



Republic of Malawi
Ministry of Agriculture

**MALAWI FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE
PROJECT**

P 177816

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

MARCH 26, 2023

1. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (the Borrower) will implement the Malawi Food Systems Resilience Project (the Project, with the involvement of the Ministry of Agriculture, as set out in the Financing Agreement. The International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) has agreed to provide funding to the Project, as set out in the referred agreement.
2. The Borrower 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 Borrower 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 Borrower, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Borrower and the Association agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Borrower's Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs. The Borrower shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</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&S instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s) and annual E&S Audits.</p>	<p>Submit quarterly reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Association no later than fifteen (15) working days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); Project Implementation Unit (PIU)</p>
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</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 Gender Based Violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury, mistreatment of communities, damage to natural habitats, damage to physical cultural resources. 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, as requested.</p>	<p>PIU</p>
C	<p>CONTRACTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms 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 the Association.</p>	<p>Submit synthesized monthly reports to the Association as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action (A) above.</p>	<p>PIU</p>

ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Establish and maintain a Project Implementing Unit (PIU) with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including qualified environmental and social risk management staff an Environmental Specialist, a Social and Gender Specialist, Environmental Health and Safety Officer/s, and Social Development and Gender Officer), and ensure they have representation in the senior management to have overall accountability for the environmental and social performance.</p>	<p>Recruit an Environmental Specialist, a Social and Gender Specialist, Environmental Health and Safety Officer, and Social Development and Gender Officer before Project Effective Date, and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoA
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>1. Screen subproject activities and specific sub-project locations once they are identified for the Project. Adopt and implement an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) including assessment of cumulative impacts and transboundary impacts, and corresponding Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) as needed, consistent with the relevant ESSs and C-ESMP. Contractor ESHS obligations related to all aspects of ESHS management (including GBV, traffic management, Biodiversity Management Plan) shall be clearly outlined in all the respective tools.</p> <p>2. Prepare, adopt, and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework, Stakeholder Engagement plan and Labor management procedures as well as GBV Prevention and Response Plan for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.</p>	<p>1. Adopt the ESIA and ESMP and RAP as part of the bidding process for the respective contracts', and thereafter implement the ESIA and ESMP and RAP throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>2. Adopt the ESMF, RPF, LMP and updated, SEP as well as GBV Prevention and Response Plan prior to the Project Effective Date and thereafter throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoA; PIU
1.3	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S instruments, the Labor Management Procedures, and code of conduct, 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 (i) the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts; ii) Codes of Conduct; iii) preparation of detailed contractor ESMP (C-ESMP) and Community Health and Safety Management Plan (CHSMP) consistent with all project E&S instruments, that is costed, with sufficient budget and staff to mitigate E&S risks; iv) contractor (and subcontractor) training plan; v) grievance mechanism.</p>	<p>As part of preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoA
1.4	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies, if applicable), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association, that</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	PIU

	are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.		
1.5	<p>CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPONENT (CERC) FINANCING</p> <p>a) Ensure that the CERC Manual, as specified in the legal agreement, includes a description of the Environmental, Social, Occupational Safety and Health assessment and management arrangements for the implementation of ‘Component 6: Contingent Emergency Response’, in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>b) Adopt any environmental and social (E&S) instruments, as set out in the ESMF, which may be required for activities under the CERC component of the Project, in accordance with the CERC Manual 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.</p>	<p>a) The adoption of the CERC manual and, if applicable, other instruments, as relevant in form and substance acceptable to the Association is a withdrawal condition under Section [F] [3] of Schedule 2 of the Finance agreement for the Project.</p> <p>b) Adopt any required E&S instrument and include it as part of the respective bidding process, if applicable, and in any case, before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities for which the E&S instrument is required. Implement the E&S instruments in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoA; PIU
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>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 (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.</p> <p>Integrate into the Project Operation manual (POM) and all contracts signed, including for PIU workers, the measures relating to occupational health and safety contained in ESS2 and, as applicable, the labor code and related national regulations in force, and as spelled out in the LMP; and adopt a section on emergency response management in the POM and ensure that contractors prepare and implement an emergency preparedness and response plan, and coordinate with related measures.</p>	The LMP shall be developed and adopted prior to project effectiveness and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	MoA; PIU
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2 which shall be separate from the overall project grievance mechanism provided under ESS10.</p>	Establish grievance mechanism prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	MoA; PIU
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT.			

3.1	<p>WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</p> <p>Adopt and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP) and an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) as a standalone, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.</p>	WMP prior to relevant contractors' bidding phase and implement throughout Project implementation and IPMP 1 months after effective date	PIU;
3.2	<p>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMP to be prepared under action 1.2 above.</p>	Prior to relevant contractors' bidding phase and maintained throughout project implementation.	PIU;
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY.			
4.1	<p>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY</p> <p>Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.</p> <p>Require contractors and subcontractors to incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks in their C-ESMPs that will be reviewed and approved by the PIU.</p>	Approved prior to relevant contractors' bidding phase and maintained throughout Project implementation.	PIU
4.2	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</p> <p>Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities including, behavior of Project workers, risks of labor influx, response to emergency situations, SEA/SH, COVID-19 and include mitigation measures in the ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	PIU
4.3	<p>SEA AND SH RISKS</p> <p>Adopt and implement a SEA/SH Action Plan as part of the ESMF, to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH.</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>	Adopt the SEA/SH Action Plan before the adoption and implementation of the ESMFs, and thereafter implement the SEA/SH Action Plan throughout Project implementation.	PIU
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	<p>RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK</p> <p>Adopt and implement a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) for the Project, consistent with ESS5.</p>	Develop and adopt the RPF prior to Project Effective Date and thereafter implement the RPF throughout Project implementation.	PIU; Ministry of Lands

5.2	<p>RESETTLEMENT PLANS</p> <p>Adopt and implement a resettlement action plan (RAP) for each activity under the Project for which the RPF requires such RAP, as set out in the RPF, and consistent with ESS5.</p>	<p>Adopt and implement the respective RAP, including ensuring that before taking possession of the land and related assets, full replacement cost has been provided and as applicable displaced people have been resettled and moving allowances have been provided.</p> <p>RAP process shall be initiated as soon as all relevant site-specific information is available.</p>	PIU; Ministry of Lands
5.3	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>Adopt and implement the Grievance Mechanism as described in the SEP and referred to in action 10.2 below for resolution of grievances related to land acquisition and involuntary resettlement.</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the SEP	PIU; Ministry of Lands
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES.			
6.1	<p>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS</p> <p>Adopt and implement biodiversity management measures to be guided by the risk identification as per the ESMF, in cases where significant impacts on biodiversity are expected, as part of the ESIA and ESMPs to be subsequently developed consistent with ESS6.</p>	Adopt biodiversity management measures in the same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESIA and ESMPs, and thereafter implement the measures throughout Project implementation.	PIU
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL			
	This standard is not relevant to this Project.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	<p>CHANCE FINDS</p> <p>Describe the chance finds procedures as part of the ESIA and ESMPs, and in specific sites prepare a cultural heritage management plan, as part of ESMPs, if required. This will be guided by the risk identification procedure as provided in the ESMF.</p>	Describe the chance find procedures in the ESIA and ESMPs. Implement the procedures throughout Project implementation. Adopt Cultural Heritage Management Plans with the same timelines as the ESMP in 1.2 above.	PIU
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	This standard is not relevant to this Project		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</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</p>	Adopt the (draft) SEP prior to Project Appraisal, and thereafter implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.	MoA, Ministry of Trade and Industry; Malawi Investment and Trade Centre; PIU

	culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.		
10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</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>	Establish the grievance mechanism no later than 30 days after Effective Date, and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.	MoA, Ministry of Trade and Industry; Malawi Investment and Trade Centre; PIU
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
CS1	<p>Train PIU staff, Implementing Partners (IPs), contractors, Consultants and Project workers on the following (which could be expanded as required):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder mapping and engagement • Environmental and social screening • Environmental and social risk management • Emergency preparedness and response • Community health and safety (including traffic and road safety, mitigation measures related to communicable diseases) • Vector/Pest risk management using IPM approach • SEA/SH risk management • Labor Management Procedures • Communication strategy on COVID-19 and activities/protocols regarding prevention and mitigation of transmission, PPE, OHS • Occupational health and safety • ESF and WBG EHS Guidelines • Biodiversity • Cultural heritage • Resource efficiency • Training on the gender inclusion action plan • Identifying and addressing risks to vulnerable groups and individuals 	Throughout Project Implementation	MoA, Ministry of Trade and Industry; Malawi Investment and Trade Centre; PIU
CS2	Training of contractors in E&S requirements relevant for their assignments	Training of contractors prior to commencement of any works or services and refresher trainings throughout implementation of contract if and as needed	PIU

