

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

MAURITANIA COVID-19 RESPONSE PROJECT – AF (P176526)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

May 22,2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PLAN

1. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (the Recipient) shall implement the Mauritania COVID-19 Response Project – Additional Financing (the “Project”) through the Ministry of Health and with the involvement of the Directorate of Environmental Control (DCE) of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD); the Ministry of Public Service, Labor and Modernization of the Administration; the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family; the Ministry of Finance; and the Ministry of the Interior and Decentralization. The International Development Association ('The Association') (IDA) has agreed to fund the Project.
2. The Recipient shall implement the concrete measures and actions necessary to ensure that the Project is implemented in accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards (**ESS**). This Environmental and Social Engagement Plan (**ESCP**) sets out these 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 reviewed from time to time during the implementation of the Project, in a manner that reflects the adaptive management of changes or unforeseen situations that may occur under the Project, or as a result of an evaluation of the project's performance under the ESCP itself. In such situations, the Recipient shall update the ESCP to reflect the agreed-upon changes. The agreement on the amendments to the ESCP shall be attested by the exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipient. The Recipient shall immediately disclose the revised ESCP.
5. Where the performance of the Project, unforeseen situations, or changes in the Project result in changes in risks and effects during the implementation of the Project, the Recipient shall provide additional funds, if needed, for the implementation of actions and measures to deal with these risks and impacts. Which may include environmental, health, and safety impacts; community health and safety risks due to increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 virus and poor management of medical waste and the possible use of military and/or security personnel; social risks relating to accessibility and inclusion, social conflict arising due to the limited availability of the vaccines; and risks of sexual abuse and exploitation and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) among others.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTS</p> <p>Prepare and communicate regularly 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 the registration of complaints.</p>	<p>Quarterly reports shall be submitted to the Association, throughout the implementation of the project starting from the Effective Date.</p>	<p><i>Ministry of Health MoH</i></p>
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 and sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) related to the Project. 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>Notify the Association within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>A report shall be provided within a timeframe acceptable to the Association, as requested</p>	<p><i>Ministry of Health</i></p>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>The Central Steering Committee (PCC) shall maintain the project coordination unit (PCU) with qualified staff and sufficient resources to support the management of the Project's environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) risks and effects, including an environmental safeguards expert, and a social specialist all with terms of reference and qualifications or specifications satisfactory to the Association.</p>	<p>The PCU has already an Environmental specialist in place. A social specialist must be hired not later than three months after the Effective Date.</p> <p>Organizational structure, including relevant specialists shall be maintained throughout the implementation of the Project.</p>	<p><i>Ministry of Health</i></p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/ MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/CONTRACTORS</p> <p>I. Assess the environmental and social risks and effects associated with the proposed activities for the Project, in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of the parent project to be updated before the Effective Date to reflect the proposed new activities under the AF, the ESSs, the Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including relevant WHO guidelines. The updated ESMF will incorporate measures to mitigate potential risks related to the implementation of the developed National Deployment and Vaccination Plan for COVID-19 vaccines that organizes vaccine distribution. The proposed measures shall ensure that beneficiaries that receive the vaccine do so under a program that does not include forced vaccination and is acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt and implement all environmental and social management plans or other instruments necessary for the project's respective activities on the basis of the evaluation process, in accordance with the ESSs, the updated ESMF, the EHS Guidelines and other international industry best practices (GIIP) concerned, including relevant WHO guidelines, in a manner acceptable to the Association, 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, as relevant, with regards to vaccines.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, among others, the updated ESMF, any environmental and social management plan or other instruments, the provisions of ESS. 2 and any other required ESHS measures, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with suppliers, contractors and supervising firms. Then, ensure that suppliers, contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts and contracts.</p>	<p>a. The ESMF of the Parent project shall be updated, disclosed, consulted by the Effective Date and prior to the implementation of relevant Project activities and implemented thereafter throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>b. Plans/instruments shall be prepared, disclosed, consulted upon and adopted before the relevant activities of the Project are carried out, and then implemented throughout those activities.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities and shall thereafter complied with throughout the carrying out of such activities</p>	<p><i>Ministry of Health</i></p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p>EXCLUSIONS: Exclude the following types of activities as ineligible for project funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities that may cause long-term, permanent and/or irreversible negative effects (e.g., loss of significant natural habitat). - Activities that have a high probability of causing serious negative effects on human health and/or the environment. - Activities that could have significant negative social effects and lead to significant social conflicts. - Activities that may affect the land or rights of any vulnerable community, - activities that could lead to permanent resettlement or land acquisition or have a negative impact on cultural heritage. 	During the evaluation process conducted as part of Action 1.2.a. above.	Ministry of Health
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORK CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT</p> <p>The Project shall be implemented in accordance with the applicable provisions of ESS 2, in a manner acceptable to the Association, including the implementation of adequate occupational health and safety measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures), the establishment of grievance mechanisms for Project workers equipped to address SEA/SH in workplace, and the integration of labor provisions into the ESHS specifications for contracting files and contracts with suppliers, contractor, and supervising firms.</p> <p>Appropriate protection and assistance measures to address the vulnerabilities of project workers shall be defined before the commencement of relevant activities and implemented throughout.</p>	<p>OHS measures and LMP to be updated, adopted, and implemented as part of the ESMF in accordance with the timeframe set out under action 1.2.</p> <p>Throughout the implementation of the Project.</p>	<i>Ministry of Health</i>
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			

Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, if any, under Action 1.2 above, including, among other things, 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 GIIP including relevant WHO guidelines; adequately manage and dispose of medical wastes (including vaccines) and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous waste. The National medical waste management plan 2017-2021 developed under INAYA project will be updated by the Effective Date and used under this project.

ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

	<p>Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, if any, under Action 1.2 above, including, among other things, measures to minimize the risk of exposure of the population 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 associated with the influx of labor; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse as well as sexual harassment (SEA/SH). Use of security force is not anticipated for the implementation of this AF. In case any activity requests involvement of security personnel, the Recipient shall ensure that the security personnel follow a strict code of conduct and avoid any escalation of situation in accordance with the requirements of ESS4 and in a manner acceptable to the Association. Government security personnel deployed to provide security or other services as part of implementing activities related to the Project shall be managed consistent with the requirements of ESS4 and in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>The same timeline as the preparation/update, adoption, and implementation of instruments mentioned under action 1.2 (ESMF)</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>
<p>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</p>			
	<p>Not currently relevant - The relevant aspects of this standard will be examined, if any, in the context of Action 1.2 above.</p>		
<p>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</p>			
	<p>The relevant aspects of this standard will be examined, if any, in the context of Action 1.2 above.</p>		
<p>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</p>			
	<p>This standard is not relevant.</p>		
<p>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</p>			
	<p>The relevant aspects of this standard will be considered, if any, in the context of Action 1.2 above</p>		
<p>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</p>			
	<p>Not relevant</p>		

ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN</p> <p>Update, disclose, consult upon, adopt and implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) of the Parent project consistent with the provisions of ESS 10, in a manner acceptable to the Association. The updated SEP 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>	The SEP was revised, finalized et disclosed by the client prior to Appraisal	- <i>Ministry of Health</i>

<p>10.2</p>	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>The accessible grievance mechanism established for the parent project shall be assessed as part of the SEP updating, to ensure that the current GM includes the requirements in relation to the potential risks and impacts of the AF and includes measures that are accessible to potential new stakeholders.</p> <p>Based on the assessment outcomes, the current GM which has already recommendations regarding the SEA/SH shall be strengthened to include SEA/SH-sensitive measures including those related to the vaccine aspects among others, including multiple channels to initiate a complaint and specific procedures for SEA/SH, such as confidential and/or anonymous reporting with safe and ethical documenting of SEA/SH and the referral of survivors to gender-based violence service providers as relevant, all based on informed consent.</p> <p>The updated GM shall be 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 updated SEP includes an updated GM that shall be maintained throughout the implementation of the Project.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>
<p>CAPACITY BUILDING (TRAINING)</p>			

	<p>Training of health care workers, including environmental health personnel, cleaning staff, etc., including waste management, the safe collection and transport of infectious materials, the use of personal protective equipment (Port, removal, and disposal), biosecurity and biosecurity under COVID-19. Strengthen the National Research Institute capabilities for detecting viral pathogens using an open platform.</p> <p>Strengthening capacity to raise awareness about the need to protect the environment, and the focus on vulnerable groups including the elderly, pregnant women, street children and persons with mental diseases and the management of Sexual Exploitation Abuse(SEA)/ Sexual Harassment (SH).</p>	<p>Not later than 120 days of the Effective Date and periodically with the addition of new Project team members join the Project throughout implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health</p>
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