

Ministry of Health and Population

**Nepal Pandemic Preparedness and Control Project
(P173760)**

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

March 22, 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Nepal (hereinafter the Recipient) will implement the Nepal Pandemic Prevention and Control Project (hereinafter the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP). The International Development Association (hereinafter 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**) of the Association. 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 Ministry 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	<p>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, medical waste handling and disposal, stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log.</p>	Semi-annually throughout the Project implementation period.
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS		
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: MoHP for the present has assigned the DG of the Curative Service Division (CSD) and Chief of the Nursing Service Division (NSD) as the Environmental and Social Specialists who will be responsible for preparing relevant environmental and social documents and furnishing information to the Association as well as addressing environmental and social risks/impacts which includes, among others: the proper disposal of medical waste, ensuring occupational health and safety for health staff and workers, overseeing the implementation of the SEP, and assisting in resolving project-related grievances. The DG, CSD and the Chief, NSD may delegate these responsibilities to relevant officials or hired environmental and social consultants as required.</p>	The environmental and social specialists will be maintained and provide inputs as necessary throughout the Project implementation.
MoHP		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</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 prepared 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.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any 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 ESHGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including the relevant WHO guidelines on COVID-19 in a manner acceptable to the Association.</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>a. ESMF to be prepared before the Project activities commence. Assessment to be conducted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</p> <p>b. Before implementing relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the implementation of such activities.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p>	<p>MoHP</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p>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 (e.g. loss of major natural habitat) 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 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.	MoHP
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), 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 firms.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	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.	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP
3.2	While upgrading existing and/or constructing new healthcare facilities (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 and ensure proper disposal of construction wastes.	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
4.1	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; 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; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment.	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP
4.2	The Recipient will ensure the avoidance of any form of SEA 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 adequate lighting in quarantine and isolation centers.	Throughout project implementation.	MoHP
4.3	The Recipient will implement emergency preparedness measures in case of laboratory accidents/ emergencies, e.g. a fire response or natural phenomena event.	Throughout project implementation.	MoHP
4.4	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”.	Throughout project implementation.	MoHP
4.5	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.	Throughout project implementation.	MoHP
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP
5.2	The Recipient will carry out all activities in existing healthcare facilities and/or using available Government lands or direct purchase from the land owners.	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
7.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	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 Association.	A draft SEP has been prepared and disclosed and shall be updated no later than 30 days following the Effective Date. The SEP shall be implemented throughout the period of Project implementation.	MoHP
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 Association.	Throughout Project implementation.	MoHP/ Department of Health Services
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<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"> • Proper Use 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) • Training on sustainable procurement • 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)* <p>*Aforementioned trainings will be jointly delivered in coordination with other DPs (GIZ, etc.) who are currently engaged in capacity building activities with Environmental Health and Health Care Waste Management Section under the Curative Division of MOHP.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p><i>MoHP/Curative Division/Recipient Hospitals/Nursing Division</i></p>