

# **Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe**

## **COVID-19 Vaccines Additional Financing to the STP COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (P176152)**

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

**March 15, 2021**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe (the Recipient), is implementing the STP COVID-19 Emergency Response Project - P173783 (the Parent Project) including the activities to be supported under the COVID-19 Vaccines Additional Financing to the STP COVID-19 Emergency Response Project- P176152 (the **Project**) with the involvement of the Ministry of Health (**MoH**) and Fiduciary Agency for Project Management (AFAP). The International Development Association (IDA) hereinafter the “Association” and the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (“HEPR”) Multi-Donor Trust have agreed to provide financing for the Project, including through IDA and grant resources<sup>1</sup>.
2. The Recipient shall implement 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 terms of the Legal Agreement, while the Association shall monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
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 shall agree to the changes with the Association and update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP shall be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipient. The Recipient 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, which may include environmental, health, and safety impacts; community health and safety risks due to increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 virus and poor management of medical waste; social risks relating to accessibility and inclusion, social conflict arising due to the limited availability of the vaccines; and risks of sexual abuse and exploitation and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) among others.

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<sup>1</sup> The Bank is acting as administrator of the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund (“HEPR”).

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<b>REGULAR REPORTING:</b> 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 information from the grievances log.	Starting from the Effective Date, quarterly reports shall be submitted no later than 30 days after the end of each reporting period, throughout Project implementation.	PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)
B	<b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS.</b> 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, any COVID outbreak in the Project area and risks of SEA/SH. 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.	Notify the Bank immediately within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.  A detailed report would be subsequently submitted to the Association within 7 business days of learning of the event, as requested.  This reporting system shall remain in effect throughout the Project.	PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</b> The Recipient, through the Ministry of Health, shall establish and maintain a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to support the management of environmental and social (E&S) risks and impacts of the Project, including finalizing the recruitment of one environmental and one social specialist. The Specialists will be responsible for managing and supervising the environmental and social risks and impacts of the AF as well.	Recruitment process for one environmental and one social specialist is ongoing and will be completed no later than 30 days from Effectiveness and prior to commencement of any civil works or vaccine deployment and administration.  The PIU and its Environmental and Social specialists shall be maintained throughout Project implementation.	PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)
1.2	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</b>		PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, in accordance with the <i>Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) as well as the associated Infection Control and Waste Management Plan (ICWMP) and Labor Management Procedures (LMP)</i>, prepared pursuant to the provisions of the Parent Project<sup>2</sup> (P173783) to be updated, consulted, disclosed and adopted by the Recipient to cover the current 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 in a fair, equitable and inclusive manner, in accordance with the ESSs, the Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including relevant WHO guidelines.</p> <p>b. Update, disclose, consult, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans, instruments or other measures prepared by the Parent Project, which will include activities as per the screening process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the EHSGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including relevant WHO guidelines on COVID-19.</p> <p>c. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, the ESMF, any environmental and social management plans, ICWMP and/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 (including ICWMP and LMP) disclosed on August 06, 2020, shall be further updated and re-disclosed by Effectiveness.</p> <p>b. Plans/instruments shall be prepared, consulted, disclosed and adopted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>c. The relevant E&amp;S measures shall be incorporated into the procurement documents before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities and shall thereafter complied with throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>d. Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p>	

<sup>2</sup> <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/551811601060656183/environmental-and-social-management-framework-esmf-tunisia-covid-19-response-project-p173945>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	<p>d. Adopt procedures, protocols and/or other measures to ensure Project beneficiaries that receive vaccines under the Project do so under a program that does not include forced vaccination and is acceptable to the Association, as set out in the ESMF.</p>		
MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p><b>EXCLUSIONS:</b> Exclude the following type of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g., loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts</li> <li>• Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment not related to treatment of COVID19 cases</li> <li>• Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict</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 Updated ESMF of the Project.</li> </ul>	<p>These exclusions shall be applied as part of the screening process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	<p>PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>		
<p>2.1 <b>LABOR MANAGEMENT:</b> 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, adopting and implementing an LMP setting out adequate occupational health and safety measures (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response measures), a grievance mechanism for Project workers, and labor requirements (such as conditions of employment, measures to prevent child labor and all forms of forced labor).</p> <p>The recipient shall ensure that the above requirements are incorporated into specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms.</p>	<p>The LMP (included in the ESMF) disclosed on August 06 2020, shall be further updated and re-disclosed by Effectiveness.</p> <p>All measures specified in this action 2.1 shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period.</p>	<p>PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)</p> <p>PIU ensuring contractors and supervising firms as relevant.</p>
<p>2.2 <b>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS):</b> The Recipient shall implement adequate OHS measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures) in line with the ESMF, LMP and ICWMP attached to the ESMF, and relevant WHO guidelines on COVID-19 in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>The Recipient shall also ensure that the aforementioned requirements are integrated into ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)</p>
<p>2.3 <b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b></p> <p>Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance redress mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2, with focal points to address these grievances established within MoH.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)</p>
<p>2.4 <b>CHILD LABOR AND MINIMUM AGE</b></p> <p>The Recipient shall prohibit any person under the age of 18 from carrying out any activities under the Project that are considered hazardous work situations.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>		
<p>3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Recipient shall update, disclose, adopt, and implement the Infection Control and Waste Management Plan (ICWMP) that are in line with the ESMF, in accordance with ESS3 and in a manner satisfactory to the Association, for all health facilities and laboratories that benefit from material and equipment financed by the Project.</li> <li>Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above, including, inter alia, measures to: carry out the purchase, storage, transportation and handling of vaccines (including, ultra-cold chain management) in a safe manner and in accordance with the updated ESMF the EHSs, and other relevant GIIP including relevant WHO guidelines; and adequately manage and dispose of health care wastes (including, vaccines) and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes.</li> </ul>	<p>ICWMP (included in the ESMF) disclosed on August 06 2020, shall be further updated and re-disclosed by Effectiveness.</p>	<p>PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)</p>
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>		
<p>4.1</p> <p><b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY:</b> 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; ensure that vulnerable people are not excluded from project benefits or vaccines; ensure that no forced vaccination occurs and related procedures are in place; manage the risks of the use of security personnel; and prevent and respond to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) and/or Gender-Based Violence (GBV) via an Action Plan, codes of conduct for project workers, and a grievance mechanism – which shall contain confidentiality provisions and refer survivors to appropriate service providers.</p> <p>Unintended health consequences of vaccination shall be closely monitored, and compensation arrangements shall be made – especially in those cases resulting in serious adverse effects.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>A SEA/SH Action Plan will be developed and implemented prior to the commencement of any Project activities, including any civil works and vaccination deployment and administration.</p> <p>Monitoring of health consequences of vaccination shall be carried out throughout project implementation.</p>	<p>PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)</p>
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>		
	<p>Not currently relevant. If any Project activities include any land acquisition, restrictions on land use or involuntary resettlement, relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.</p>	

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
Not currently relevant. If any propose Project activities involve impacts to biodiversity or living natural resources, relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.		
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>		
Not relevant, as there are no IP/SSAHUTLC communities in São Tomé and Príncipe.		
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>		
Not currently relevant		
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>		
Not currently relevant.		
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>		
<p>10.1 <b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN:</b> Update, disclose, adopt, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) specific to the Project (vaccination activities) consistent with the SEP disclosed for the parent project and 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>	The updated SEP will be disclosed, in coordination with the communication strategy developed by the Ministry of Health by project Effectiveness, and prior to the start of vaccination deployment and administration, and shall be implemented throughout the life of the project.	PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)
<p>10.2 <b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</b> Accessible and inclusive mechanisms to raise concerns or grievances shall be made publicly available – particularly to project-affected persons – and shall be used to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall also receive, register and address concerns and grievances related to SEA/SH risks in a safe and confidential manner, including through the referral of survivors to gender-based violence service providers.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall also receive, register and address concerns arising from unintended health consequences after vaccination especially those resulting in serious adverse effects, (and, as appropriate, requests for compensation).</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)



MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</b>		
<p>Project Coordination Unit and other relevant implementing support staff responsible for the Project to receive training on the Project’s ESHS plans and instruments, fair, equitable and inclusive access and allocation of Project benefits including with regards to vaccines and the roles and responsibilities of different key agencies in the ESF implementation. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations</li> <li>• Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the COVID-19</li> <li>• Specimen collection and shipment</li> <li>• Vaccine storage, transportation, distribution and administration</li> <li>• Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients</li> <li>• Risk communication and community engagement</li> <li>• Medical and hazardous waste management</li> <li>• SEA/SH and GBV prevention and mitigation</li> <li>• GRM implementation</li> <li>• Non-discrimination</li> <li>• Adverse effects monitoring</li> <li>• Vaccination accessibility and consent</li> </ul>	<p>No later than 30 days of the Effective Date and periodically with the addition of new Project team members throughout implementation.</p>	<p>PIU (AFAP/Ministry of Health)</p>