

**Republic of India**  
**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

**INDIA COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health  
Systems Preparedness Project P173836**

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

**March 27, 2020**

## India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project (P173836)

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Republic of India (hereinafter the **Recipient**) will implement the Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the following Ministries/Agencies/Units: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**), Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**) and the National Center for Disease Control (**NCDC**). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter the Bank) 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.
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 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**), Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**) and the National Center for Disease Control (**NCDC**) referenced in paragraph 1 above, jointly or independently.
4. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Bank by the Recipient 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.
5. As agreed by the Bank 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 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 Recipient. The Recipient will promptly re-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 and resources, 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, stakeholder engagement activities and grievance log.	Quarterly throughout Project implementation	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</b> The MOHFW shall establish and maintain a PMU with qualified staff, at the minimum including a health and safety expert and a social specialist, and resources to support management of ESMF, risks and impacts of the Project ESHS.  If any additional PIUs are established in the other implementing agencies social and environmental safeguards capacity will be included.	The PMU coordinator, a health and safety expert and social specialist will be assigned to the project within three months after the Effective Date.  PIU/PMU should be maintained throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.2	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</b></p> <p>a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, in accordance with ESSs and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be prepared 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. The ESMF will include Biomedical Waste Management Plan. The ESMF will also include a template for Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as necessary for low-medium scale construction works. The ESMF will describe the procedures for screening of activities to be supported under the CERC component and actions to mitigate potential adverse impacts.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans or other instruments required for the respective Project activities as per the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, ESMF and relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including any new WHO guidance on COVID19 in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p> <p>c. 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>d. In the event the CERC component is operationalized, activities supported thereunder would also be screened for environmental and social risks and subjected to the provisions of the ESMF.</p>	<p>a. The ESMF will be prepared within 60 days from the Effective Date. Other than procurement of goods and services (including testing kits, laboratory equipment, PPE, hospital beds, bedsheets, towels, disposable items etc. that may be required for screening posts, quarantine centers, isolation wards and hospitals, equipment and items for biomedical waste disposal) and minor civil works (including upgrading of existing wards, labs, isolation areas), all other major civil works involving construction of new facilities (hospitals, quarantine centers, laboratories etc.) and activities requiring ESMF screening cannot start before the ESMF is consulted and disclosed and other environmental and social assessments (if required after screening) are in place.</p> <p>b. Plans or instruments prepared before carrying out of the relevant activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant activities and thereafter ensure that contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications in their contracts through their involvement in the respective Project activities.</p>	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p><b>EXCLUSIONS:</b>The following type of activities shall not be eligible for finance under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible adverse impacts (e.g. loss of major natural habitat)</li> <li>• Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment (e.g. constructing new hospitals without Effluent Treatment Plants, related to general wastewater treatment, not COVID-19)</li> <li>• Activities that may affect lands or rights of indigenous people or other vulnerable minorities</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>	These exclusions shall be applied as part of the screening process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
<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, the ESHGs and other relevant GIIP including the updated national and/or WHO guidelines on COVID19 in all facilities, including laboratories, quarantine and isolation centers, and screening posts), 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.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
2.2	The Recipient shall ensure that all health workers adhere to the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct prepared for the Project.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
2.3	The Recipient shall prohibit child labor (any person under the age of 18) due to the hazardous work situation.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
3.1	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.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
3.2	While upgrading existing and/or constructing new healthcare facilities (hospitals, laboratories, quarantine centers), the Recipient shall ensure adoption of energy and water efficiency measures consistent with ESS3, as guided in the ESMF, and as per the national law, guidelines and policies and ensure proper disposal of construction wastes.	Throughout Project implementation	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
<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 security personnel; manage the risks of labor influx; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
4.2	The Recipient will ensure the avoidance of any form of SEA by relying on the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for all workers in the quarantine facilities as well as the provision of gender-sensitive infrastructure such as segregated toilets and adequate lighting in quarantine and isolation centers.	Throughout project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
4.3	The Recipient will implement emergency preparedness measures in case of laboratory accidents/ emergencies, e.g. a fire response or natural phenomena event.	Throughout project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
4.4	The Recipient will operate quarantine and isolation centers in line with the applicable requirements of ESS3, the ESHGs and other relevant GIIP including the WHO guidelines on “Key considerations for repatriation and quarantine of travelers in relation to the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV”.	Throughout project implementation	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
4.5	The Recipient will ensure that any security personnel operating for quarantine and isolation centers and screening posts follow strict rules of engagement and avoid any escalation.	Throughout project implementation	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
5.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC

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5.2	The Recipient will carry out all activities in existing healthcare facilities and/or using available Government lands or direct purchase from the land owners.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
6.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/ HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
7.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
8.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
	Not relevant.		
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN:</b> Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.	A preliminary SEP is prepared and will be updated in 30 days following the Effective Date. The SEP will be continuously updated throughout the project implementation.  The SEP will be implemented throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
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, in a manner acceptable to the Association.	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</b>		
Training topics for personnel involved in the implementation of Project activities will include, among others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control – safety of healthcare workers</li> <li>• Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the COVID-19</li> <li>• Specimen collection and shipment</li> <li>• BMWM arising out of COVID19 testing, treatment, quarantine</li> <li>• Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients</li> <li>• Risk communication and community engagement</li> <li>• Quarantine best practices</li> <li>• Preventing GBV, SEA and SH trainings to healthcare workers</li> <li>• Orientation training on implementing the various provisions of ESMF</li> <li>• Training on stakeholder engagement and consultations</li> <li>• Training on OHS/Community Health and Safety, use of PPE etc.</li> <li>• Training on preparedness and response to emergency situations</li> </ul>	Throughout Project implementation.	MOHFW, ICMR, NCDC