

Republic of Liberia



Ministry of Health

***Institutional Foundations to Improve Services for
Health (IFISH)-Additional Financing***

Project ID#: P177050

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

July 30, 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Government of Liberia (GOL) will implement activities under the Institutional Foundations to Improve Services for Health Project (IFISH) – Additional Financing (AF), with the Ministry of Health (MOH) as its implementing agency, as set out in the Financing Agreement. The World Bank, acting as the administrator of the fund, has agreed to provide additional financing for the implementation of the additional activities under the Project, as set out in the referred agreement(s). This ESCP shall apply solely to the additional activities under the Project referred to above, and the ESCP for the original financing of the Project, shall continue to apply to the original activities under the project.
2. The Government of Liberia shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Bank. The ESCP is a part of the Financing Agreement and the Project Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement(s).
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Government of Liberia shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring, and reporting arrangements, and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) instruments that shall be adopted and implemented under the Project, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Bank. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Bank.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the Government of Liberia, this ESCP will be revised from time to time during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Government of Liberia through Ministry of Health and the Bank agree to update the ESCP to reflect such changes through the exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Government of Liberia’s Minister of MOH. The Government of Liberia through MOH shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>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 the E&S instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism(s), and other ES responsibilities agreed with the Bank, Healthcare Waste Management Plan, and the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Action Plan.</p>	<p><i>Quarterly after the Project Effective date (no later than 5 days after the end of each reporting period) and throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	<p>MOH/PIU</p>
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>The project 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, inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury. Provide sufficient detail regarding the scope, severity, and possible causes of 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/or supervising firm, as appropriate.</p> <p>Subsequently, at the Bank’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p><i>Notify the Bank immediately or no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. GBV specific cases will be notified within 24 hours.</i></p> <p><i>Provide subsequent report to the Bank within 10 days of the incident/accident.</i></p>	<p>MOH/PIU</p> <p>MOH/PIU</p>
C	<p>CONTRACTORS MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on ESHS performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Bank.</p>	<p><i>Submit the monthly reports to the Bank.</i></p>	<p>MOH/PIU</p>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Maintain a PIU that is tasked with ESHS management with qualified E&S staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, including (i) an Environmental Safeguard Specialist with experience in ESHS risks management; (ii) Social Safeguard Officer with experience in SEA/SH risks management. These environmental and social (E&S) specialists shall be responsible for managing the E&S risks of the Project and ensuring that the Project is implemented in accordance with this ESCP and in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p>	<p><i>Maintain the PIU and mentioned E&S staff and resources throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	<p>MOH/PIU</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/ MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare, consult, disclose, adopt and implement Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for Sub-component 1.2 of the Project involving small civil works (rehabilitation and extension of existing primary healthcare infrastructure, including the construction of basic houses at the targeted health centers), consistent with the relevant ESSs prior to commencement of the activities. 2. Adopt and implement the revised National Healthcare Waste Management Plans (NHCWMP) prepared and disclosed under the parent Project (P169641) and the National Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs, and in accordance with relevant WHO guidelines, and any other guidelines acceptable to the Bank. 3. Adopt and implement the site/facility specific Healthcare Waste Management Plan for the New Redemption Hospital. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Prepare and adopt site-specific ESMPs prior to the launching of the relevant sub-project bidding process for the respective small-scale civil works. . Once adopted, implement the respective ESMPs throughout Project implementation.</i> 2. <i>Adopt the NHCWMP and National IPC Guidelines prior to the Project effective date; thereafter implement the NHCWMP and National IPC Guidelines throughout Project implementation.</i> 3. <i>Adopt the site/facility specific HCWMP for the New Redemption Hospital prior to deployment of vaccines and implement throughout Project implementation.</i> 	MOH/PIU
1.3	<p>MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S instruments (Health care Waste management Plan, Environmental and Social Management Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Based-Violence/SEA/SH Action Plan, Labor Management Plan,) into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and cause subcontractors to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p><i>Throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	MOH/PIU
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) disclosed for the parent Project, including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.</p>	<p><i>Adopt the LMP prepared under the parent Project by Project Effective date, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	MOH/PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>The Ministry of Health will maintain, and operate the grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.</p>	<i>Maintain and operate grievance mechanism throughout Project implementation.</i>	MOH/PIU
2.3	<p>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES</p> <p>The Ministry of Health shall implement adequate occupational, health and safety (OHS) measures including emergency preparedness and response measures in line with the LMP, National HealthCare Waste Management Plan, National Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines and WHO guidelines on vaccine-related wastes, consistent with ESS2 and in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p>	<i>OHS measures have been prepared as part of LMP, HCWMP and National IPC guidelines and shall be implemented throughout Project.</i>	MOH/PIU
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p>WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN:</p> <p>Adopt and implement the National Healthcare Waste Management Plan (HCWMP) and the site/facility specific Waste management Plan prepared under the parent Project, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous medical wastes, consistent with ESS3.</p> <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 in a safe manner and in accordance with the EHSGs, and other relevant GIIP including relevant WHO guidelines; and adequately manage and dispose of health care wastes (including wastes produced by the vaccination, such as the large quantum of empty vials, residual vials, used syringes) and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.</p>	<i>Adopt the NHCWMP prior to the Project Effective date, and thereafter implement the NHCWMP throughout Project implementation.</i>	MOH/PIU
3.2	<p>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT:</p> <p>Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the site specific ESMP for sub-projects to be prepared under action 1.2 above.</p>	<i>Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the site specific ESMPs for small-scale civil works.</i>	MOH/PIU
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY:</p> <p>Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the ESMPs to be prepared under section 1.2 above.</p>	<i>Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.</i>	MOH/PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY: Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, community's exposure to noise, dust, wastes and pollution due to small-scale civil works, safety of services and community's exposure to health issues, behavior of Project workers, risks of labor influx, response to emergency situations, and include mitigation measures in the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2 above.	<i>Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.</i>	MOH/PIU
4.3	SEA AND SH RISKS The MOH shall update, adopt and implement the GBV/SEA/SH Action Plan to manage the risks of GBV, SEA and SH.	<i>Update and adopt the GBV, SEA/SH Action Plan no later than Effective date, and thereafter implement the SEA/SH Action Plan throughout Project implementation.</i>	MOH/PIU
4.4	SECURITY PERSONNEL	N/A	N/A
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT PLAN: Not applicable	<i>Not Applicable at present</i>	N/A
5.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Not applicable	<i>Not Applicable at present</i>	N/A
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	Not relevant. All works will be carried out within the existing footprints of healthcare facilities; hence, this standard is not relevant to the proposed AF interventions.	<i>Not Applicable at present</i>	N/A
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLAN: Not relevant	<i>Not Applicable at present</i>	N/A
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CHANCE FINDS: Relevant aspects of Chance Finds Procedure shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	<i>Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs</i>	MOH/PIU
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
9.1	ESS 9 is not relevant for this project	N/A	N/A

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Update, disclose, adopted and implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, 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><i>Will be updated prior to the Project Effectiveness and thereafter to be implemented throughout Project cycle</i></p>	<p>MOH/PIU</p>
10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</p> <p>Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, 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 to the complainants and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.</p>	<p><i>Strengthen the established grievance mechanism and form new grievance redressal committees where required within 30 days of Effective date of the AF and thereafter maintain and operate the throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	<p>MOH/PIU</p>
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	<p>Prepare a training guide and provide training for PIU staff, stakeholders, communities, Project workers on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – GBV & SEA/SH – GBV Code of Conduct for project workers – Community health and safety – Healthcare waste management for health facilities – GRM Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for committee members (roles and responsibilities) 	<p><i>Prepare a training guide within one month of the Effective date and conduct at least one training session each six months.</i></p>	<p>MOH/PIU</p>
CS2	<p>Provide training for Project workers on occupational health and safety including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations.]</p>	<p><i>During project implementation and throughout the duration of the project life cycle.</i></p>	<p>MOH/PIU</p>