

Belize
Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW)

COVID-19 Emergency Response Project
(P177987)

ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

Negotiated Version

January 27, 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Belize (hereinafter, the Borrower), through the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), will implement the Belize COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (P177987). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter, the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Borrower 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 Borrower, 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 Bank.
3. 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 or unit referenced in one above.
4. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP shall be monitored and reported to the Bank by the Borrower as required by the ESCP and the provisions of the Loan Agreement.
5. 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 shall agree to the changes with the Bank and shall update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP shall be documented through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Borrower through the Minister in charge of MOHW. The Borrower 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 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
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	REGULAR REPORTING: 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, infection control and medical waste management, occupational health and safety, stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log.	<p>Every six-months throughout the Project's implementation submitted not later than 45 days after the end of each six-month period in conjunction with the Project Reports, starting from the Effectiveness Date of the Project.</p> <p>Mid-term and completion reports shall also be submitted, as requested by the Bank, during Project implementation.</p>	Policy, Planning and Project Management Unit (PPPMU) of the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW)
B	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS: 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. 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 Bank's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence.	Notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. A report would be provided within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank, as requested.	PPPMU/MOHW
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: MOHW shall establish and maintain a Policy, Planning and Project Management Unit (PPPMU) with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, including an environmental and social officer with qualifications and experience acceptable to the Bank. In addition, MOHW has already designated and shall maintain an official as the E&S Focal Point.	<p>An environmental and social officer shall be hired or assigned for the Project no later than sixty (60) days after the Effective Date of the Project and shall be maintained throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Before this appointment is complete, the designated E&S Focal Point shall provide the necessary support to manage E&S risks and impacts. The E&S Focal Point shall be retained throughout Project implementation.</p>	PPPMU/MOHW

<p>1.2</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Prepare, consult, disclose, adopt, and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, in accordance with the ESSs, the Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSs), and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including relevant WHO guidelines.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, consult, adopt and implement any environmental and social management plans (e.g. community health and safety plans), instruments or other measures required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the EHSs, 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, as relevant, with regards to vaccines.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, the ESMF, 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 (as applicable) 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 Bank, as set out in the ESMF.</p> <p>e. For deployment of vaccines procured under retroactive financing that occur before the ESMF is adopted, a Due Diligence Review shall be conducted to assess whether the relevant activities were implemented in accordance with ESSs requirements. The findings shall inform the ESMF and strengthen Borrower’s capacity on E&S management.</p> <p>f. Ensure that resources, including human and financial resources, are available to cover the incremental costs associated with the management of increased waste volumes, including biomedical waste and vaccination related wastes (expired and opened vaccine vials), resulting from Project activities.</p>	<p>a. ESMF shall be submitted for the Bank’s no objection and thereafter the reviewed and approved ESMF be adopted and disclosed no later than 60 (sixty) days after the Project Effective Date.</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. The Due Diligence Review shall be completed, in form and content acceptable to the Bank, prior to the disbursement of any retroactive financing</p> <p>f. Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PPPMU/MOHW</p>
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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p>EXCLUSIONS: Exclude the following types of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g., loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts. • Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment not related to treatment of COVID-19 cases. • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict. • Activities that may involve resettlement or land acquisition/land use restriction or adverse impacts on cultural heritage. • All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project. 	As part of the implementation of the ESMF under action 1.2.a. above.	PPPMU/MOHW
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT: Adopt and implement a Labor Management Procedures for the Project, as part of the ESMF, and in accordance with ESS2, which shall include provisions to, inter alia, implementing adequate occupational health and safety measures (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response measures), setting out grievance mechanisms for Project workers, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. In addition, the LMP shall include a Code of Conduct for Project workers, that shall also apply for the military or other public security forces in case they become involved in the Project as indicated in action 4.2 below.</p>	The LMP shall be adopted in the same timeframe than the ESMF. Thereafter, it shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.	PPPMU/MOHW
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
3.1	<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 EHSGs, 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> <p>Implement the Infection Control and Waste Management Plan (ICWMP) as per the requirements of the ESMF.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>The ICWMP all be adopted in the same timeframe than the ESMF. Thereafter, it shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	PPPMU/MOHW
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY:</p> <p>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> <p>Community Health and Safety Plan (CHSP) shall be developed as part of the ESMF, and shall include measures to prevent or minimize the spread of the infectious disease/COVID-19 to the community.</p>	<p>Same timeframe than for action 1.2.</p> <p>Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMF under action 1.2.</p>	PPPMU/MOHW

<p>4.2</p>	<p>USE OF THE BELIZE POLICE DEPARTMENT: In case the Belize Police Department (BPD) personnel is used in the provision of security to Project workers, sites and/or assets, MOHW shall, in coordination with other government authorities, as relevant, implement the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assess the risks and impacts of engagement of the BPD 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 personnel; b. Adopt and enforce standards, protocols and codes of conduct, in coordination with other competent authorities, for the selection and use of BPD 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 such personnel are adequately instructed and trained, prior to deployment and on a regular basis, on the use of force and appropriate conduct (including in its relations to civilian, SEA and SH, and other relevant areas), as set out in the ESMF; d. Ensure that the stakeholder engagement activities under the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) include a communication strategy on the involvement of such personnel under the Project; e. Ensure that any concerns or grievances regarding the conduct of such 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 no later than 5 days after being received. 	<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) and c) before deploying security or military personnel under the Project and thereafter throughout Project implementation. d) and e) as set out under actions 10.1 and 10.2 respectively. 	<p>PPPMU/MOHW</p>
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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
	ESS5 is not relevant		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	ESS6 is not relevant.		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	MEASURES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: 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 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, particularly with regards to information and access 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; (iv) include measures in the ESMF and SEP that consider the distinct health practices of indigenous peoples.	The ESMF and SEP shall be adopted and disclosed no later than 60 days after the Effective date of Project. Measures pertaining to relevant requirements of ESS 7 shall be implemented throughout Project implementation	PPPMU/MOHW
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered under action 7.1 above.	Same timeframe than for action 7.1	PPPMU/MOHW
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	ESS 9 is not relevant		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION: Prepare, 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.	A draft SEP was prepared, approved by the Bank and disclosed prior to appraisal. The updated SEP shall be finalized and disclosed as soon as possible, but no later than sixty (60) days after the Project Effective Date. The SEP shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.	PPPMU/MOHW

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.2	<p>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 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 existing grievance mechanism shall be reviewed and feedback sought on its operationality and adjusted as necessary.</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>The GRM shall be continuously socialized through traditional and non traditional communication channels (such as social media, newspapers, radio, tv, etc.).</p>	<p>The GRM is already in place and shall be adjusted, maintained, and implemented throughout Project implementation. The GRM arrangements are described in the SEP which shall be adopted and operationalized in the timeframe specified in action 10.1.</p> <p>Throughout the Project implementation.</p>	<p>PPPMU/MOHW</p>
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>CS1 Project Management Unit and other relevant implementing support staff responsible for the Project to receive training on the Project’s ESHS plans and instruments, fair, equitable and inclusive access and allocation of Project benefits including with regards to vaccines, and the roles and responsibilities of different key agencies in the ESF implementation.</p> <p>Project workers to receive training on the contents and requirements detailed in the ESMF, the Infection Control and Waste Management Plan and Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan to ensure compliance with environmental and social requirements. Armed forces shall be trained on the applicable standards and code of conduct in line with the guidance provided in the WB’s Technical Note “Use of Military Forces to Assist in Covid-19 Operations” and as defined in the ESMF. The Recipient shall ensure that resources, including human and financial resources, are available to cover costs associated with such training requirements.</p>	<p>Within one month after the adoption of the ESMF and periodically with the addition of new team members as they join the Project throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PPPMU/MOHW</p>