

PACIFIC HEALTHY ISLANDS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (P508550)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

**Appraisal Version
18 July 2025**

GENERAL UNDERTAKINGS

1. Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu and the Pacific Community (SPC) (the Recipients) will implement the Pacific Healthy Islands Transformation Project (the Project) through their respective Implementing Agencies, as set out in the respective Financing Agreements (the Agreements). The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the Agreements.
2. The Recipients shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the World Bank's 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 Agreements. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalised terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreements.

3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Recipients shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, their respective timeframes; institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements; and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) documents that shall be prepared or updated, consulted, disclosed and implemented under the Project, consistent with the ESSs, in form and substance acceptable to the Association. Said E&S documents may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association. As provided for under the referred Agreements, the Recipients shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.
4. As agreed by the Association and the Recipients, this ESCP will be revised from time to time, if necessary, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes or unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Association and the Recipients agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipients' Representatives or delegates specified in the Agreements. The Recipients shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
5. The subsection on 'Indicators for Implementation Readiness' below identifies the actions and measures to be monitored to assess Project readiness to begin implementation in accordance with this ESCP. Nevertheless, all actions and measures in this ESCP shall be implemented as set out in the 'Timeframe' column below irrespective of whether they are listed in the referred subsection.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CAPACITY SUPPORT			
A	ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE <p>a. Establish (where not extant), expand (where extant) and maintain Project Management Units (PMUs) within each of the PHIT Country's 'Host Ministries' with qualified staff and sufficient resources to support the day-to-day management of environmental, social, health and safety risks and impacts related to the Project including identified positions set out in the Project ESMF. Host Ministries include: Fiji Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development & Statistics (MFSPNDS), coordinating with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS); Kiribati Ministry of Health and Medical Services; Tonga Ministry of Health; Tuvalu Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; and SPC Public Health Division, collectively, the Implementing Agencies.</p> <p>b. Establish and maintain dedicated E&S and project coordination positions at a PMU within SPC as a regional coordination unit to provide technical support and coordination across all participating countries.</p> <p>c. Establish and maintain suitable and effective cooperation arrangements in the form of a MOU among all PMUs to manage E&S risks and impacts of the regional Project.</p> <p>d. The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) established under the Financing Agreement shall meet upon Project commencement to review and confirm subproject¹ developments including review, confirmation and approval of associated Environmental and Social risk management instruments.</p>	<p>a. Hire E&S staff to established or expanded PMUs no later than 120 days of Project effectiveness, and thereafter maintain the these positions throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>b. No later than 120 days of Project effectiveness and throughout Project implementation</p> <p>c. No later than 180 days of Project effectiveness and throughout Project implementation</p> <p>d. First meeting to occur no later than 12 months of the Project effective date and annually thereafter with sub-annual meetings as necessary for the duration of the Project.</p>	<p>Host Ministries</p> <p>SPC</p> <p>IAs' PMUs</p> <p>Host Ministries, SPC</p>
B	CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES <p>a. Prepare and implement a capacity building plan for E&S risk management with the following milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Project staff have received training on the ESCP, ESMF, SEF, LMF and other Instruments • Grievance mechanism established and operating effectively • E&S risk management measures integrated into Project activity designs • E&S risk management measures integrated into bidding and contracting documents • Contractors and suppliers demonstrate understanding of, and can implement, their E&S obligations 	<p>a. No later than 180 days of Project effectiveness, on staff onboarding, maintained throughout implementation and refreshed annually.</p>	<p>IAs' PMUs</p>

¹ for the Project and for discretely defined Subprojects implementing one or more specific Project activities.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	establish its immediate, underlying and root causes. Prepare, agree with the Association and implement a Corrective Action Plan that sets out the measures and actions to be taken to address the incident or accident and prevent its recurrence.	initial notice, unless a different timeframe is agreed to in writing by the Association.	
ESS1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND PLANS a. Adopt and implement the disclosed Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs. b. Prepare relevant E&S assessments for each subproject including E&S screening, and prepare and implement subproject-specific ESMP and any supporting Instruments that may be identified therein, as well as any E&S impact assessments required by applicable national laws and regulations, as set out in the ESMF and relevant ESSs. The activities set out in the exclusion list in the ESMF shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project. c. Prepare a Site Selection Analysis for new health facilities that follows a transparent and consultative procedure as set out in the ESMF (as necessary), including documentation of alternative sites considered, land due diligence, environmental and social screening and relevant assessment of potential sites, meaningful consultations with affected communities, and public disclosure of selection criteria and final decisions and integrate into relevant subproject ESIA/ESMP(s) and RP. d. All subprojects involving major civil works, including the construction of a new healthcare facility, are to be subject to a full environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) process that considers the E&S impacts set out in the ESMF for approval by the highest national approval authority as a condition of financing. Once approved, update relevant ESMP prepared under Action 1.1b (above) e. Prepare and adopt relevant Environmental and Social Codes of Practice (ESCoPs) providing standard operating procedures as one of the E&S instruments to be used to mitigate potential negative risks and impacts. d. Adopt and implement the Fiji COVID-19 Emergency Response Project (World Bank: P173903) Post-Closure Action Plan (PCAP)	a. Adopt within 60days of project effectiveness and implement throughout Project implementation b. Conduct E&S assessments and prepare Instruments prior to release of subproject bidding documents. Once finalised, thereafter implement the instruments throughout Project implementation. c. Prior to finalisation of site selection for any new facility and with the same timeframe as for the preparation relevant subproject ESIA/ESMPs and/or RP. d. Same timeframe as subproject national planning and development approvals e. Same timeframe as subproject national planning and development approvals d. Adopt at Project effective date at the latest and implement according to the timeframe in the PCAP.	IAS' PMUs Relevant IAs' PMUs Relevant IAs' PMU(s) Relevant IAs' PMU(s) Relevant IAs' PMU(s) MFSPNDS/ MHMS
1.2	MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the subproject ESIA, ESMP, SEP, and LMP and Code of Conduct, into the E&S specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms, including, if relevant, preparation of Construction	As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise contractors throughout Project	Relevant IAs' PMUs

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	ESMPs (C-ESMP). Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and that they require their subcontractors to comply with the E&S specifications of their respective contracts. Provide copies of the relevant contracts with contractors/subcontractors and supervision firms to the Association.	implementation. Copies of relevant contracts provided to the Association upon request.	
1.3	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Carry out the consultancies, studies (including feasibility and sustainability studies, if applicable), capacity building, content development, policy development, training, E&S assessments including inter alia subproject ESIA(s), ESMP(s), SEP(s), LMP(s), RP(s), ISPP and any other technical assistance activities under the Project in accordance with terms of reference that are consistent with the ESSs and acceptable to the Association. Thereafter prepare and finalise the outputs of such activities in compliance with the terms of reference.	Throughout Project implementation	Relevant IAs' PMUs
ESS2: LABOUR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOUR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES a. Implement the disclosed Labour Management Framework (LMF) for the Project. b. Prepare and implement Labour Management Procedures (LMPs) for each relevant subproject in accordance with ESS2, the LMF and relevant national laws and regulations c. Prepare and implement a Labour Influx Management Plan (LIMP) as an annex to the subproject LMP for each subproject identified as likely to have significant labour-influx-related impacts. d. Ensure requirements for implementing an LMP and/or LIMP are included in specifications for bidding documents and relevant contracts.	a. Adopt within 60days of project effectiveness and implement the LMF throughout Project implementation b. Prepare LMPs with the same timeframe as subproject ESMPs and and thereafter implement the subproject LMPs throughout subproject implementation c. Prepare LIMP(s) as an annex to the subproject LMP for which a LIMP is required with the same timeframe as subproject LMP, and thereafter implement the LIMP throughout subproject implementation d. Prior to the release of bidding documents and issuing contracts	IAs' PMUs IAs' PMUs IAs' PMUs
2.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for all Project workers, as described in the LMF and subproject LMPs, consistent with ESS2 and national requirements.	Establish grievance mechanism prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter	IAs' PMUs

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		maintain and operate it throughout Project and subproject implementation	
2.3	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY a. Plan and implement occupational health and safety (OHS) measures as specified in the LMF and subproject LMPs for all Project workers., b. Require contractors and subcontractors to plan and implement OHS management measures in accordance with the subproject LMP and ESMP.	a. Prepare the OHS Management Plan with the same timeframe as relevant subproject ESMPs and thereafter implement the plan throughout Project and subproject implementation. b. Prior to commencement of physical works by each contractor	IAs' PMUs IAs' PMUs
ESS3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	MANAGEMENT OF WASTE a. Prepare and implement a Hazardous Waste Management Plan (HWMP) as part of the ESMP prepared for subprojects involving hazardous waste as identified during subproject E&S screening, covering measures to effectively mitigate relevant health and safety risks associated with disturbance, demolition, removal, transport and disposal/destruction of medical, biological, infectious, pharmaceutical, cytological, radiological, toxic, hazardous fibrous (asbestos) and other hazardous waste, consistent with ESS3 and WHO guidelines. b. Incorporate measures for the management of general waste as part of subproject C-ESMP for civil works or any subproject involving significant generation of waste. c. Require contractors and subcontractors to prepare and implement an effective HWMP and general waste management plan in accordance with the subproject ESMP by inclusion of this requirement in bidding documents and contracts.	a. Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of relevant subproject ESMPs b. Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of relevant C-ESMP subproject ESMP prior to subproject commencement, and maintain throughout Project implementation c. Same timeframe as for Action 1.2 (above)	Relevant IAs' PMU(s) Relevant IAs' PMU(s) Relevant IAs' PMU(s)
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMPs for each subproject and the design of any facilities, including measures for energy efficiency, waste generation, and water and air pollution.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of relevant subproject ESMPs	Relevant IAs' PMU(s)
ESS4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks during construction and operation of health facilities as required in the ESMF prepared for each subproject in accordance with the ESMF.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of relevant subproject ESMPs	Relevant IAs' PMU(s)
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from subproject activities, including, inter alia, risks from construction activities, increased traffic, behaviour of Project workers, labour influx, exposure to diseases, hazardous waste, and management of construction sites, and mitigation measures, to be set out in the subproject ESMPs in accordance with the ESMF.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of relevant subproject ESMPs	Relevant IAs' PMU(s)
4.3	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE / SEXUAL HARASSMENT Prepare and implement a SEA/SH Action Plan for all subprojects where moderate or substantial SEA/SH risks are identified as part of E&S screening process as part of the subproject ESMPs, to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of relevant subproject ESMPs	IAs' PMUs
ESS5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT PLANS Prepare and implement a Resettlement Plan (RP) for each subproject under the Project where such a RP is required as set out in the ESMF and consistent with ESS5. This may include involuntary physical and or economic displacement or temporary lack of access. No involuntary land acquisition is eligible under the project.	Prepare the RP prior to carrying out the relevant works, including ensuring that before taking possession of the land and related assets, full compensation, resettlement and/or livelihood restoration has been provided, and thereafter implement the RP throughout subproject implementation.	Relevant IAs' PMU(s)
ESS6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS Apply the Exclusion List to avoid investments in ecologically sensitive areas as set out in the ESMF and consistent with ESS6. All infrastructure investments must undergo subproject-specific environmental and social assessments integrated into the design process.	Throughout project implementation.	Relevant IAs' PMU(s)
ESS7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES			
7.1	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES		

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	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.1 above. Without limitation to the foregoing, the Relevant IAs' shall prepare, adopt and implement the ESCP and associated Instruments to promote the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in a manner consistent with ESS7 and acceptable to the Association to make sure that IPs are fully consulted in a culturally-appropriated manner about and have opportunities to benefit from the Project activities in a manner acceptable to the Association.	Implement subproject ESMP's and associated Instruments (SEP, LMP, and RPs) throughout Project Implementation consistent with ESS7.	Relevant IAs' PMU(s)
ESS8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS Where risks to cultural heritage are identified as part of subproject E&S screening and ESMP preparation, or during the implementation of subprojects, prepare and implement a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) as part of the ESMP, consistent with ESS8.	Prepare the CHMP with the same timeframe as the relevant subproject ESMP and prior to commencement of activities in areas with cultural heritage, or on the chance discovery of cultural heritage values during subproject implementation, and thereafter implement the CHMP throughout subproject implementation	Relevant IAs' PMU(s)
8.2	CHANCE FINDS Implement the chance finds procedure as set out in the ESMF in accordance with ESS8 and national requirements. Chance finds procedure to be included in specification for works contracts and Construction ESMPs.	Prepare the chance find procedures with the same timeframe as the relevant subproject ESMP to be in place prior to subproject commencement, and implemented throughout subproject implementation.	Relevant IAs' PMU(s)
ESS10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN a. Adopt and implement the disclosed Stakeholder Engagement Framework Plan (SEF) 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. b. Prepare and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for each subproject as set out in the ESMF and SEF, and consistent with ESS10.	a. Implement the SEF throughout Project implementation b. Prepare each subproject SEP no later than 120 days of subproject approval, and thereafter implement the SEP throughout subproject implementation.	IAs' PMUs. Relevant IAs' PMU(s)
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Establish, publicise, maintain and operate an accessible grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project and its subprojects,	Establish the grievance mechanism no later than 120 days of subproject approval, and	IAs' PMUs.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<p>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 (GBV) service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centred manner. The grievance mechanism includes details of how reports of GBV will be received, resolved, and documented.</p>	thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation	

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS			
The following are indicators for implementation readiness:			
S/N	Indicator		
A(a)	A Regional Steering Committee (RSC) is established no later than 120 days after the Effective Date.		Host Ministries, SPC
A(b,c)	PMUs are established in all Implementing Agencies with dedicated qualified E&S staff no later than 120 days after the Effective Date.		Host Ministries, SPC
A(d)	Effective coordination agreements among PMUs are established no later than 180 days after the Effective Date.		IAS' PMUs.
B(a)	Capacity Building Plans are developed by each PMU in preparation for implementation no later than 180 days after Effective Date.		IAS' PMUs.
A(f)	First meeting of the RSC convened to review and confirm subproject development and approval processes, and review Project implementation progress and subprojects no later than 120 after the Effective Date.		IAS' PMUs.