



**Republic of Sierra Leone
Ministry of Energy**

REGIONAL EMERGENCY SOLAR POWER INTERVENTION (RESPITE) PROJECT (P179267)

Negotiated Version

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

21 November 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Sierra Leone (the Recipient) shall implement the Regional Emergency Solar Power Intervention (RESPITE) Project (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Energy (MOE) and the Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority (EDSA) as set out in the Financing Agreement. 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 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 Recipient through the Ministry of Energy (MOE) and Association agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Minister of the Ministry of Energy (MOE). The Recipient 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 documents required under the ESCP, corrective and preventive measures taken or required to be taken to address such conditions, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism, Environment and Social Management Plan, Labor Management Procedure, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment Action Plan.</p>	<p>Submit quarterly reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Association not later than 14 days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	<p>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 but not limited to incidents involving fatalities or serious bodily harm and incidents such as fire injuries, physical violence, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH), construction accident, communicable diseases, and infections. 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, as per the Association’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p>Notify the Association not later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident, and within 24 hours in case of a fatality or SEA/SH.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report to the Association within a timeframe acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>PIU</p>
C	<p>CONTRACTORS MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports, including on ESHS performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Association upon request.</p>	<p>Submit monthly reports to the Association upon request as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.</p>	<p>PIU Contractors</p>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p>		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<p>The existing implementation arrangements of the Enhancing Sierra Leone Energy Access Project (ESLEAP) (P171059) and Sierra Leone Energy Sector Utility Reform Project (ESURP) (P120304) shall be maintained for RESPITE Project in Sierra Leone. The PIU will include the existing Environmental Specialist and Social Specialist (with a gender background), whose TORs and qualifications will be cleared by the Association. The PIU will also engage the assistance of the Citizen Engagement Specialist in the Ministry of Energy to support project implementation activities related to stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The PIU shall also be supported by experienced specialists, including one environment/OHS consultant, one social consultant, and one GBV specialist to assist in project implementation whose TORs and qualifications will be cleared by the Association.</p>	<p>Establish and maintain a PIU as set out in the Financing Agreement. Appoint the Environmental Specialist, Social Specialist and Citizen Engagement Specialist, not later than 30 days after Effective Date and hire the environmental/OHS consultant, GBV specialist and social consultant within 60 days after Effective Date, and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PIU</p>
<p>1.2 MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS Newton Solar PV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prepare an environmental and social (E&S) due diligence screening for the existing Newton site, including substation, transmission and distribution lines, prior to the preparation of ESF instruments and project activities in line with TORs approved by the Association. b. Update and implement the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)/ and corresponding Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that was prepared in 2019 for the Newton Site and include the recommendations and/or risks identified in the due diligence screening for infrastructure/works consistent with the relevant ESSs. A single ESIA shall cover expansion of the existing solar facility and battery storage, expansion of associated substation, connection to Waterloo substation and to Bumbuna transmission line c. Cause contractors to adopt and implement Contractor Environmental and Social Management Plan (C-ESMP) d. Secure relevant environmental and social permits for all new construction under the Project. 	<p>Newton Solar PV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prepare an E&S due diligence screening prior to the finalization of the ESIA/ESMP for the Newton site. b. Adopt the ESIA and ESMP prior to launch of bidding at the Newton site and thereafter implement the ESIA and ESMP throughout Project implementation c. Cause contractors to adopt the contractor ESMP prior to the carrying out of subproject that requires the adoption of such C-ESMP. Once adopted, cause contractors to implement the respective C-ESMP throughout Project implementation 	<p>PIU Contractors/subcontractors</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<p>Lungi Solar PV</p> <p>e. Prepare an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and corresponding Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for infrastructure/works at the Lungi site for which an ESIA/ESMP is required, consistent with the relevant ESSs (which are expected to include the solar plant, a storage system and the connection to the existing substation). The ESIA/ESMP shall be consulted upon, approved and disclosed prior to the start of project activities, and in line with approved TORs by the Association.</p> <p>f. Cause contractors to adopt and implement Contractor Environmental and Social Management Plan (C-ESMP)</p> <p>g. Secure relevant environmental and social permits for all new construction under the Project.</p> <p>Distribution and transmission</p> <p>h. Prepare an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and corresponding Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for infrastructure/works for the 33kv distribution line, 11 kv distribution line, substation upgrade for which an ESIA/ESMP is required, consistent with the relevant ESSs. The ESIA/ESMP shall be consulted upon, approved and disclosed prior to the start of project activities, and in line with approved TORs by the Association.</p> <p>i. Cause contractors to adopt and implement Contractor Environmental and Social Management Plan (C-ESMP)</p> <p>j. Secure relevant environmental and social permits for all new construction under the Project.</p>	<p>d. Secure relevant environmental and social permits prior to initiation of civil works.</p> <p>Lungi Solar PV</p> <p>e. Consult upon, prepare, and disclose the ESIA and ESMP for Lungi Solar PV and adopt prior to launch of bidding and thereafter implement the ESIA and ESMP throughout Project implementation</p> <p>f. Cause contractors to adopt the contractor ESMP prior to the carrying out of subproject that requires the adoption of such C-ESMP. Once adopted, cause contractors to implement the respective C-ESMP throughout Project implementation</p> <p>g. Secure relevant environmental and social permits prior to initiation of civil works.</p> <p>Distribution and transmission</p> <p>h. Consult upon, prepare, and disclose and adopt the ESIA and ESMP, in line with approved TORs by the Association for the DL, prior to initiation of construction activities, and thereafter implement the ESIA and ESMP throughout Project implementation</p>	

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cause contractors to adopt the contractor ESMP prior to the carrying out of subproject that requires the adoption of such C-ESMP. Once adopted, cause contractors to implement the respective C-ESMP throughout Project implementation j. Secure relevant environmental and social permits prior to initiation of civil works. 	
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, code of conduct and SEA/SH Mitigation and Action Plan, 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.</p>	As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation	PIU Contractors
1.4	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project including the technical feasibility study of Solar Park and interconnector is carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	PIU
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p>		PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) as part of the ESIA/ESMP, 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.	Labor Management Procedures will be part of ESIA/ESMP that will be prepared and submitted to the Association for approval before recruitment of project workers. Thereafter, apply these Procedures throughout Project implementation.	
2.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Develop and maintain a Project GRM which shall be available to Project workers, including PIT and HSSE staff, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2. This shall be approved by the PIT and the Association.	Grievance mechanism to be operational prior to recruitment of workers and implemented throughout Project implementation.	PIU Contractors
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN: Incorporate measures to manage hazardous, non-hazardous and electronic wastes as part of project ESMP, consistent with ESS3.	Same timeframe for the adoption of project ESMP and thereafter implement the WM measures throughout Project implementation.	PIU
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT: Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures to be adopted under the ESIA/ESMP to be prepared under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMP	PIU
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY: Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the ESIA/ESMPs to be developed under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation	PIU Contractors
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY: Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities including, inter alia behavior of Project workers, risks of labor influx, response to emergency situations (e.g., a fire response or natural disaster), exposure to the COVID-19 disease, accidents and pollution, sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, and include mitigation measures in the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	PIU Contractors

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
4.3	<p>SEA AND SH RISKS:</p> <p>Adopt and implement a SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan as part of project ESIA/ESMP to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH. The project shall hire a service provider to assist in preparation of the SEA/SH Action plan as well as the prevention and response efforts. Contractors shall adopt the project SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan as part of Contractor ESMP and shall implement the provisions.</p>	<p>Same timeframe for the adoption of the project ESIA/ESMPs and thereafter implement the SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>A service provider will be hired within three months of Effective Date and prior to the start of project activities.</p>	PIU
4.4	<p>SECURITY MANAGEMENT:</p> <p>Assess and implement measures to manage the security risks of the project, including the risks of engaging security personnel to safeguard project workers, sites, assets, and activities. Such measures shall be reflected in the ESMP 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 personnel.</p>	Prior to engaging security personnel and thereafter implemented throughout Project implementation	PIU
4.5	<p>INVOLVEMENT OF THE MILITARY</p> <p>No military personnel are proposed to be engaged in any aspects of the project activities.</p>		
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	<p>RESETTLEMENT PLANS:</p> <p>Newton Solar PV Prepare, adopt, and implement one or more Resettlement Plans (RAP) to cover potential resettlement risk from the expansion of Newton PP, expansion of associated substation, new mounted solar PV plus storage, connection to Waterloo substation for which the screening indicates the need for such RAPs and consistent with ESS 5.</p> <p>Lungi Solar PV Prepare, adopt, and implement one or more RAPs to cover potential resettlement risk from the new solar PP, storage system, and connection to existing substation for which the screening indicates the need for such RAPs and consistent with ESS 5.</p> <p>Distribution and transmission Prepare, adopt, and implement one or more resettlement plans to cover potential resettlement risk from the upgrade of substation, installation of 33kv distribution line, and installation of 11kv distribution line.</p>	Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt and implement the respective RAPs, including ensuring that before taking possession of acquired land and related assets, full compensation has been provided and, as applicable, displaced people have been resettled and moving allowances have been provided.	PIU Contractors

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
5.3	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>The grievance mechanism (GM) to address project including resettlement related complaints shall be described in the RAPs and SEP.</p>	The GM shall be operational prior to commencement of resettlement activities and shall be operational not later than 60 days after Effective Date, the same timeframe as action 10.2.	PIU
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	<p>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS:</p> <p>Screen sub-projects for biodiversity risks and impacts. Where significant biodiversity risk is observed from the screening, the project shall adopt and implement a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) as part of the ESMP in accordance with the guidelines of the ESIA that shall be prepared for the Project, and consistent with ESS6.</p>	Screen and Adopt the BMP as part of project ESIA/ESMP prior to initiation of any sub-project that may affect biodiversity, and thereafter implement the BMP throughout Project implementation.	PIU
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES (IPSSAHUTLCs)			
	This standard not currently relevant.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	<p>CHANCE FINDS</p> <p>Adopt and implement the chance finds procedures, as part of the ESIA consistent with ESS8.</p>	Adopt and implement the chance find procedures in the project ESIA/ESMP. Implement the chance finds procedures throughout Project implementation.	PIU
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	This standard is not relevant.		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Adopt and implement a draft 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>The SEP was disclosed on November 18, 2022.</p> <p>Update the SEP and redisclose it within 60 days of the Effective Date.</p>	PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
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. The GM will incorporate digital platforms for grievance recording, tracking and reporting. 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>Establish and operationalize the grievance mechanism within 60 days of Project Effective Date and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PIU</p>
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
CS1	<p>The following types of training will be provided to the relevant target groups, such as PIU staff, stakeholder community, project workers, consultants, contractors, sub-contractors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder mapping and engagement • Specific aspects of environmental and social assessment • Emergency preparedness and response • Occupational Health and Safety • Community health and safety • Project GM • SEA/SH awareness, prevention, reporting and management protocols • Social inclusion • Labor influx and Management Procedure • Contractor management ▪ Additional trainings that will be identified during implementation 	<p>Quarterly and as needed throughout project implementation</p>	<p>PIU Contractors</p>
CS2	<p>Conduct training for Project workers on occupational health and safety including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations.</p>	<p>Quarterly and as needed throughout project implementation</p>	<p>PIU Contractors</p>