

Republic of Serbia

Serbia COVID-19 Emergency Response Project

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

July 5, 2023



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Serbia (hereinafter the Borrower) shall implement the COVID-19 Response Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Health (MOH) and respective Project Coordination Unit (PCU). 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 upon, adopted and implemented under the ESCP and the ESSs, all in a manner acceptable to the Bank. 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 1. above.
3. 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 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.
4. 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 the exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Borrower. The Borrower shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP. The ESCP revision arises from the Borrower's request for Project restructuring, which have rendered some of the originally planned activities either no longer relevant or no longer in need of the Project financing, while giving rise to the necessity of additional interventions, such as improvements in the health system capacity for testing and diagnosis, mostly in equipment. Thus, already planned activities for laboratory capacities in Novi Sad and Kragujevac will be extended with Institute of Virology, Vaccines and Sera "Torlak" strengthening to enable one of its laboratories to meet requirements for handling pathogens requiring BSL-3, which inquires additional instruments and measures to be in place.
5. 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 impact

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING:</p> <p>a. 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 E&S documents required under the ESCP, implementation and monitoring of the facility against key indicators defined and set out in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) which shall be a part of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism;</p> <p>b. Carry out of an independent BSL 3 laboratory certification requirements.</p>	<p>a. Quarterly throughout Project implementation, starting from the date upon which the amendment shall be effective;</p> <p>b. Certification to be obtained before initial operation and subsequently annually and/or after a program change, renovation or replacement of system components that may affect the operating environment of the laboratory.</p>	<p>a. PCU of the MOH</p> <p>b. CDC or another licensed operator/agency (subject to WB approval) and engaged by MOH</p>
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS: MoH shall 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 [, <i>including, inter alia, any COVID outbreak in the Project area</i>]. 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.</p>	<p>Notify the Bank within 48 hours of learning of the incident or accident. A report would be provided within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank</p>	<p>PCU of the MOH</p>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The Project shall be implemented by the Ministry of Health as the overall coordinator. The MOH shall rely on its existing</p>	<p>The PCU in MOH shall recruit one environmental specialist and one social specialist before carrying out the relevant</p>	<p>MOH</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
<p>structure and the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) established to implement the World Bank supported Second Serbia Health Project SSHP (P129539) which shall assume the responsibility for project implementation.</p> <p>The PCU shall, at all times during Project implementation, maintain qualified staff and resources to support management of E&S risks and impacts of the project, including through the recruitment of one environmental specialist and one social specialist.</p>	<p>Project activities and shall thereafter retain said specialists throughout Project implementation.</p>	
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Prepare, disclose and adopt an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), and assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities in accordance with ESS1 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.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans or other instruments required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, amongst which the ESIA for upgrading one of the facility's laboratory to a BSL-3 laboratory, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including the WHO Country & Technical Guidance - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the WHO Guidelines on Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities and the WHO <u>Laboratory biosafety manual</u> in a manner consistent with the ESSs and acceptable to the Bank. The ESIA shall include, but not limited to, ESMP that will identify potential environmental and social aspects that should be mitigated, parties responsible for implementing and monitoring actions, associated costs, indicators and training or capacity building needs and reporting, including specifics, international good practices and technical standards to be met.</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>a. The ESMF to be prepared, disclosed and adopted on or about 1 month after the Effective Date. Until the ESMF is approved, the Project will apply the WHO standards on COVID-19 response in a manner consistent with ESS1. Screening shall be conducted before the carrying out of the respective Project activity.</p> <p>b. ESMPs, ESIA, or other instruments acceptable to the Bank, shall be prepared, disclosed, consulted upon and adopted before beginning the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the implementation of such activities. The ESIA shall be prepared by the PCU or external Consultants to be hired under the Project, using the sample Terms of Reference for the ESIA that shall be a subject to World Bank's approval; Furthermore, the ESIA, followed by comprehensive stakeholder engagement process, shall be conducted before commencement of any activities related to upgrading one laboratory to BSL3 initiate and prior to binding and contracting.</p> <p>c. Before launching the procurement</p>	<p>PCU of the MOH</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
		process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter ensure that contractors comply with the ESHS specifications in their contracts through their involvement in the respective Project activities.	
1.3	EXCLUSIONS: The following types of activities shall not be eligible for financing under the Project: <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 on the environmentActivities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflictActivities that may affect lands or rights of minorities,Activities that may involve any resettlement (temporary or permanent) or land acquisition/use restriction or adverse impacts on cultural heritageAll the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.	These exclusions shall be applied as part of the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	PCU of MOH
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT: 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), 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 Borrower shall prepare and include in the ESMF Labor Management Procedures addressing labor and OHS issues related to exposure to COVID19 and beyond, before the carrying out the relevant Project activities.	The LMP as part of the ESMF shall be adopted on 1 month following the Effective Date and thereafter apply the, LMP, throughout Project implementation.	PCU of the MOH
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
	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		
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
	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.		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
4.1	<p>EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN:</p> <p>1.Create an emergency preparedness plan for the BSL-3 lab for Torlak Institute of virology, vaccines and sera. The Plan shall be aligned with general Protection and Rescue Plan in Emergency Situations on the Territory of the City of Belgrade,</p> <p>2.To ensure risks associated with BSL-3 lab operation are assessed under Disaster Risk Assessment, and mitigation measures and included as integral part of the Protection and Rescue Plan in Emergency Situations on the Territory of the City of Belgrade</p>	<p>,The Emergency Preparedness Plan for the BSL-3 should be created from the moment the new facility becomes operational and applied throughout the entire duration of BSL-3 lab operations.</p> <p>Created before the lab is operational.</p>	<p>Torlak Institute of virology, vaccines and sera PCU of MOH</p> <p>MoH</p>
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	Not considered currently relevant.		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Update, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p>	<p>The SEP will be updated and re-disclosed on or about 1 month from Effective Date. The SEP will then be continuously updated during Project implementation.</p>	<p>PCU of MOH</p>
10.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Accessible grievance mechanisms as defined in the SEP shall be operational and made publicly available to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, consistent with</p>	<p>GRM to be established on or about 1 month from the Effective Date and kept operational throughout Project</p>	<p>PCU of MOH</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY
	ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.	implementation.	
10.3.	COMMUNICATION STRATEGY: Develop and apply a communication strategy for the subproject: Construction of a new diagnostic building with a BSL-3 laboratory at the <i>Torlak</i> Institute of virology, vaccines and sera, in line with WHO' guidelines for creating a crisis communication plan.	The Communication strategy for the subproject: Construction of a new diagnostic building with a BSL-3 laboratory at the Torlak Institute of virology, vaccines and sera will be developed approved by the WB team before signing the contract for the construction and thereafter applied throughout project implementation	PCU of MOH
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
12.	<p>Training topics for personnel involved in Project implementation shall <u>inter alia</u> include, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training topics as per the WHO Country & Technical Guidance - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations - Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the COVID-19 - Specimen collection and shipment - Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients - Risk communication and community engagement - Establishment of quarantine • Training topics as per the WHO Guidelines on Safe Management of Wastes from Health-Care Activities https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/85349/9789241548564_eng.pdf;jsessionid=EE45FF4B510A5297A7DFF6030A3BED25?sequence=1 • Country Sanitary legal framework • 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. • Familiarization with the WB's ESF and EHS Guidelines. • <u>Laboratory biosafety manual - WHO</u> 	Throughout Project implementation.	PCU of the MoH in cooperation with the National health institutions experienced in the relevant topics and/or in coordination or guided by WHO.