.</p>	<p>The documents will be updated when necessary and implemented throughout the Project duration.</p>	<p>MIRD</p>
<p>1.3 MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS Screen each proposed subproject in accordance with the ESMF prepared for the Project, and, thereafter prepare, disclose, publicly consult, and implement site-specific instruments (ESIAs/ESMPs/ESMP Checklists), as required, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p>	<p>The site-specific instruments will be prepared prior to launching of the bidding process for construction of a specific subproject. The site-specific instruments will be an integral part of bidding documents. The site-specific instruments will require the Bank's prior review and approval before launching the bidding process for the respective subproject. Once approved, the site-specific instrument must be applied throughout sub-project implementation.</p>	<p>MIRD</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.4	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Based on the ESMPs prepared, incorporate the relevant E&S requirements, along with the LMP, into the E&S, OHS specifications of the procurement/bidding documents. Ensure that these requirements are incorporated in Civil works and installation of equipment contracts and that the contractors comply with the E&S and OHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>Prior to the preparation of procurement documents. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p>	MIRD
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Update, adopt and implement the LMP that have been developed for the Project. Develop Contractor’s Code of Conduct for each works contract.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	MIRD
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>Establish, operate and maintain grievance mechanisms for relevant types of Project workers (direct and contracted), as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2. PIU shall monitor number of received complaints.</p>	<p>Grievance mechanism operational prior to engaging Project workers and maintained throughout Project implementation. Ongoing throughout project implementation</p>	MIRD
2.3	<p>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES</p> <p>Ensure that all Contractors adopt and implement occupational health and safety (OHS) measures as detailed in ESMF/ESMPs.</p>	<p>Ongoing throughout project implementation</p>	MIRD

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT		
<p>3.1 RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT: Integrate and implement resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures, including those related to asbestos removal or maintenance, and to the management of sludge generated from the wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs), into the ESMF/ESMPs/ESMP Checklists.</p> <p>Ensure that contractors will prepare a Work Procedure for asbestos removal or maintenance (asbestos-cement pipes or structures) as part of Contractor-ESMP and based on health and safety measures as detailed in the ESMF/ESMPs and compliant with the WB Good Practice Note on Asbestos.</p> <p>Ensure resource efficiency is considered when preparing Terms of Reference for technical assistance and strategic or planning documents.</p> <p>Each site specific ESIA/ESMP for wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) will provide sludge management in line with ESS3 and local legislation inclusive of final disposal.</p> <p>Prepare and implement a sludge management plan, including handling and final disposal of the sludge generated from the operation of the WWTPs.</p>	<p>Same timeframe as for the implementation of the ESIA/ESMP/ESMP Checklists.</p> <p>Work Procedure for asbestos removal or maintenance before the starting of construction works.</p>	<p>MIRD</p>

ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY: Integrate and implement community health and safety measures in (a) the generic ESMP annexed to the ESMF prepared for this Project Or (b) the site-specific ESIA/ESMP to be prepared for some sub-projects, as required and integrating the community health and safety measures, as specified in the ESMF.</p>	<p>Same timeframe as for the implementation of the ESIA/ESMP/ESMP Checklists.</p>	MIRD
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	<p>RESETTLEMENT PLANS: In case the sub-project involves land acquisition and resettlement, prepare, adopt, and implement resettlement plans (RAPs) in accordance with ESS 5 and consistent with the requirements of the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) that has been prepared for the Project, and thereafter adopt and implement the respective RAPs before carrying out the associated activities, in a manner acceptable to the Bank</p>	<p>RAPs to be prepared immediately once the sub-project designs are ready.</p> <p>RAPs submitted for the Bank’s approval and, once approved, implemented prior to commencing Project activities that involve land acquisition and resettlement.</p>	MIRD
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	<p>IMPACT ON CRITICAL AND NATURAL HABITATS: Screen each proposed subproject in accordance with ESMF prepared for the Project, and, as relevant, prepare, adopt, and implement a stand-alone Biodiversity Management Plan, or specific measures to be included in site-specific ESIA/ESMPs/ESMP Checklists in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p> <p>For any subprojects to be implemented within, or likely to affect, a protected area or an area for which a Critical Habitat Assessment is to be carried out, the WB prior approval must be requested.</p>	<p>Submit for the Bank’s approval prior the beginning of any construction activity that may affect biodiversity.</p> <p>Once approved, the measures and/or plan must be implemented for the specific subproject, and for any other subprojects as relevant throughout Project implementation.</p>	MIRD
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	Currently not relevant to the project		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	<p>Currently not relevant to the project.</p> <p>However, Chance Finds procedures and mitigation measures will be implemented as defined in the ESMF and site-specific ESIAs/ESMPs/ESMP Checklists, and will part of all contracts involving any excavation works under the Project.</p>	Throughout Project Implementation	MIRD

ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Currently not relevant to the project		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	SEP IMPLEMENTATION: Implement the SEP prepared for the Project. The SEP may be updated (and redisclosed) as needed during Project implementation.	Throughout Project Implementation	MIRD
10.3	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Prepare, adopt and operate a grievance mechanism for the entire Project as described in SEP.	GRM in place before the Project effectiveness. Operate and maintain throughout Project implementation.	MIRD
10.4	COMMUNITY AWARENESS: Conduct community capacity building to heighten awareness of risks and to mitigate impacts as outlined in the SEP, training section of the POM, and the Project’s annual Training Plan.	Throughout Project implementation	MIRD
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	Training will be required for MIRD PIU staff and stakeholders on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stakeholder mapping and engagement • specific aspects of environmental and social assessment • ESF and main instruments ESMF, ESMPs/ESMPs Checklists • RPF and RAP administration and implementation • LMP oversight • OHS measures • Traffic Management Plans • Sludge Management Plans • Any other topics as relevant 	Initial training carried out three months after WB Board approval followed by periodical training maintained as needed throughout the project implementation.	MIRD