

**Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural  
Transformation Institute (ATI)**



**Rural Connectivity to Support Food Security Project (P176303)**

**Appraisal Draft**

**Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)**

**January 2024**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (the Recipient) will implement the **Investment Project Financing (IPF) Component of Rural Connectivity to Support Food Security Project (P176303)** (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI), 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 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 designated official, the Minister of Agriculture (MoA). The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<p><b>REGULAR REPORTING</b></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 Environmental and Social (E&amp;S) instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanisms.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) shall conduct an independent E&amp;S audit every two years and submit the audit report to the Association.</p>	<p>Submit quarterly and annual reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)</p>
B	<p><b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</b></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 cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury, including those that could be caused due to traffic accidents. 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 fifteen (15) days or within a timeframe acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)</p>
C	<p><b>CONTRACTORS’ QUARTERLY REPORTS</b></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 the monthly reports to the Association as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)</p>
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<p><b>1.1 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b></p> <p>a) Maintain the Environmental, Social, and Gender Specialists and focal persons who are currently working in the Food Systems Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa (FSRP) (P178566) Project Implementation Units (PIU) from federal to woreda levels for the purpose of Rural Connectivity to Support Food Security Project (P176303), and provide adequate resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project. .</p> <p>b) The Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI) shall assign an E&amp;S focal person to manage E&amp;S risks and impacts of activities implemented by the institution.</p>	<p>a. Maintain all E&amp;S Specialists and focal persons working on the Food Systems Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa prior to disbursement for activities, and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Assign an E&amp;S focal person prior to disbursement for activities, and thereafter maintain throughout Project implementation</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)</p> <p>Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)</p>
<p><b>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</b></p> <p>a) Adopt and implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which has been prepared for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.</p> <p>b) Prepare and implement site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) in line with the screening, assessment, and mitigation procedures of the ESMF.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Prepare site specific E&amp;S instruments such as ESMPs and ESIAs before launching the bidding processes for the respective Project activities, and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)</p>
<p><b>1.3 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b></p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies, 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 are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
1.4	<p><b>Exclusion Criteria:</b></p> <p>Exclude the following type of sub-projects/ activities as ineligible for financing under this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sub-projects/activities that have significant adverse Environmental and Social risk and impacts which cannot be easily managed or mitigated to acceptable level.</li> <li>○ Sub-projects/activities that may cause damage to physical and cultural resources.</li> <li>○ Involve removal or conversion of forests and other designated natural resources and wildlife reserved areas.</li> <li>○ Activities that may cause degradation of biodiversity and living natural resources as well as on habitats of significant value for biodiversity such as critical and natural habitats.</li> <li>○ Involve land use changes such as drainage of wetlands and cultivation.</li> <li>○ Activities that may potentially affect the quality or quantity of water or a waterway shared with other nations.</li> <li>○ Activities that may cause significant loss of biodiversity.</li> <li>○ Activities that may have any potential adverse direct impacts on village centers (because it is located inside a village or close enough to a village);</li> <li>○ Activities which are likely to have significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, irreversible or unprecedented use.</li> </ul>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	<b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b>	Implement the LMP Throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), prepared as part of the ESMF , including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health and safety (OHS) (including personal protective equipment and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (including provisions relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for all Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.		
2.2	<b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b>  Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Establish, operate, and maintain a grievance mechanism for Project workers prior to engaging Project workers, and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
3.1	<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b> a) Prepare and implement Waste Management Plans (WMPs) where relevant following the procedure outlined in the ESMF.  b) Incorporate waste management measures under site-specific ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2 above, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.	a) Prepare WMPs, where relevant, prior to bidding for works and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.  b) Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs under action 1.2 above.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
3.2	<b>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b> Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMPs.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
4.1	<b>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY</b>		Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.	and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
4.2	<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b> Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, e.g., behavior of Project workers, risks of labor influx, response to emergency situations, and include mitigation measures in the ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
4.3	<b>SEA AND SH RISKS</b> Adopt and implement the Gender-based violence/Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and Sexual Harassment (GBV/SEA/SH) Action Plan, which has been prepared as part of the ESMF, to assess and manage the risks of GBV, SEA and SH.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
4.4	<b>SECURITY MANAGEMENT</b> Adopt 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, as set out in the Security Management Plan (SMP) which has been prepared and adopted prior to Project appraisal, 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.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
5.1	<b>RESETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK</b> Adopt and implement the Resettlement Framework (RF) for the Project which has been prepared prior to Project appraisal I, consistent with ESS5.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
5.2	<b>RESETTLEMENT PLANS / PROCESS FRAMEWORKS</b> Adopt and implement a Resettlement Plan (RP) for each activity under the Project for which the RF requires such RP, as set out in the RF, and consistent with ESS5. If restrictions in access to natural resources in legally designated parks were to occur, adopt and implement a Process Frameworks (PF) in accordance with ESS5.		Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		<p>Adopt and implement the respective RAP, including ensuring that before taking possession of the land and related assets, full compensation has been provided and displaced people have been resettled and moving allowances have been provided,</p> <p>Prepare PFs and implement them, where applicable, before the commencement of any subproject activities that involve restrictions in access to natural resources in legally designated parks.</p>	
5.3	<p><b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b></p> <p>Establish, operate, and maintain a grievance mechanism (GM) to address resettlement related complaints described in the RF, RPs, and SEP.</p>	<p>Establish the GM in the timeframe specified in 10.2 below.</p> <p>Establish GRC from Kebele to Woreda level prior to commencement of Project implementation and maintain it throughout the Project life.</p>	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
6.1	<p><b>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS</b></p> <p>Incorporate mitigation measures for potential adverse impacts on biodiversity in ESIA/ESMPs, consistent with ESS6.</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
7.1	<p><b>SOCIAL ASSESSMENT / SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN</b></p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)



MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Adopt and implement the Project’s Social Assessment (SA) including the Social Development Plan (SDP) prepared prior to Project appraisal, consistent with ESS7. Ensure that distinct social and cultural groups are appropriately informed and benefit from the Project in an inclusive and culturally appropriate manner.		
7.2	Maintain and operationalize the existing GRM under ESS10, and, where applicable, establish new subproject GRMs in new subproject implementing area, as described in the SEP and consistent with ESS7. Ensure that GRMs are culturally appropriate and accessible to affected Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities and considers the availability of judicial recourse and customary dispute settlement mechanisms among the communities.	In the timeframe specified in Section 10.2, and thereafter implemented throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
8.1	<p><b>CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS:</b></p> <p>Incorporate measures in the ESMPs/ESIAs for subprojects to:</p> <p>a) Protect cultural heritage from adverse impacts of Project activities and support preservation.</p> <p>b) Conduct meaningful consultation with stakeholders regarding cultural heritage both tangible and intangible.</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
8.2	<p><b>CHANCE FINDS</b></p> <p>Implement the chance finds procedure that has been included as part of ESMF, consistent with ESS8.</p>	Same timeframe for the adoption and implementation of ESMF.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
9.1	ESS9 is not relevant to the Project.		
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<p><b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</b></p> <p>Adopt and implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that has been prepared and disclosed prior to Project appraisal, consistent with ESS10 and ESS7, including measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.		and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
10.2	<p><b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b></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, ESS7, and ESS5.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of the different project grievances, including SEA/SH complaints and refer survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner; land-acquisition and involuntary resettlement grievances, and complaints that reflect the concerns of the historically underserved people who meet the criteria of ESS7, among others.</p>	Establish grievance mechanism for new sites and update it for the existed site prior to project implementation, and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT</b>			
CS1	<p>In addition to staffing support provided in 1.1 above, conduct capacity building training for targeted groups, including, Project workers and Project staff, stakeholders communities on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stakeholder mapping and engagement.</li> <li>● Specific requirements on the SA/SDP, ESMF, SEP, RF, ESMPs, LMP, IPMP, SMP, and SEA/SH Action Plan.</li> <li>● Subprojects’ E&amp;S screening and specific aspects of E&amp;S assessment as established in the updated ESMF and preparation of ESMPs.</li> <li>● GBV/SEA/SH, OHS, appropriate mechanical equipment operation and maintenance, etc.</li> </ul>	Regularly, throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupational and Community Health and Safety including safe working procedures.</li> </ul> <p>Specific training on implementing the IPMP, vector and disease control prevention plan, chance finds procedure etc.</p>		
CS2	<p>Organize training for Project workers and other project beneficiaries on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupational and Community Health and Safety risk management</li> <li>Proper use of personal protective equipment</li> <li>Project GBV/ SEA/SH action plan</li> <li>Community on emergency preparedness and response</li> <li>Code of conduct</li> <li>Grievance mechanisms</li> </ul>	After the Project Effective Date, and regularly, throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI)