

**Kosovo**  
**Emergency COVID-19 Response Project and**  
**Additional Financing (P176661)**

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

**April 17, 2021<sup>[1]</sup>**

<sup>[1]</sup> To be updated to the Negotiation Date in due course.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Kosovo (hereinafter the **Recipient**) shall implement the Kosovo Emergency COVID-19 Response Project(P173819); including activities to be supported under the additional financing (P176661) for the Project (**Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health (**MoH**) and Ministry of Finance Labour and Transfer (MoFLT). The International Development Association (hereinafter the **Association**) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient shall 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.
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 Ministries referenced in 1. above.
4. 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 conditions of the legal agreement, and the Association shall 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 shall agree to the changes with the Association and shall update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP shall be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipient. The Recipient shall 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, 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/H) among others.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<p><b>REGULAR REPORTING:</b> 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 the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&amp;S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).</p>	Beginning from the Effective Date and quarterly throughout Project implementation	MoH through its Project Coordination Unit (PCU), in cooperation with MoFLT
	<p><b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS:</b> 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. Provide sufficient detail regarding the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken to address it, and include information provided by any contractor and supervising entity, as appropriate. Subsequently, as per the Association's request, prepare a detailed report with root cause analysis on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence.</p> <p>Incident reporting will include any significant COVID-19 outbreak among workers at Project financed Health Care Facility, laboratory, or other related sites. Indicate measures taken or planned to be taken to address it and information provided by any contractor and supervising entity, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Promptly after taking notice of the incident or accident, not later than 48 hours.</p> <p>Provide a detailed report not later than 7 days after that.</p>	MoFLT and MoH through its Project Coordination Unit (PCU)
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<p><b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</b> As part of the Additional Finance the implementation arrangements of the parent Project, Kosovo Emergency Covid-19 Project (173819) will remain unchanged. In addition, the PCU under the MoH should be strengthened through the hiring of a short term OHS specialist/consultant and medical waste management specialist/consultant. Under the Project, the PCU shall hire a part time medical waste expert to provide input of the extension of the medical waste disposal facility in the medical centers as well as part time OHS expert. The Project related social due diligence shall be managed by the communication consultancy to be hired through the Project either as a company or individual consultant. The existing PCU shall continue to maintain qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including already hired environment and specialist. The Environmental specialist has been hired under the ongoing Kosovo Health Project ("KHP") (P147402) and the same specialist shall be responsible for the E&amp;OHS management of this Project.</p>	<p>The PCU in MoH has recruited environmental and OHS specialist under the ongoing health project KHP (P147402). The Environmental specialist of the KHP shall manage the E&amp;OHS standards, and the risk mitigation measures for the Kosovo COVID-19 Project and the AF. The social risk management will be contracted through the communication budget.</p> <p>The PCU, with composition and resources acceptable to the Association, shall be maintained throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoH/PCU in cooperation with MoFLT

1.2	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</b></p> <p>a. Update, disclose and adopt an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), and assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed AF Project activities in accordance with the ESSs and the ESMF, 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. The updated ESMF shall include WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts-SAEGE and Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) on monitoring and management and AEFI manual on surveillance which shall be integrated in the updated ESMF. The ESMF shall also include a template for a vaccine cold storage temperature monitoring plan</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement all Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Infection Prevention Control and Waste Management Plans (IPC &amp; WMPs) and/or other instruments required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including the WHO Country &amp; Technical Guidance - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the WHO Guidelines on Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, any ESMPs, IPC &amp; WMPs and/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>Conduct E&amp;S Review of the Emergency Response of Covid 19 Project (the parent Project).</p> <p>Given the delays in having an E&amp;S Specialist in the PCU and the preparation, disclosure, and implementation of the ESMF and SEP, the World Bank has requested a review of the Environmental and Social management to date under the parent Project.</p> <p>The main purposes of this review are to:</p> <p>(i) review the policies, systems and procedures that have been established for the project to date, to determine whether they are appropriate to achieve project implementation that is consistent it WB Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) objectives and requirements and Kosovo national law;</p>	<p>a. ESMF prepared for the parent project Kosovo Emergency Covid-19 Project (173819) shall be updated for AF Kosovo Emergency Covid-19 Project (P176661), disclosed, consulted and adopted by the Effective Date. The updated ESMF shall include a template for a vaccine cold storage temperature monitoring plan.</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. The review shall be finalized not later than the Effective Date of the Financing Agreement for the Additional Financing. Remedial actions identified in the review shall be implemented and or complied with throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoH/PCU in cooperation with MoFLT
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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>(ii) determine whether there are any gaps in prescribed measures or institutional arrangements which should be addressed in the preparation and finalization of the ESMF and/or other relevant E&amp;S instruments; and</p> <p>(iii) determine whether there have been any adverse environmental or social impacts resulting from project implementation and, if so, recommend appropriate remediation measures</p>		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.3 <b>EXCLUSIONS:</b> The following types of activities shall not be eligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict</li> <li>• Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g., loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts on the environment</li> <li>• Activities that may affect lands or rights of minorities,</li> <li>• Activities that may involve resettlement or land acquisition (not limited to permanent) /use restriction or adverse impacts on cultural heritage</li> <li>• All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.</li> </ul>	<p>These exclusions shall be applied as part of the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	<p>MoH in cooperation with MoFLT</p>
<p>1.4 The Recipient shall commit to the provision of services and supplies to all people, regardless of their social status, based on the urgency of the need, in line with the latest data related to the prevalence of the cases, and the implementation of WHO guidance tools for COVID-19 risk communication and engagement.</p>	<p>Throughout Project Implementation</p>	<p>MoH in cooperation with MoFLT</p>

**ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS**

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.1 <b>LABOR MANAGEMENT:</b> The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS2, in a manner acceptable to the Association and consistent with national law, 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. The Recipient shall adopt and implement Labor Management Procedures (LMP) incorporating the relevant requirements of ESS2.	The LMP shall be updated for the AF as part of the ESMF, and the updated LMP shall be finalized not later than the Effective Date of the Financing Agreement for the Additional Financing. The LMP and all measures specified in this action 2.1 shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period.	MoH in cooperation with MoFLT
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>		
	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. The requirements for adequate mitigation of the risks, for civil works to expand capacities of the designated facility in University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK), mobilizing and training health personnel to set up appropriate procedures on-site and for mobile teams engaged in the rollout of vaccination, as well as procurement of necessary equipment such as needle destroyers/incinerators to be available for each vaccination unit, autoclaves, shredders, and other disinfection devices to prepare waste for sanitary landfill after disinfection, shall be carried out in accordance with updated ESMF.	
	Relevant measures on carrying out the purchase, storage, transportation and handling of vaccines (including cold chain management) in a safe manner and in accordance with the World Bank's environmental health and safety guidelines and other relevant GIIP including relevant WHO guidelines and adequately manage and dispose of healthcare waste (including vaccines).	
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>		
	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 security personnel; manage the risks of labor influx; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.	
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>		
	Not relevant	
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
	Not relevant	
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>		
	Not relevant.	
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>		
	Not relevant.	
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>		
	Not relevant.	
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>		

## ASSOCIATION

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>10.1 <b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN:</b> Update, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, and in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>The existing draft SEP of Kosovo Emergency Covid-19 Project (P173819) which has been updated for the Additional Financing, dated 28 April 2021, and disclosed on MoH website (<a href="https://msh.rks-gov.net/en/sep_-_kosovo-emergency-covid-19-project-p173819/">https://msh.rks-gov.net/en/sep - kosovo-emergency-covid-19-project-p173819/</a>), shall be implemented, and updated as needed, throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MoH in cooperation with MoFLT</p>
<p>10.2 <b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</b> 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, and in a manner acceptable to the Association.</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.</p>	<p>GRM shall be operational and functional throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MoH through PCU for overall project</p>
<p><b>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</b></p>		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p><u>Training topics for personnel involved in Project implementation shall among others include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training topics as per the WHO Country &amp; Technical Guidance - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) <a href="https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance">https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance</a> including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations</li> <li>- Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the COVID-19</li> <li>- Specimen collection and shipment</li> <li>- Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients</li> <li>- Risk communication and community engagement</li> <li>- Establishment of quarantine</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Training topics as per the WHO Guidelines on Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities <a href="https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/85349/9789241548564_eng.pdf;jsessionid=EE45FF4B510A5297A7DFF6030A3BED25?sequence=1">https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/85349/9789241548564_eng.pdf;jsessionid=EE45FF4B510A5297A7DFF6030A3BED25?sequence=1</a></li> <li>• AEFI and vaccine cold chain storage (and temperature monitoring) to the list of training subjects</li> <li>• Training on the prevention of GBV and SEA/SH and awareness of child protection protocols, on Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and other communicable diseases, including for security personnel.</li> <li>• Familiarization with the WB's ESF and EHS Guidelines.</li> <li>• Country Sanitary Regulations and Norms</li> </ul>	Throughout Project implementation.	MoF through IFC department and MoH through PCU