

**The Republic of Congo/Ministry of Health and
Population
Kobikisa Health System Strengthening Project
(P167890)**

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

February 9, 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Congo (hereinafter the Recipient) is preparing, with financial and technical support from the International Development Association (IDA), the **Kobikisa Health System Strengthening Project**, with the involvement of the following ministries/agencies/units: Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development; the Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement Phase IV (REDISSE IV) project implementation unit (REDISSE-PIU). *International Development Association* (hereinafter the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient 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 Recipient, 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 Association.
3. 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 provisions of the Financing Agreement.
4. 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/ *or delegate(s)* shall update the ESCP to reflect the agreed-upon changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP shall be documented through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipient/ *or delegate(s)*. The Recipient/ *or delegate(s)* shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
5. 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.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	REGULAR REPORTING: 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, stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log.	Quarterly throughout the Project implementation period.	Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU
B	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS: 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 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. Minor incidents will be reflected in the Quarterly reports to the Association, major issues will be flagged to the Association immediately.	Notify the Association within 48 hours of learning about the incident or accident, in line with the Association’s Environment and Social Incidence Response Toolkit (ESIRT). A report would be provided to the Association, as requested.	PIU at the Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) have put in place and will maintain PIU with three safeguards specialists (social safeguards, environmental safeguards, and gender-based violence specialist) for the ongoing REDISSE project. The MoHP will use the same PIU for this project as well. However, MoHP agreed to reinforce the existing E&S team of REDISSE PIU with two more additional staffs, one environmental specialist and a social specialist to support social risks management related to ESF standards implementation specific to this project. The MoHP will also put in place and maintain resources to support management of environmental, social, health, and safety (ESHS) risks and impacts of the Project.	PIU (including new E&S specialists) established before project effectiveness and maintained throughout Project implementation. One new environmental and one new social specialist will be hired and dedicated to this project.	Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU

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<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts including SEA/SH risks of proposed Project activities, in accordance with ESS1 and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be finalized, disclosed, consulted and adopted for the Project 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>The ESMF will include an ES& risk screening guidance and checklist, , draft Security Risk Assessment and Security Management Plan, generic Health Care Facility Waste management plan, draft Hazardous/Biomedical Waste Management Plan, generic Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as necessary for rehabilitation of health care facilities and hospitals. Also, Measures related to occupational health and safety will be documented in labor management procedures (LMP) that will be included in the ESMF.</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, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the EHSGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) in a manner acceptable to the Association to, for 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 circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, including, as relevant, with regards to vaccines.</p>	<p>a. ESMF to be finalized, consulted, disclosed and adopted not later than April 30th before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities</p> <p>b. Plans/instruments shall be prepared, disclosed, consulted and adapted Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and implemented as set out in the plans and throughout Project.</p>	<p>Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU</p>

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	c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, any environmental and social management plans, 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. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.	c. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.	
1.3	<p>EXCLUSIONS: Exclude the following type 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, • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict, • Activities that may affect lands or rights of Indigenous Peoples or other vulnerable minorities, • Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or adverse impacts on cultural heritage, • All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project. 	During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU
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 Association, including through, inter alia, implementing labor management procedures (LMP) as set out in the ESMF, preparing adequate occupational	A LMP will be prepared prior by April 30 th and before engaging project workers in relevant Project activities, and to be updated and revised periodically as necessary; LMP and other measures	Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	health and safety measures, drafting codes of conduct including clauses and sanctions against SEA/SH, setting out grievance arrangements for Project workers, as well as codes of conduct that address SEA/SH, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. These requirements are outlined in the ESMF and Labor Management Procedures (LMP). Project will have a separate worker's GRM.	specified in action 2.1 to be implemented throughout Project implementation.	
2.2	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY: The Recipient shall implement adequate occupational health and safety measures in line with the ESMF, LMP, Hazardous/Biomedical Waste Management Plan	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU
2.3	WORKERS CODE OF CONDUCT: The Recipient shall ensure that all tender documents, works contracts or service contracts other than consultancy services under the Project require suppliers / service providers, sub-contractors or consultants to adopt a code of conduct which will be handed over to all workers for signature. This code of conduct will apply to contracts or services other than consultancy services, ordered or carried out under such contracts or contracts, will cover in particular gender-based violence, violence against children and sexual exploitation and abuse, include an action plan for their effective application, and provide training to this end.	Throughout Project implementation	PIU at the Ministry of Health
2.4	CHILD LABOR AND MINIMUM AGE: The Recipient will prohibit child labor (any person under the age of 18) due to the hazardous work situation.	Throughout Project implementation	PIU at the Ministry of Health
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	To manage risks and impacts anticipated as a result of the incremental increase in biomedical waste, the project will prepare and implement a standalone Hazardous/Biomedical	BWMP to be finalized, consulted, disclosed and adopted not later than April 30 th .	PIU at the Ministry of Health

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	Waste Management Plan (BMWP). Measures regarding resource efficiency, and pollution prevention and management will be set out in the ESMF and ESMPs.		
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	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; 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; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.	Throughout Project implementation	PIU at the Ministry of Health
4.2	LIFE AND FIRE SAFETY RISK: 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 SEA/SH.	Throughout Project implementation	PIU at the Ministry of Health
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	Not currently relevant.		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	Not currently relevant.		

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ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	An IPPF will be prepared, consulted upon and disclosed before project's negotiation stage. The IPPF will outline basic key principles to be applied to ensure a full participation and consultation of Indigenous Peoples/Sub- Saharan Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLCs).	An IPPF will be prepared, finalized, consulted, disclosed and adopted not later than April 30th	Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU
7.2	The Recipient will ensure that IP/SSAHUTLCs communities are appropriately informed and can share in the benefits of the Project in an inclusive and culturally appropriate manner with provisions included in the ESMF/ESMP and SEP.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU
7.3	Should the presence of indigenous communities be confirmed in the project intervention area through further screening, the project will address any risks posed to them and measures will be put in place to ensure that they receive culturally appropriate benefits. This will be done by ensuring that their views are sought as specified in the SEP and that a Social Assessment (SA) is carried out prior to carrying any activities that would impact indigenous communities. Following the SA, and as appropriate, a stand-alone Indigenous Peoples Plan will be developed. An IPPF will be prepared to outline basic key principles to be applied to ensure a full participation and consultation of Indigenous Peoples/Sub- Saharan Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLCs).	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	Not currently relevant. In the event any proposed Project activity involves potential risks and impacts related to this standard, relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed such as for chance finds, under action 1.2 above.		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
9.1	Not relevant.		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Prepare, disclose, adopt,	A draft SEP was already prepared,	Ministry of Health,

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10 including COVID-19 provisions, in a manner acceptable to the Association.	consulted and disclosed, before negotiations. The SEP shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period considering COVID-19 provisions.	Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU,
10.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Accessible grievance arrangements shall be made publicly available to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, including SEA/SH complaints, consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association. Without limitation to the foregoing, the Recipient will establish a project-wide grievance redress mechanism (GRM) with assignment of properly trained focal points to address these grievances within Ministry of Health and Population.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall also receive, register and address concerns and grievances related to the 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 GRM will be clarify how the GBV complaints will be addressed and how the Ips would be able to submit their complaints.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU,
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
	<p>Training topics for personnel involved in Project activities will among others include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESF requirements; • Labor Conditions; • Occupational and health and safety aspects; • Other pertinent environmental and social issues, including management of Gender Based Violence (VBG), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) risks; • Grievance redress mechanism (GRM); 	No later than 30 days of the Effective Date and periodically and throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Health, Population, Promotion of Women and Integration of Women in Development / PIU,

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical and hazardous waste management.• Others (to be determined as needed).		