

**THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

**Resilient Agri-food Clusters Development Project  
(RACD)  
P178120**

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**APPRAISAL**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL  
COMMITMENT PLAN**

**Bishkek  
January 2024**

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## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Kyrgyz Republic (the Recipient) will implement the Resilient Agri-food Clusters Development Project (hereinafter the Project) with the involvement of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) through the Credit Line Management Unit (CLMU), and the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry (MoWRAPI) through the Agribusiness Competitiveness Center (ABCC) as set out in the Financing Agreement and Grant Agreement. The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project acting in its own name, as set out in the Financing Agreement and, as administrator of the [TF], as set out in the Grant 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 and Grant Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement(s).
  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 acting through the Ministry of Finance and the Association agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipient acting through the Minister of Finance. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
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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 E&amp;S instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism(s)</p>	<p>Submit semi-annual reports to the World Bank throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the World Bank no later than thirty (30) days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	ABCC, CLMU
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, inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury. 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>Include in bidding documents of contractors and supervision firms the obligations to report incidents and accidents to the Recipient/PIU. Ensure and monitor that an incident register at all construction sites is kept by the contractors throughout Project implementation.</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.</p> <p>Provide subsequent reports to the World Bank, including Root Cause Analysis (RCA), Corrective Action Plan (CAP), precautions, and compensation measures taken within an acceptable timeframe from the time the initial notice was provided.</p>	ABCC, CLMU
C	<p><b>CONTRACTORS MONTHLY 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 Bank as annexes to the reports to be submitted under Action A above.</p>	ABCC

**ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS**

<p>1.1</p>	<p><b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b></p> <p>Maintain the Project Implementation Units (PIUs) established under the MoWRAPI and MoF, respectively, with qualified staff, including environmental and social specialists, and resources to support the management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, and the delivery of actions agreed upon in this ESCP.</p> <p>The MoWRAPI PIU shall recruit and maintain two Environmental and Social (E&amp;S) specialists, one E&amp;S specialist for the project to be based in Bishkek, and one E&amp;S specialist for the Jalal-Abad oblast. The E&amp;S specialist to be based in Bishkek will serve Chui and Naryn oblasts and will be responsible for overall E&amp;S coordination and reporting under Component 2. All specialists shall have qualifications, experience, and terms of reference acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>The MoF PIU shall utilize the current environmental and social specialist to monitor compliance with the ESHS risks and impacts of the FIs under Component 1. Additional specialists shall be hired when and as needed.</p>	<p>Maintain the PIUs as set out in the Financing Agreement and Grant Agreement.</p> <p>Hire the environmental and social specialists no later than thirty (30) days after the Project Effective Date and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>ABCC, CLMU</p>
<p>1.2</p>	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</b></p> <p>Adopt and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) consistent with relevant ESSs. The ESMF shall include guiding procedures for environmental and social screening, evaluation, review, disclosure and consultation, management, supervision, and monitoring procedures for all project activities.</p> <p>Adopt and implement an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or ESMP checklist for subprojects as relevant and consistent with the relevant ESSs.</p>	<p>The draft ESMF will be consulted, finalized, approved, and disclosed before the Project Effective Date and implemented throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Adopt the ESMP or ESMP checklist prior to the carrying out of a subproject that requires the adoption of such ESMP or ESMP checklist. Once adopted, implement the respective ESMP or ESMP checklist throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>ABCC, CLMU</p>

	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ESMS)</b></p> <p>Develop and implement PFIs ESMSs, which include procedures for screening, monitoring, and reporting of moderate and low-risk activities of the loan support for sub-projects under Part 1 of the Project in line with World Bank's ESS 9.</p>	<p>ESMSs, in form and substance acceptable to the Bank adopted before carrying out screening of any subproject. Once established, the ESMS shall be maintained and operated throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>CLMU, PFIs</p>
1.3	<p><b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b> 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>ABCC, CLMU</p>
1.4	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</b></p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&amp;S instruments, the Labor Management Procedures, and the code of conduct, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors. Thereafter ensure that the contractors comply and cause subcontractors, as relevant, to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>As part of the preparation of all procurement documents and prior to the signing of respective contracts with contractors</p> <p>Supervise contractors' compliance throughout the Project implementation.</p>	<p>ABCC</p>
1.5	<p><b>INCLUSION / EXCLUSION RISKS</b></p> <p>Update and adopt the Credit Line Manual (CLM) that will describe the procedures for providing loans to productive partnerships (producers and processors) as well as producer groups in the dairy and horticulture clusters. The CLM shall detail the E&amp;S management, the eligibility criteria, and the selection process and prioritize the inclusion of youth, women, and vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>The CLM shall be prepared, approved by the Association, and adopted before the Project Effective Date.</p>	<p>CLMU</p>
1.6	<p><b>CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMPONENT</b></p> <p>a) Ensure that the CERC Manual includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management for the implementation of the CERC component in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>b) Adopt any environmental and social (E&amp;S) instruments that may be required for activities under the CERC component of the Project, in</p>	<p>a) The adoption of the CERC Manual in form and substance acceptable to the Association is a withdrawal condition under Section I.F of Schedule 2 of the Financing Agreement for the Project.</p> <p>b) Adopt any required E&amp;S instrument and include it as part of the respective bidding process, if</p>	<p>ABCC</p>

	accordance with the CERC 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.	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.	
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	<b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b> 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.	Adopt the LMP prior to the Project Effective Date, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	ABCC, CLMU
2.2	<b>GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b> Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Establish a grievance mechanism within 15 days of the Effective Date and thereafter maintain and operate throughout Project implementation.	ABCC, CLMU
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
3.1	<b>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT:</b> As part of the E&S due diligence (ESDD) to be conducted for sub-projects under Part 1 of the Project by the PFIs, ESS3 shall be applied within the scope of the PFIs ESMS specified in the CLM, as relevant. As part of the ESDDs conducted by the PFIs, Environmental and Social Action Plans (ESAP), which may include pollution prevention and abatement plans, will be developed to address identified gaps in case of detecting such gaps.	ESS3 shall be assessed as part of the ESDD of each sub-project, and ESAP developed to address identified gaps prior to PFI's approval to extend a loan for such sub-project to the beneficiary. The ESAP shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.	CLMU/PFIs

	Develop and implement measures and actions for resource efficiency and pollution prevention management in all site-specific ESMPs and ESMP checklists, as relevant. These shall include measures to manage use of raw materials, water, and energy, fertilizers and pesticides, air, water, soil pollution and waste related to works, equipment, agriculture and dairy related activities and other relevant project's activities under Component 2.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs and ESMP checklists.	ABCC
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
4.1	<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY:</b> Ensure preparation, adoption and implementation of measures and actions to evaluate and manage specific risks and impacts to the community associated with the Project activities, including excessive noise and dust levels, use of agrochemicals, safety and access restrictions, the behaviour of Project workers, risks of labor influx, response to emergency situations, etc. The proposed mitigation measures should be specified in the site-specific ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF requirements and the relevant OHS protocols following WB EHS Guidelines.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs	ABCC, CLMU/PFIs
	As part of the E&S due diligence (ESDD) to be conducted by PFI's for sub-projects under Part 1 of the Project, ESS4 shall be applied within the scope of PFIs ESMS specified in the CLM as relevant.  As part of the ESDDs conducted by the PFIs, Environmental and Social Action Plans (ESAP), which may include community health and safety plans or emergency preparedness and response plans, will be developed to address identified gaps in case of detecting such gaps.	ESS 4 shall be assessed as part of the ESDD of each sub-project, and ESAPs shall be developed to address identified gaps prior to PFI's approval to extend a loan for such sub-project to the beneficiary. The ESAPs shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.	CLMU/PFIs

4.2	<b>SEA/SH RISKS MITIGATION</b> Ensure that site-specific ESMPs include actions to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) in line with ESMF and enforce their implementation. This includes but is not limited to development and adherence to Code of Conduct for all staff, a SEA/SH-sensitized grievance mechanism, carry out GBV service providers mapping (as appropriate), awareness raising of all employees and community members on SEA/SH risks and mitigation measures.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs and ESMP checklists.  Enforcement throughout Project implementation.	ABCC
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
	This ESS is not relevant for this project.		
<b>ESS6: CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
	This ESS is not relevant for this project.		
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES / HISTORICALLY UNDERAPPRECIATED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA</b>			
	This ESS is not relevant for this project.		
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
8.1	<b>CHANCE FINDS</b> Describe and implement the chance finds procedure described in the subproject specific ESMP or ESMP checklist developed for the Project.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs and ESMP checklists.	ABCC
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
9.1	The PFIs shall develop, adopt and thereafter maintain, and implement the ESMS referred to in action 1.2 above, to identify, assess, manage, and monitor the environmental and social risks and impacts of the loan support for sub-projects under Part 1 of the Project. The ESMS shall include, <i>inter alia</i> , the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) An overall strategy and policy commitment signed and approved by each PFI's senior management.</li> <li>(b) Procedures covering <i>inter alia</i> the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. PFI's screening of all sub-projects against the exclusion list under the Project.</li> <li>ii. PFI's screening, review, and categorization of all sub-projects proposed for financing under the Project according to their potential environmental and social risks and impacts, including conducting Environmental and Social Assessments of supported activities as required by national laws of Kyrgyz Republic.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Prepare and adopt the PFIs ESMSs no later than three months after the Effective date and before carrying out screening of any subproject. Once established, the ESMSs shall be maintained and operated throughout Project implementation.	CLMU and PFIs



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. PFI's checking of beneficiary preparedness and readiness to implement relevant national laws, and World Bank's ESSs requirements and EHS guidelines.</li> <li>iv. PFI's monitoring, maintaining, and regularly updating of environmental and social information on each sub-project/beneficiary.</li> <li>v. PFI's monitoring of the environmental and social risks of the World Bank-supported portfolio.</li> </ul> <p>Ensure (i) that the agreements between the MoF and PFIs include the obligation of the PFI to comply with the requirements of the relevant national legislation, the exclusion list of the Project and the PFIs ESMS, (ii) compliance with such obligations throughout Project implementation; and (iii) that the obligation to comply with relevant national legislation is included in the agreement between the PFI and each beneficiary and where gaps are identified from ESDDs conducted, corrective action plans should be incorporated in the agreements between the PFIs and the beneficiaries.</p> <p>Ensure each PFI's Senior management's commitment to provide adequate staff, capacity, and resources to satisfactorily implement the Bank-approved ESMS throughout Project implementation.</p>	Throughout Project implementation	
9.2	<b>FI ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY:</b> Establish and maintain an organizational capacity and competency for implementing the ESMS with clearly defined roles and responsibilities	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of PFI ESMS.	CLMU and PFIs
9.3	<b>SENIOR MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Designate a senior management representative to have overall accountability for the environmental and social performance of FI subprojects.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of PFI ESMS.	CLMU and PFIs
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURES</b>			
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN</b> 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 culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.	A draft SEP was already prepared and disclosed and shall be updated no later than thirty (30) days after the Effective Date. The SEP shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.	ABCC, CLMU
10.2	<b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b> Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance		ABCC, CLMU

	<p>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> <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>	<p>Establish the Project GM no later than fifteen (15) days after the Effective Date of the Project and thereafter maintain and operate the GM throughout Project implementation.</p>	
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)</b>			
CS1	<p>Training to be provided to relevant staff of the ABCC, PFIs and other involved agencies, and beneficiaries on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Screening and preparation of site-specific ES instruments and specific aspects of environmental and social assessment, supervision, and monitoring, as described in the ESMS and ESMF;</li> <li>– Relevant occupational health and safety issues, including COVID-19 precautions;</li> <li>– Gender Action Plan, SEP, and GRM implementation;</li> <li>– Labor Management Procedures.</li> </ul>	<p>Within the first year of the Project implementation, in order of relevance, followed by, at minimum, annual refresher training as needed throughout project implementation.</p>	ABCC, MoF
CS2	<p>Training for Project workers on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Occupational health and safety, including emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations;</li> <li>– SEA/SH risk prevention and Labor Management Procedures;</li> <li>– Community health and safety, including awareness of HIV, gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH);</li> <li>– Grievance redress mechanism.</li> </ul>	<p>Training shall be delivered at the commencement of engagement of Project workers, followed by, at minimum, one annual refresher training.</p>	ABCC, MoF