



**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**

**Reducing Rural Poverty and Malnutrition Project II (P178883)**

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

October 10, 2023

## ABBREVIATIONS

CERC	Contingent Emergency Response Financing
Code of Conduct	CoC
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfer
DAAB	Dispute Avoidance and Adjudication Board
DIC	Department of International Cooperation
DRI	Development Research Institute
DRD	Department of Rural Development
ESF	Environment and Social Framework
ESO	Environmental and Social Officer
ESMF	Environment and Social Management Framework
E&S	Environmental and Social
ESFP	E&S focal point
ES COP	Environmental and Social Codes of Practice
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESHS	Environmental, Social, Health, and Safety
ESIRT	Environment and Social Incidence Response Toolkit
ESS(s)	Environmental and Social Standard(s)
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GIIP	Good International Industry Practice
GOL	Government of Lao
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
LMP	Labor Management Procedures
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PDR	People's Democratic Republic
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMU	Project Management Unit
RRPM II	Reducing Rural Poverty and Malnutrition Project II
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SH	Sexual Harassment
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
ToR	Terms of Reference
VAC	Violence Against Children
WB	World Bank

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) (hereinafter the Recipient) will implement the Reducing Rural Poverty and Malnutrition Project II (RRPM II) (the Project), with the involvement of the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and the Department of International Cooperation (DIC) of Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI). The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the referred agreement.
2. The Recipient shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Association. The ESCP is a part of the Financing Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement.
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Recipient shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring, and reporting arrangements, and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) instruments that shall be adopted and implemented under the Project, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Association. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association.
4. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP may be revised from time to time after each consultation with stakeholders during Project implementation, to reflect their feedback, 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.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<p><b>REGULAR REPORTING</b></p> <p>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 the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&amp;S instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance redress mechanism (GRM).</p>	The 1st and 2nd reports shall be submitted quarterly, and subsequent reports shall be six-monthly and maintained throughout Project implementation. Submission date is no later than 45 days after the end of each reporting period.	PMU/DRD of MAF PIU/DIC of MPI
B	<p><b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</b></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 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 scope, severity, and possible causes of 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/or supervising firm, as appropriate.</p> <p>Subsequently, at the Association's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p>Notify the Association no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report to the Association within a timeframe acceptable to the Association.</p>	PMU/DRD of MAF PIU/DIC of MPI
C	<p><b>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</b></p> <p>Require contractors (office upgrading) 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 PMU.</p>	Monthly, throughout the construction period.	Contractor, PMU
D	<p><b>NOTIFICATIONS RELATING TO DAAB COMPLIANCE REVIEW OF CONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE WITH SEA/SH PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OBLIGATIONS</b></p> <p>Notify the Association of any referral submitted to the Dispute Avoidance and Adjudication Board (DAAB) to initiate a process of compliance review in relation to a contractor's obligations to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and/or sexual harassment (SH) specified in the respective works contract with such contractor; and, in the event of any such referral, notify the World Bank/Association of: (i) the DAAB's decision on such referral; (ii) the contractor's Notice of Dissatisfaction, if any, with such DAAB decision; (iii) any notification received on the commencement of an emergency arbitration proceeding or full arbitration proceeding in relation to the DAAB's</p>	No later than 7 days after the issuance or receipt, as applicable, of the relevant document (i.e., referral to the DAAB, issuance of DAAB decision, Notice of Dissatisfaction, notice of commencement of emergency/full arbitration, emergency/full arbitration order, as applicable).	PMU/DRD of MAF

	decision; and (iv) the resulting emergency arbitration order and/or full arbitration order, if any.		
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<p><b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b></p> <p>a. Maintain a Project Management Unit (PMU of RRPM I) at MAF to implement Component 1, 2, and 3 with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, including one (01) full time environmental and social officer (ESO) and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.</p> <p>b. At provincial and district levels (PAFO/DAFO), an E&amp;S focal point (ESFP) will be assigned and responsible for coordination, monitoring, and reporting on the ESF implementation including ensuring that GRM is functioning effectively.</p> <p>c. Establish and maintain a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) at DIC of MPI to implement Component 4 with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project related activities.</p>	<p>a. and b. three months after project effectiveness and thereafter throughout the project implementation period.</p> <p>c. three months after project effectiveness and thereafter throughout the project implementation period.</p>	<p>PMU/DRD of MAF; PAFO and DAFO; and PIU/DIC of MPI</p>
1.2	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (E&amp;S) INSTRUMENTS</b></p> <p>a. Adopt and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.</p> <p>b. Assess the environmental and social (E&amp;S) risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be prepared, disclosed, and adopted for the Project, including to ensure that individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, including minority ethnic groups, have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project.</p> <p>c. Adopt and implement any environmental and social (E&amp;S) management instruments required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF (including the Labor Management Procedures), the Environmental, Health, and Safety Guideline (EHSGs) of the World Bank Group, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including relevant WHO guidelines on COVID-19 response in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>d. 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. Thereafter ensure that the contractors comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>Before launching the procurement process and implementation of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the project period.</p>	<p>PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI with the support of ESF consultants</p>
1.3	<b>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</b>		

	Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S instruments, the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), and social code of conduct (CoC), into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and cause subcontractors to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.	Before launching the procurement process and implementation of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the project period.	PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI
1.4	<b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b> The appointed ESF consultant of PMU of MAF shall provide capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project including, ESF instruments such as Environmental and Social Codes of Practice (ESCAP), Do's and Don'ts actions, and other relevant E&S instruments that are consistent with the ESSs.	Throughout Project implementation.	PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI with the support of ESF consultants
1.5	<b>CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING (CERC)</b> a) Ensure that the CERC Manual as specified the legal agreement includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements, if applicable, for the implementation of the CERC component, in accordance with the ESSs.  b) Adopt any environmental and social (E&S) instruments which may be required for activities under the CERC component of the Project, in accordance with the CERC Manual and, if applicable, and the ESSs, and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&S instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&S instruments.	After project effectiveness and before carrying out relevant CERC activities and thereafter, throughout Project implementation period.	The responsible entity, as assigned by GOL to be responsible for CERC
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	<b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b> 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 (related to SEA/ SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.	Before engaging Project workers in the implementation of any on project activities. and thereafter, throughout Project implementation period.	PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI
2.2	<b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b> Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			

3.1	<p><b>WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b></p> <p>Adopt and implement measure to manage solid waste include hazardous and non-hazardous wastes according to the ESCOP provided as part of ESMF, consistent with ESS3</p>	Adopt prior commencing of project activities, and thereafter implement throughout project period.	PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI
3.2	<p><b>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures defined in part of ESMF as relevant.</p>	Adopt prior commencing of project relevant activities and thereafter implement throughout project period.	PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
4.1a	<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; 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 labor influx; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.</p>	Before relevant activities initiated and during implementation stage.	PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI
4.1b	<p><b>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY</b></p> <p>Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in ESMF prepared under action (1.2) above.</p> <p>Traffic and road safety measures are applied to all Project workers, including community workers (in the role of Village Facilitator to be engaged for all Project villages)</p>	Applied before Project workers commencing their works/contract	PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI
4.2	<p><b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b></p> <p>Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, risks related to traffic safety, risks related to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment, Violence Against Children, Domestic Violence, and include mitigation measures in accordance with the ESMF.</p>	Applied before Project workers commencing their works/contract	PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI
4.3	<p><b>SEA AND SH RISKS</b></p> <p>Update, adopt, and implement measures to avoid/minimize the risks related to SEA/SH/VAC as part of ESMF based on the ES assessment, and manage the risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) and Violence Against Children (VAC).</p>	Applied before Project workers commencing their works/contract	PMU/DRD of MAF
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
	Not relevant, given that office upgrading to be financed under the Project will be undertaken within the existing premises of PAFO/DAFO offices		
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
	Not relevant. The Project does not have any activities that affect biodiversity in the Project area.		

ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES		
7.1	<p><b>MEASURES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OR ETHNIC PEOPLE:</b></p> <p>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 ethnic peoples throughout Project implementation; (ii) implementing procedures, protocols and/or other measures to ensure that ethnic peoples have access to Project benefits in an fair, equitable, inclusive and culturally appropriate manner, including, as relevant, with regards to Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) or other project benefits, as set out in the ESMF and the SEP; and (iii) implementing measures to ensure that ethnic peoples are able to access the Project’s grievance redress mechanism (GRM) in a culturally appropriate manner.</p>	<p>Before relevant activities initiated and during implementation stage</p> <p>PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI</p>
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE		
	Not relevant. However, chance finds procedures will be included in civil works contract	
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES		
	Not relevant.	
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE		
10.1	<p><b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</b></p> <p>Adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, 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.</p>	<p>Adopt as soon as Project becomes effective, and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation period.</p> <p>PMU/DRD of MAF and PIU/DIC of MPI with the support of ESF consultants</p>
10.2	<p><b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b></p> <p>Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, 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 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>	<p>Throughout Project implementation period.</p> <p>PMU/DRD of MAF; PAFO and DAFO; PIU/DIC of MPI and their local authorities</p>
CAPACITY SUPPORT		



<p>CS1</p>	<p>PMU/DRD of MAF, PAFO, DAFO, DIC &amp; DRI of MPI, and other relevant stakeholders to receive training on the Project relevant ESF instruments including CoC and provisions to prevent SEA, SH, and VAC, the ESMF, LMP, SEP, and ESCOP application for the civil works, and the roles and responsibilities of each entity in the preparation and implementation of these instruments.</p> <p>PMU/DRD and related stakeholders to receive training on TOR preparation and contract management to ensure that the ESS obligations, especially, ESCOP, ESHS and LMP requirement included in the biding documents.</p> <p>Contractors/project workers to receive training on the preparation and implementation of relevant ESF instruments and on occupational health and safety including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations.</p>	<p>Before the carrying out of the Project activities, and thereafter throughout the Project period.</p> <p>Training to be provided before bidding is conducted.</p> <p>Prior to work commencing, throughout project implementation.</p>	<p>PMU/DRD of MAF, PIU/DIC of MPI, and contractor</p>
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