



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Health
Department of Planning and Corporation

Lao PDR COVID-19 Response Project (P173817) and
Additional Financing and
Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
Multi-Donor Trust Fund (P175771)

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

21 May 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) through the Ministry of Health (hereinafter the MOH) will implement the Lao PDR Covid-19 Response Project (P173817), the parent project and Additional Financing to the Lao PDR Covid-19 Response Project including the Trust Fund from the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (P175771) (hereinafter the Project), with the involvement of Provincial Health Offices, District Health Offices, and Health Centers. The International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The MOH shall carry out the Project in accordance with the 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 or caused to be carried out by the MOH, 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 MOH as required by the ESCP and the provisions of the Financing Agreement.
4. As agreed by the Association and the MOH, 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 MOH shall update the ESCP to reflect the agreed-upon changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP will be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the Association and the MOH. The MOH will 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 MOH 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, stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log.</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on COVID-19 vaccine deployment and vaccination, which includes a section on ESS management and monitoring.</p>	Starting from the Effective Date, six-monthly and annual reports shall be submitted no later than 45 days after the end of each reporting period, throughout the Project implementation	MOH-Department of Planning and Coordination (DPC)
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS: 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.</p>	<p>The Association shall be notified within 48 hours after taking notice of the serious and severe incident or accident. A report shall be provided to the Association upon the Association's request.</p> <p>Minor incidents shall be reflected in the six-monthly reports to the Association.</p>	MOH-Department of Planning and Coordination (DPC)
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The MOH, agency or unit referenced in 1. above shall establish and maintain a Project Implementing Unit (PIU) with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including environmental and social risk management specialist, as well as part time consultant as required, environmental and social focal point in each PIU, healthcare waste management specialist, and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.</p>	<p>The ESF Focal Point designated/ appointed by MOH and other PIEs to continue to support the Project activities and will be maintained throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Part time consultants/specialist will be hired and retained on an as-required basis.</p>	MOH/DPC and other Project Implementing Entities (PIEs)

<p>1.2</p>	<p>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 Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be prepared, 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, 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 EHSGs, 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, including with regards to vaccines.</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>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 Association, as set out in the ESMF.</p> <p>e. For expenditures eligible for retroactive financing, the MOH will provide verification that supplies and equipment purchased followed at minimum MOH standards and/or WHO standards in a manner acceptable to the Association. For activities and facilities eligible for retroactive financing, if the current conditions are consider inadequate, the MOH will provide clarity on the existing conditions and propose a plan for improvement to ensure that the agreed standards can be met and later verify that relevant environment, health and safety measures including a waste management system acceptable to the Association are in place, that training on the use of supplies and equipment were provided, including on deployment of the vaccine, and that a Grievance Redress Mechanism is in place for addressing COVID and vaccine-related concerns.</p>	<p>a. The ESMF has been updated to address risks of AF activities and has been disclosed and consulted on March 1, 2021. The updated ESMF will be adopted by effectiveness of the AF Financing Agreement (AF Effective Date). Assessments 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>e. Before retroactive financing is disbursed.</p>	<p>MOH/DPC and PIEs</p>
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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"> All the excluded activities set out in the <i>ESMF</i> of the Project. 	During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	MOH/DPC and PIEs
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 and the project's Labor Management Procedures (LMP), in a manner acceptable to the Association, including through, inter alia, implementing adequate occupational health and safety measures (including (including personal protective equipment, and 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 as detailed in the LMP.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MOH/DPC and PIEs
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 ESHGs, and other relevant GIIP including relevant WHO guidelines; and adequately manage and dispose of health care wastes (including, vaccines) and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.</p>	Before relevant activities initiated and during implementation stage	MOH/DPC and PIEs
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY: 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>	Before relevant activities initiated and during implementation stage	MOH/DPC and PIEs

<p>4.2</p>	<p>USE OF MILITARY OR SECURITY PERSONNEL: The project does not expect the engagement of security or military personnel in the implementation of Project activities. The MOH will inform the Association if security or military personnel would need to be involved in the future, such as for provision of security to Project workers, sites and/or assets, health care facilities, or to administer the vaccination program. If security or military personnel is engaged, the following measures will be adopted in accordance with the ESSs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assess risk and impact of engagement of the security or military 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 GIIP, and by applicable law, in relation to hiring, rules of conduct, training, equipping, and monitoring of such security or military personnel; b. Adopt and enforce standards, protocols and codes of conduct for the selection and use of security or military personnel, and screen such personnel to verify that they have not engaged in past unlawful or abusive behavior, including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH) or excessive use of force; c. Ensure that MOH enters into a memorandum of understanding (MoU), with the relevant Security or Military Unit, setting out the arrangements for the engagement of the military or security personnel under the Project, including compliance with the relevant requirements of this ESCP; d. Ensure that such 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; e. Ensure that the stakeholder engagement activities under the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) are updated to include a communication strategy on the involvement of security or military personnel under the Project; f. Ensure that any concerns or grievances regarding the conduct of security or military 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 [Bank/Association] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assessment carried out in the same timeframe than action 1.2 a) above and any required measures shall be adopted before deploying security or military personnel under the Project and thereafter implemented throughout Project implementation b), c) and d) before deploying security or military personnel under the Project and thereafter throughout Project implementation. e) and f) as set out under actions 10.1 and 10.2 respectively. [g] as agreed with the timeframes requested by the Association. 	
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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>no later than 15 days after being received; and</p> <p>g. Where the Association shall require, after consultation with the Borrower: (i) promptly appoint a third- party monitoring consultant, with terms of reference, qualifications and experience satisfactory to the Association, to visit and monitor the Project area where military or security personnel are deployed, collect relevant data and communicate with Project stakeholders and beneficiaries; (ii) require the third-party monitor consultant to prepare and submit monitoring reports, which shall be promptly made available to and discussed with the Association; and (iii) promptly take any actions, as may be requested by the Association upon its review of the third-party monitor consultant reports.</p>		
<p>4.3 Apply emergency response measures to cope with unintended health consequences after vaccination including teams of qualified health workers, medical equipment and supplies and ambulances are in place particularly in those rural isolated area where the vaccination stations or booths will be established.</p>	<p>Before vaccination in all stations or booths particularly in rural isolated area</p>	<p>MOH/DPC, Provincial and District Health Offices</p>
<p>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</p>		
<p>Not relevant, given that civil works to be financed under the Project will be undertaken in the land area and existing premises of MOH.</p>		
<p>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</p>		
<p>Not relevant</p>		
<p>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</p>		
<p>MEASURES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OR ETHNIC PEOPLE: 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 ethnic peoples throughout Project implementation; (ii) implementing procedures, protocols and/or other measures to ensure that ethnic peoples have access to Project benefits in an fair, equitable, inclusive and culturally appropriate manner, including, as relevant, with regards to vaccines, as set out in the ESMF and the SEP; and (iii) implementing measures to ensure that ethnic peoples are able to access the Project’s grievance mechanism in a culturally appropriate manner.</p>	<p>Before relevant activities initiated and during implementation stage</p>	<p>MOH/DPC and PIEs</p>
<p>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</p>		
<p>Not relevant</p>		
<p>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</p>		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
Not relevant		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE		
<p>10.1 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Prepare or revise, disclose, 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 them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.</p>	<p>A SEP was prepared and disclosed under the parent project and updated for the AF. An updated SEP has been consulted and redisclosed prior to Appraisal and will be adopted by AF Effective Date and shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MOH/DPC and PIEs</p>
<p>10.2 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 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 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>MOH/DPC and PIEs</p>
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)		
<p>CS1 MOH (PCO) and other PIEs to receive training on the Project relevant ESF instruments including CoC and provisions to prevent SEA, GBV and/or VAC, the ESMF, LMP, SEP, IPC, HCWMP, ICWMP, ESMP and ESCOP application for the civil works, and the roles and responsibilities of each PIE in the preparation and implementation of these instruments.</p>	<p>Before the carrying out of the Project activities, and thereafter throughout the Project period.</p>	<p>MOH/DPC and PIEs</p>
<p>CS2 MOH (PCO) and related PIEs to receive training on TOR preparation and contract management to ensure that the ESS obligations, especially, ESCOP, ESMP, ESHS and LMP requirement included in the bidding documents.</p>	<p>Training to be provided before bidding is conducted.</p>	<p>MOH/DPC and PIEs</p>
<p>CS3 Contractors to receive training on the preparation and implementation of relevant ESF instruments.</p>	<p>Prior to work commencing, throughout project implementation.</p>	<p>MOH/DPC and PIEs</p>