

HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT (P167790)

ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

Dated October, 2019
Updated on June 17, 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Moldova (“the Recipient”) will implement the Higher Education Project (“the Project”), with the involvement of the Ministry of Education and Research. The International Development Association (“the Association”) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient 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. This ESCP has been updated taking into consideration the new activities added in the 1st Project restructuring.
3. The Recipient will also comply with the provisions of any other Environmental and Social (E&S) documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, such as Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), and Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP), and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The Recipient 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 1. above.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Association by the Recipient as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the financial agreement, and the Association will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
6. 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 will agree to the changes with the Association 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 Association and the Recipient. The Recipient will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
7. 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 or labor risks.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism.</p>	Semi-annually throughout Project implementation.	MoER
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>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, grant recipients 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 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>Provide report to the Association within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank, as requested</p>	MoER
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 Association.</p>	Submit the monthly reports to the Association upon request	MoER
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Maintain the project management team with qualified staff and resources to support the management of ESHS risks including a dedicated environmental and social specialist, and dedicated stakeholder engagement specialist responsible for ensuring full compliance with the ESF and relevant instruments. Maintain the staff as necessary throughout Project implementation.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MoER
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs. 2. Undertake environmental and social screening of all proposed Project activities following guidance of the ESMF. Reflect identified site-specific environmental and social risks and impacts in the ESMPs of individual Project activities and formulate adequate mitigation measures. 	Throughout Project implementation	MoER
1.3	<p>MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>Adopt and implement site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans as set out in the ESMF</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MoER
1.4	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including the ESMP and the LMP, into the Environmental, Social, Health & Safety (ESHS) specifications of the procurement documents with contractors. Thereafter ensure that the contractors comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>Prior to the preparation of procurement documents.</p> <p>Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoER
1.5	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	Throughout Project Implementation	MoER

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES Update, adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the 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>	Update within 60 days following the restructuring effectiveness letter or before start of launching bidding process for any civil works. Implement throughout Project implementation.	MoER
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Maintain, and operate grievance mechanisms for direct workers and obligate contractors to provide GRM for contracted workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2. Monitor handling of complaints.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MoER
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT: Develop and implement measures and actions to manage water, waste and hazardous materials and energy efficiency, as set out in the ESMF/site-specific ESMPs.</p>	Throughout Project implementation	MoER

ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

4.1	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community (students, educational staff and other people) arising from Project activities, including behavior of contracted workers during construction, public safety, and include mitigation measures in the site-specific ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF. 2. Where technically and financially feasible, apply the concept of universal access, and safety to the design and construction of the dormitories under Component 4 of the Project. The safety feasibility assessment will be incorporated into the site-specific ESMP of the Project prepared under action 1.3 above. 	Throughout Project implementation	MoER
4.2	<p>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY</p> <p>Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the site – specific ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.3 above.</p>	Throughout Project Implementation	MoER

ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
	Not relevant to the Project		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES [
	Not relevant to the Project		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	Not relevant to the Project		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	Not relevant to the Project		

ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant to the Project		

ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>Update and adopt the revised Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, <i>inter alia</i>, 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 Revised SEP describes the Project’s grievance mechanism, which will also be further detailed in the Project Operational Manual. Thereafter implement the revised SEP.</p>	<p>Update and adopt the revised SEP within 30 days following the Restructuring Effectiveness letter, and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoER
10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>Publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism (GM), 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 the Revised SEP, and ESS10.</p> <p>Cause participating Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to appoint a GM focal point and operate a grievance mechanism in accordance with the revised SEP and ESS10.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism at MoER and participating HEIs 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>	Throughout Project implementation.	MoER
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	<p>Training of MoER staff and participating HEIs, stakeholder mapping and engagement focusing on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific aspects of environmental and social assessment • grievance mechanisms • community health and safety 	In accordance with the timeline for the training activities described in the Project Operational Manual	MoER

CS2	Training of Project Workers on occupational health and safety, workers grievance mechanism and SEA/SH	Throughout Project implementation	MoER
-----	---	-----------------------------------	------