



Government of Nepal

**Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
COVID 19 School Sector Response (GPE)
(P174209)**

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

[July 2020]

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST)
COVID 19 School Sector Response (GPE)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Government of Nepal (herein after the **Recipient**) will implement the COVID 19 School Sector Response Project (herein after the **Project**) in all provinces of Nepal, with the involvement of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST). The International Development Association (hereinafter the Bank) 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 World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (**ESCP**) sets out the material measures and actions, any specific documents or plans, as well as the timing for each of these.
3. The Recipient will also comply with the provisions of any other E&S documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, such as the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), Labor Management Procedure (LMP) and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The Recipient 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 Recipient as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement. The World 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 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 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 Recipient. The Recipient will 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 Recipient shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts.

COVID 19 School Sector Response (GPE)			
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN			
DATE			
<i>MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS</i>		<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Responsibility / Authority and Resources/Funding Committed</i>
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A.	<p>REGULAR REPORTING: Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the implementation of environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including progress on teaching-learning environment, training of teachers on infection prevention and response activities to COVID 19, nutrition support, school sanitation and screening, inclusive targeting, stakeholder engagement activities and grievance management , implementation of the ESCP, and status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP</p>	<p>Quarterly throughout the Project implementation period.</p>	<p>MOEST/ CEHRD and Local government</p>
	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS NOTIFICATION: The PCU will 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 including cases of GBV/SEA/SH, serious mismanagement in handling disinfectant related waste, security breach, death/disability or any incident or accident from any activities as would be executed by project implementing entities. Provide sufficient details regarding the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken to address the issues/risks, and include information provided by other stakeholders viz suppliers/ contractor and supervising entity. 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 24 hours of learning of the occurrence of such accidents or incidents. A report on action taken to be provided on the same by Seven) days of notifying the Bank.</p>	<p>MoEST/ CEHRD /E&S Unit</p>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			

1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: A Project Coordination Unit (PCU) will be established within CEHRD to oversee the project activities. The PCU will consist of an environment and social safeguard specialist. CEHRD will supervise and coordinate the overall monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of environmental and social (E&S) matters, and communication of the project. The Environmental and Social Specialist will be deployed in Project's E&S Unit who will be responsible for preparing relevant environmental and social documents and furnishing information to the Bank as well as addressing environmental and social risks/impacts which includes, among others: proper management of COVID response equipment, ensuring occupational health and safety for teachers and students, overseeing the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Indigenous Peoples Framework (IPF) and project activities for responding to COVID. The Project Coordinator may delegate these responsibilities to relevant officials or hired environmental and social consultants as required.</p>	<p>One environmental and social specialist will be maintained to provide E&S support as necessary throughout the Project implementation. The E&S specialists will be hired within 30 days of project effectiveness.</p>	<p>MOEST/CEHRD/E&S Team</p>
	<p>MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS</p>	<p><i>TIME FRAME</i></p>	<p><i>RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY</i></p>
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLAN AND INSTRUMENTS/CONTRACTORS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify and assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of the proposed Project activities, in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)), prepared and adopted for the Project. b. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including Education Cluster COVID -19 Contingency Plan (ECCCP) 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 contractor and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts. The bidding documents for the contracts will be finalized only after the ESMF is ready. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. An ESMF will be prepared within 30 days of project effectiveness. b. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities and before implementing relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the implementation of such activities. 	<p>MOEST/CEHRD/E&S Team</p>

	Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) or other instruments required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the EHSs including the relevant WHO guidelines on COVID 19 and Framework for Reopening School (UNICEF/World Bank), COVID 19 Education Cluster Sector Contingency Plan 2020 in a manner acceptable to the Bank.		
	MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	<i>TIME FRAME</i>	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p>EXCLUSIONS:</p> <p>Exclude the following type of activities as ineligible or financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g. loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts. • Activities that may cause long term, permanent and /or irrepressible (e.g. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources and cultural heritage) adverse impacts. • Activities that may affect lands or rights of indigenous peoples or other vulnerable minorities. • Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition leading to physical or economic displacement or adverse impacts on cultural heritage. • All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project. 	During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	MOEST/CEHRD/E&S Team
1.4	<p>PERMIT, CONSENTS AND AUTHORIZATIONS: Projects activities may/will need to follow emergency legislation (Infectious Disease Control Act etc. and WHO guidelines) related to Nepal government COVID -19 to the extent that these are mandatory or advisable. The learning portal is planned to be hosted at the National Information Technology Center (NITC), which is under</p>	Prior to initiation of activities that require permits, consents and authorization.	MOEST

	the Ministry of Information and Communication may reflect to authorization for its use.		
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>Relevant</p> <p>The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS2, in a manner acceptable to the Bank, 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/consulting/technical firms. The Recipient shall adopt and implement Labor Management Procedures (LMP) incorporating the relevant requirements of ESS2.</p>	LMP will be prepared within 30 days of project effectiveness	CEHRD/LG Focal Person
2.2	Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures: adopt, implement and update the OHS measures in line with LMP and WHO guidelines on COVID-19 in a manner acceptable to the Bank.		
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 hygiene and sanitation materials waste generated from improvement and rehabilitation of WASH facilities and health care wastes, and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes as guided in ESMF.</p>	Throughout the Project implementation stage.	CEHRD/LG Focal person

3.2	While re-opening Schools/improving existing and/or constructing WASH facilities since schools are being used as quarantine facilities (minor refurbishment), the Recipient shall ensure adoption of water quality and efficiency measures consistent with ESS3, as guided in the ESMF, and as per the national law, guidelines and policies and ensure proper disposal of project waste water so that project it does not have significant adverse impact on communities and the environment.	Throughout the Project Implementation stage.	CEHRD/LG Focal Person
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		<i>Time Frame</i>	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
4.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above, including, inter alia, preparation, adoption and implementation of measures to: minimize the potential for community exposure to communicable diseases, particularly the COVID-19; ensure that individuals or groups including students and teachers who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable to have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse/sexual harassment, and violence against children (VAC). SEA/SH Action Plan covering students, staff, workers and communities will be prepared and measures such as prevention procedures, campaigns, code of conduct, training and redressal mechanisms adopted measures and actions to assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities will be implemented in accordance with the ESMF and relevant national laws. All the aforementioned issues related to community health and safety will be screened and included in site specific ESMPs to be prepared, which will specify the necessary measures for ensuring waste management, management of chemicals and disinfectants and compliance with good labor management practices etc. to avoid and minimize the risk to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Health and Safety Plan b. SEA/SH Action Plan Both plans will be prepared within 30 days of effectiveness and applied throughout the Project implementation stage.	CEHRD/LG Focal Person

4.2	The Recipient will ensure training to educating parents, caregivers and communities on disease prevention for safe and sustained re-opening of schools and motivating students to return to school. This will specifically target CWD and adolescent girls/physically challenged students who are the most vulnerable to effects of pandemic in terms of their return to education.	Prior to reopening of Schools and during opening of Schools with regular refreshment.	CEHRD/LG Focal Person
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS			
5.1	<u>Not Relevant</u>	.	
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS			
6.1	Not Relevant		
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.	Throughout Project implementation stage.	
7.2	An Indigenous Peoples Plans Framework (IPPF) will be developed consistent with the requirements of ESS 7, if findings from the E &S assessment proposed under 1.2 indicates this is appropriate	IPPF will be prepared 30 days within effectiveness of the project.	CEHRD/E&S Team
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	Not Relevant		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
9.1	Not Relevant		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Prepare, disclose, adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.	A preliminary SEP has been prepared and disclosed and shall be updated no later than 30 days following the Effective Date. The SEP shall be	MOEST/CEHRD

		implemented throughout the period of Project implementation.	
10.2	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 Bank.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOEST/CEHRD/LG focal person
	CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)		
	<p>Training topics will among others include (for teachers, students, administrative and operational personnel, workers and community in general)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder mapping and engagement • Specific aspects of environmental and social assessment including screening/ESMP preparation • Occupational health, safety and sanitation • SEA/SH Risk Mapping and responding • Grievance filing and redressing 	The training will be initiated from November 2020 and there will be one training for each topic.	MOEST/CEHRD/LG focal person