

Republic of Rwanda

Ministry of Health

Third Additional Financing for the COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (P178282)

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

January 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Republic of Rwanda (the **Recipient**) will implement the Third Additional Financing for the COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (P178282) (the **Project**) for the for the COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (P173855) (the **Parent**) with the involvement of the following ministries/agencies/units: Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC). The International Development Association (the **Association**) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient shall 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, specific documents or plans, as well as the timing for each of these.
3. The Recipient shall also comply with the provisions of any other Environmental and Social (E&S) documents required under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and referred to in this ESCP, such as the updated Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and the timelines specified in those documents.
4. 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, agency or unit referenced in 1 above.
5. 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 conditions of the Financing Agreement, and the Association will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
6. 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 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.
7. 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. The implementation of the Project will leverage the existing monitoring and reporting arrangements of the ongoing Stunting Prevention and Reduction Project.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
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 including, inter alia, any COVID outbreak in the Project area or serious OHS incident under the Project. 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 Association within 48 hours of becoming aware of the incident or accident A detailed report on such incidents or accidents shall be provided within a timeframe acceptable to the Association.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: The Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) shall establish and maintain the SPIU with qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project including environmental and social risk management specialists.</p> <p>To strengthen Environment and Social risk management at RBC/PIU level, the RBC-SPIU will deploy a full-time Social Specialist and Environmental Specialist by project effectiveness date to oversee social and environmental risk management requirements of the project according to the respective ESF instruments and implementation of the ESCP, including ESMF and the SEP.</p> <p>In daily implementation of planned activities and reporting, the fulltime staff at central level shall be complemented by Environmental Health officers located at hospital level as well as Community Environmental Health officers located at Health Center level.</p> <p>The new staff shall ensure overall ES coordination, GRM operationalization, trainings, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of ESF instruments (SEP, ESCP, ESMF) quarterly to facilitate compliance of the Project with the ESCP.</p>	<p>Prior to effectiveness have in place social specialist environment specialist.</p>	<p>Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)</p>

<p>1.2</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, 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 accordance with ESSs and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The ESMF which was prepared for the parent project- shall be updated so to serve as a basis for the identification and management of EHS risks associated with the Project including Infection Control and Waste Management Plan, and applied throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, adopt and implement any environmental and social management plans or other instruments, if required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs and the ESMF, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</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. Update environmental and social management plans or other instruments based on updated guidance by WHO on</p>	<p>a) Prior to effectiveness and applied throughout the project</p> <p>b) Two months after effectiveness</p> <p>c) Before carrying out the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities, if required by the ESMF.</p> <p>d) Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project</p>	<p>Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)</p>
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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	<p>COVID19.</p> <p>e. 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 Bank, as set out in the ESMF.</p>	<p>activities and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>e) Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p>	
1.3	<p>EXCLUSIONS: Exclude the following types 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) impacts • 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 people or other vulnerable minorities, • Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or impacts on cultural heritage <p>All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.</p>	<p>During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.4.	<p>CONTINGENT RESPONSE FINANCING</p> <p>a) Ensure that the CERC Manual as specified the Financing Agreement includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements for the implementation of the Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC), in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>b) Prepare, disclose, consult and adopt any environmental and social (E&S) management plans or instruments which may be required for activities under the CERC, in accordance with the CERC Manual, the Emergency Action Plan and the ESSs, and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&S management plans or instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&S management plans or instruments.</p>	<p>a) The adoption of the CERC Manual in form and substance acceptable to the Association is a withdrawal condition under Section III, part B.1(b)(ii) of Schedule 2 of the Financing Agreement for the Project.</p> <p>b) The E&S management plans or instruments shall be prepared, disclosed, consulted, and thereafter adopted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities under the CERC. The E&S management plans or instruments shall be implemented in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.</p>	Rwanda Biomedical Center or such other CERC implementing Entity as may be acceptable to the Association
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
2.2	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 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.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.5	The Recipient shall implement adequate occupational health and safety measures (including emergency preparedness and response measures) in line with the ESMF and WHO guidelines on COVID19 in all facilities, including laboratories, quarantine and isolation centers, screening posts, and vaccination sites.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
2.6	The Recipient shall ensure a non-discriminatory, decent work environment; including by ensuring that all health workers adhere to the WHO Code of Ethics and Professional conduct.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
2.7	The Recipient shall establish a grievance hotline and assignment of focal points to address these grievances within MoH/RBC as per the SEP and the ESMF.	A grievance hotline established for the parent project will be used for the Project and it shall be functional Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	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 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.	Throughout Project implementation	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
3.2	Prepare location-specific (for each health facility) waste management plan for the disposal of vaccine wastage (vials not maintained at temperature required) and a disposal plan for any batteries or solar panels used for refrigeration purpose	Prior to the implementation of the Project activities, and to be complied with throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Health (MoH) Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
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; 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; manage the risks of labor influx; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
4.2	The Recipient shall put measures in place to prevent or minimize the spread of the infectious disease/COVID-19 to the community.	Throughout Project implementation	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
4.3	The Recipient shall operate quarantine and isolation centers in line with WHO guidelines on “Key considerations for repatriation and quarantine of travelers in relation to the outbreak of novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV” as well as the Africa CDC guideline on “Africa CDC Guidance for Assessment, Monitoring, and Movement Restrictions of People at Risk for COVID-19 in Africa”.	Throughout Project implementation	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
4.4	The Recipient shall ensure the avoidance of any form of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse 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 enough light in quarantine and isolation centers.	Throughout Project implementation	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
4.5	The Recipient shall operate quarantine and isolation centers and screening posts in a conflict-sensitive manner, avoiding any aggravation of local communal conflicts, including between host communities and refugees/IDPs.	Throughout Project implementation	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)

<p>4.6</p>	<p>USE OF MILITARY OR SECURITY PERSONNEL: The use of the Military or Security Personnel is not currently envisioned for any activities related to the Project. If, however, during Project implementation, the Recipient decides to use its military or security forces, the Recipient shall: (a) prior to any involvement of its military and/or security forces in the carrying out of Project activities, send a written notice to the Association communicating such decision, including the name of the military or security unit; and (b) ensure that all activities carried out by military or security personnel under the Project are under the control of RBC or MOH and undertaken exclusively for the purposes related to the Project and in compliance with the ESSs and the provisions set out under this provision 4.2.</p> <p>In addition, in the event of involvement of military or security Personnel, the following measures shall be adopted, to ensure that the engagement of security or military personnel in the implementation of Project activities or for provision of security to Project workers, sites and/or assets, is carried out in accordance with the ESSs:</p> <p>a. Assess the risks and impacts of engagement of the security or military personnel, and implement measures to manage such risks and impacts, including a stand-alone Security Management Plan, guided by the principles of proportionality and GIIP, and by applicable law, in relation to hiring, rules of conduct, training, equipping, and monitoring of such security or military personnel;</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation</p>	<p>Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) and Ministry of Health</p>
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<p>b. Adopt and enforce standards, protocols and codes of conduct for the selection and use of security or military personnel, and screen such personnel to verify that they have not engaged in past unlawful or abusive behavior, including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH) or excessive use of force;</p> <p>c. Ensure that the Ministry of Health enters into a memorandum of understanding (MoU), with the line ministry in control of military or security forces and/or the relevant Security or Military Unit, setting out the arrangements for the engagement of the military or security personnel under the Project, including compliance with the relevant requirements of this ESCP;</p> <p>d. Ensure that such personnel is adequately instructed and trained, prior to deployment and on a regular basis, on the use of force and appropriate conduct (including in relation to civilian-military engagement, SEA and SH, and other relevant areas), as set out in the Project Operational Manual, ESMF, GBV action plan, as well as the MoU and Security management plan which shall be developed in case the Recipient decides to use security forces or the military in association with any activities under the Project;</p> <p>e. Ensure that the stakeholder engagement activities under the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) include a communication strategy on the involvement of security or military personnel under the Project;</p> <p>f. Ensure that any concerns or grievances regarding the conduct of security or military personnel are received, monitored, documented (taking into account the need to protect confidentiality), resolved through the Project's grievance</p>		
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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
	<p>mechanism and reported to the Association no later than 2 days after being received; and</p> <p>g. At the Association’s written request after consultation with the Recipient: (i) promptly appoint a third- party monitor consultant, with terms of reference, qualifications and experience satisfactory to the Bank, to visit and monitor the Project area where military or security personnel are deployed, collect relevant data and communicate with Project stakeholders and beneficiaries; (ii) require the third-party monitor consultant to prepare and submit monitoring reports, which shall be promptly made available to and discussed with the Bank; and (iii) promptly take any actions, as may be requested by the Bank upon its review of the third-party monitor consultant reports.</p>		
4.7	The Recipient shall adopt and use <i>COVID-19 vaccines safety surveillance manual</i> developed by the World Health Organization.	Throughout Project implementation	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	Not applicable as no land acquisition, restriction on land use and involuntary resettlement is anticipated. However, should the need arise for the Project to acquire land, appropriate plans in accordance with ESS5 guidelines shall be prepared and cleared by the Bank prior to any land acquisition or population displacement.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	Relevant aspects of this standard, if any, shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
7.2	The Recipient shall ensure that such communities are appropriately informed and can share in the benefits of the project in an inclusive and culturally appropriate manner (i.e. prevention and treatment). The SEP shall include provisions to ensure that such meaningful consultations take place.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
7.3	In case whole Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (SSAHUTLC) communities would be affected by quarantine provisions, site-specific approaches would be prepared to ensure adequate consideration of their specific cultural needs, to the satisfaction of the Association. Further, the Recipient shall ensure that inclusive and culturally appropriate vaccine communication campaign is in place.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
7.4	In cases where Free Prior, and informed Consent cannot be ascertained, aspects of the Project relevant to the affected SSAHUTLC communities shall not proceed and the Recipient shall ensure that any remaining aspects of the Project proceed with no adverse impacts on such communities during the implementation of the Project.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant.		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association. The updated SEP 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>The Project shall amend the SEP in line with WHO provisions “Guidance on developing a national deployment and vaccination plan for COVID-19 vaccines. Geneva: World Health Organization (WHO/2019-nCoV/NDVP/2020.1 as well as the ‘Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) readiness and response to the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)’” (January 26, 2020)</p>	<p>SEP that was prepared and disclosed for the Parent project has been amended to reflect Project activities, and shall be applied throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.3	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE:</p> <p>a) Continue to schedule and conduct consultations with key stakeholders in the vaccination programme.</p> <p>b) Implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, including the use of different, culturally appropriate communication approaches to ensure communication also with the most vulnerable, including illiterate and people with disabilities.</p> <p>c) Ensure communication and outreach to provide information to the public at large, and the risk groups in specific, all information necessary to take an informed decision on the benefits and risks of the vaccination campaign, the prioritization of different population groups, and the procedure to attain available vaccines.</p>	<p>(a) Throughout Project implementation</p> <p>(b) Throughout Project implementation</p> <p>(c) Throughout Project implementation</p>	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)
10.4	<p>CASE MANAGEMENT. In line with the SEP, the Project will ensure systematic case management, allowing communication between quarantined people and their relatives.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.5	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: An accessible grievance mechanism shall be established, publicized, maintained and operated 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 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 grievance mechanism shall also receive, register and address concerns arising from unintended health consequences after vaccination especially those resulting in serious adverse effects.</p>	<p>The GRM established for the Parent project shall continue to be used for the Project activities throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)		
<p>Training topics for Rwanda Biomedical Center staff shall among others include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations • Standard precautions for COVID-19 patients • Risk communication and community engagement • WHO and Africa CDC guidelines on quarantine including case management • Waste disposal plan for wasted vaccine vials, used sharps, and any used batteries, solar panels, or unused/spilt fuel oil used for refrigeration • Cold chain management • Vaccine safety surveillance • Grievance redress mechanisms 	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC)</p>