

**Government of the Philippines  
Department of Health**

**Philippines COVID-19 Emergency Response  
Project (P173877) and Additional Financing  
Project (P175953)**

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

**8 JANUARY 2021**

## Environmental and Social Commitment Plan

The Republic of the Philippines (hereinafter the Borrower) through the Department of the Health will implement the Philippines COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (the Project). The DOH will lead and collaborate with other relevant governmental agencies/departments/units at the national, regional, and local levels on Project implementation as may be necessary. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project. This ESCP amends and replaces the ESCP dated April 2, 2020.

1. The Borrower 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.
2. The Borrower 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 item 1 above.
3. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Bank by the Borrower 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.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the Borrower, 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 Borrower 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 Borrower. The Borrower 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 Borrower 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
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<b>REGULAR REPORTING:</b> Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to, the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation, and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP and stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log.	Quarterly throughout Project implementation	DOH
B	<b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS:</b> 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, inter alia, any COVID-19 outbreak in the Project area, improper disposal of healthcare wastes from diagnosis, treatment, and immunization activities and incidents related to security and military personnel following incident classification defined in the ESMF. Any severe incidents need to be reported to the Bank no later than 48 working hours with basic information and a detailed incident report within 10 working days.	Notify the Bank within 48 working hours after learning of the incident or accident following incident classification defined in the ESMF.	DOH
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</b> The Department of Health shall appoint and maintain qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including Environmental (ESHS) and Social Risk Management Specialists, and risk communication specialists.	Environmental (1 ESHS) and Social Risks Management (1) Focal Points in place before commencement of Project activities and maintained throughout Project implementation.	DOH
1.2	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</b>  a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, in accordance with the ESSs and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be revised, disclosed, and adopted 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.  b. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of the vaccination activities as defined in ESMF. . This will cover the biosafety issues and other security measures in the logistics and distribution of the vaccines, crowd management during vaccination, and the segregation and proper disposal of wastes generated from the immunization activities, among others	a. Assessment conducted and ESMF revised before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.  b. Prior to the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to target priority populations.	DOH

<p>c. Ensure Project beneficiaries who receive vaccines under the Project do so under a program that does not include forced vaccination and is acceptable to the Bank.</p> <p>d. Assess climate and disaster risks and mainstream climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the formulation of the National Deployment and Vaccination Plan (NDVP) and/or the Vaccine Delivery and Distribution Manual (VDDM) for the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines under the Additional Financing, and ensure that coherent and comprehensive CCA-DRR measures have been incorporated in the various components of the NDVP and/or the VDDM (e.g. planning and coordination, delivery strategies), consistent with the National Climate Change Act and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p> <p>e. 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 World Bank Group’s Environment Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and other relevant Good International Industry Practices (GIIP) including the relevant WHO guidelines on COVID-19 in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p> <p>f. Assess the chemical safety and environmental-soundness of refrigerants and the energy-efficiency of the cold storages and refrigerated transport of vaccines through the monitoring report requirement to be submitted by the operator/service provider.</p> <p>g. 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>c. Throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>d. Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities</p> <p>e. Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>f. Due to the emergency nature of the Project and urgent need for vaccine cold storages and refrigerated transport, conduct preliminary assessment if the cold storage refrigerant is a non-ozone depleting substance (ODS). Assessment and monitoring of the chemical safety and energy-efficiency will be conducted throughout the project duration.</p> <p>g. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p>	
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1.3	<p><b>EXCLUSIONS:</b> Exclude the following type of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g., loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts</li> <li>• Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment not related to COVID-19 treatment</li> <li>• Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict</li> <li>• Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or adverse impacts on cultural heritage</li> <li>• All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.</li> </ul>	<p>During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	DOH
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	<p><b>LABOR MANAGEMENT:</b> 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 firms, including no child labor and no forced labor.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	DOH
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
3.1	<p>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 following the requirements of the ESMF and the national standards and regulations in place such as, but not limited to, healthcare waste management especially wastes generated from the COVID-19 diagnosis, treatment, and immunization activities, protection of air, land, and water resources and the effective</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	DOH

	management of wastes from the facilities, and including assessment of the adequacy of the current Philippine health care waste management system for increased volumes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the development of a road map for the management of health care wastes particularly in regions in the country without access to proper treatment, storage, and disposal facilities.		
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
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; manage the risks of the use of government or private security personnel engaged in activities associated with the Project, including following strict rules of engagement, code of conduct, and avoiding any escalation; manage the risks of labor influx; manage the risks of the COVID-19 vaccination deployment and distribution; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and sexual harassment (SH).	Throughout Project implementation.	DOH
4.2	Ensure existence of protocols regarding consent to vaccinations, process for agreeing to or refusing to be vaccinated, and measures to protect those that refuse to be vaccinated are in place.	Prior to the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to target priority populations.	DOH
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
	Not currently relevant.		
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
	Not currently relevant.		
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
7.1	<b>MEASURES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.</b> The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS7, including, inter alia: (i) ensuring that the SEP includes meaningful consultations with indigenous peoples throughout Project implementation; (ii) implementing procedures, protocols and/or other measures to ensure that indigenous 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 indigenous peoples are able to access the Project's grievance mechanism in a culturally appropriate manner.	Throughout Project implementation.	DOH, in collaboration with IP health practitioners and NCIP when needed
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
	Not currently relevant.		
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
	Not relevant.		

<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<p><b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN:</b> Revise, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Bank. The SEP shall include measures to ensure that the carrying out of Project activities includes stakeholder engagement and information disclosure consistent with ESS10, including, 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. The SEP shall also include measures to provide relevant information to the public about the use of security personnel in project activities, including providing security at health facilities.</p>	The SEP shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period.	DOH
10.2	<p><b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</b> Accessible grievance arrangements shall be established, made publicly available and maintained 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 and acceptable to the Bank.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall also receive, register, and address concerns and grievances related to (taking into account the need to protect confidentiality, when needed and/or requested):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sexual exploitation and abuse, e.g., sexual harassment, shall be in a safe and confidential manner, including through the referral of survivors to gender-based violence service providers;</li> <li>• the conduct and incidents of security personnel; and</li> <li>• from unintended health consequences after vaccination especially those resulting in serious adverse effects.</li> </ul> <p>Grievances shall be documented through the Project’s grievance mechanism and reported to the Bank following incident classification defined in the ESMF. Any severe incidents need to be reported to the Bank no later than 48 working hours with basic information and a detailed incident report within 10 working days. The AEFI protocols of the Government of the Philippines and the DOH should also be observed in case of adverse effects following COVID-19 vaccination.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	DOH
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</b>			
	Department of Health and other relevant implementing support staff responsible for the Project, including the ESF Focal Points, to receive training on the project’s ESF instruments,	Within three months after the Effective Date and as new project	DOH

	CoC and provisions to prevent SEA/SH, Gender Based Violence (GBV) and/or Violence Against Children (VAC), the relevant requirements of the ESMF, SEP and WHO guidelines on COVID19, and the roles and responsibilities of different key agencies in the ESF implementation.	team members join the Project throughout implementation.	
	Contractors to receive training on the relevant aspects of the Project's ESF instruments.	Prior to work commencing, throughout project implementation.	DOH
	Security personnel to receive training on SEA/SH, GBV, VAC and awareness on child protection protocols, on Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and other communicable diseases.	Prior to involvement and support to Project activities and throughout project implementation.	DOH
	Training on the COVID-19 vaccine administration for the program coordinators and implementers, surveillance teams, community health educators and workers and partner agencies.	Prior to the administration of COVID-19 vaccines to target priority populations.	DOH