

The Palestine Liberation Organization (for the benefit of The Palestinian Authority)

The Emergency Social Protection and Jobs COVID-19 Response Parent Project (P174078)

West Bank and Gaza Emergency Social Protection COVID-19 Response Project (P176199) Restructuring and Additional Financing

AFII West Bank and Gaza SPJ COVID-19 Emergency Response (P181573)

ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

Version for Negotiation

November 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Palestine Liberation Organization (for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority) (the Recipient) implementing The Emergency Social Protection and Jobs COVID-19 Response Parent Project (P174078), and West Bank and Gaza Emergency Social Protection COVID-19 Response Project (P176199) Restructuring and Additional Financing, and will implement the AFII West Bank and Gaza SPJ COVID-19 Emergency Response (P181573) (The Project) with the involvement of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), contracting the World Food Programme (WFP). The International Development Association, (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
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 Bank. The ESCP is a part of the Grant Agreement and the Project 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 Bank. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Bank.
4. As agreed by the Bank 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 Finance and the Bank agrees to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Ministry of Finance. The Parties shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING: Prepare and submit to the World Bank 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, updated Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), updated Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism(s) in accordance with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) as relevant.</p>	<p>Starting from the Effective Date, quarterly reports shall be submitted throughout the project implementation.</p>	<p>MoF</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
B	<p>Incidents and Accidents</p> <p>a. The Recipient shall promptly notify the Bank 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 without limitation, explosions, spills, and any workplace accidents that result in death or serious injuries, any violent and exceptional labor incident or dispute involving the Recipients or security forces (if any) in the Project area, and local communities.</p> <p>The Recipient shall promptly notify the Bank of any gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) suffered by beneficiaries receiving support under Respective Parts of the Project or Project workers.</p> <p>Provide sufficient details regarding the incident or accident in the notification, and indicate immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address it, and any information provided by any contractor and supervising entity, as appropriate. <i>WFP will follow its protocol in order to comply with the Environmental and Social Standards and reporting obligations under the Grant Agreement. Overall, the ESF and provisions in the GA shall govern and the WFP protocol is a means of implementation of the ESSs. The Bank confirms that this WFP protocol is materially consistent with the Bank's standards.</i></p> <p>b. Subsequently, at Bank request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence to the extent that the cause of Significant Event is within the scope of the Recipient's control. The scope of the report will be agreed with the Bank.</p>	<p>a. <i>WFP shall notify The Recipient (MoF) within 24 hours after learning of the incident or accident. The Recipient (MoF) shall notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</i></p> <p>b. Throughout Project Implementation as per the timeline agreed with the Bank.</p>	MoF/WFP
C	<p>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require World Food Programme (WFP) to provide bi-monthly progress 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 Bank</p>	Submit the bi-monthly reports to the MoF/Bank upon request as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.	MoF/WFP
<p>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</p>			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</p> <p>a. The PCU for the parent project and first AF shall also serve as the PCU for the AFII project. The MoF shall maintain the Environment and Social Officer (ESO) who will report to the MoF PCU of the parent project and the first AF and shall continue to support the management, monitoring, and supervision of environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project.</p> <p>b. MoF will contract World Food Programme (WFP) to deliver in-kind and/or cash assistance to the affected population in Gaza, MoF will cause WFP to hire or assign and maintain a qualified Environmental and Social ((ES) Specialist in WFP in Jerusalem, and once the situation in Gaza allows WFP to hire or assign and deploy the ESS in the Gaza Strip to support the management of ESHS risks and impacts and report to MoF</p>	<p>a. The ESO was recruited in December 2020 and shall be maintained throughout the Project, AF I and the AFII Project implementation.</p> <p>b. ES Specialist to be hired or assigned at WFP (Jerusalem) within one month of the AF II project effectiveness date, and ESS to Gaza Strip will be hired or assigned and deployed once the situation allows and shall be maintained throughout the AFII Project implementation.</p>	MoF/WFP

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of the parent project and first AF will be updated, consulted, disclosed, adopted and implemented for the AFII Project.</p> <p>b. MoF will or request WFP to carry out any social assessments or reviews consistent with ESF requirements during the project implementation, as required and agreed with the Bank and once the situation in the Gaza Strip allows.</p> <p>c. Proportionate mitigation measures identified in the social assessments or reviews will be included in the detailed design or Standard Operating Procedures (as relevant) of concerned activities and implemented. Incorporate all relevant ES measures in the E&S Section under the Outputs Standard Form of Agreement (SFA), in a manner acceptable to the Association once project activities and/or site-specific interventions are identified.</p>	<p>a. The parent project ESMF will be updated within one month of project effectiveness date and disclosed and thereafter adopted and implemented throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>b. Social Assessment or review shall be conducted as required during project implementation and once the situation allows and any mitigation measures identified in the social assessments or reviews will be implemented throughout the project.</p> <p>c. E&S mitigation measures/instruments, as required, shall be prepared, consulted on, and disclosed, prior to implementation of activities and/or site-specific interventions by WFP. Thereafter implemented throughout the Project implementation.</p>	MOF/WFP

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.3	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Incorporate relevant aspects of the ESCP into partnership and procurement documents prior to launching the bidding process or amend existing partnership and procurement documents before start of Respective Parts of the Project activities, under the Outputs Standard Form of Agreement (SFA), with WFP. Thereafter ensure that the WFP complies with the ESHS specifications of its new contracts.</p> <p>b. WFP, which will be contracted by the MoF to deliver in-kind and/or cash assistance to the affected population in Gaza, shall hire or assign and maintain a qualified Environmental and Social (ES) Specialist in the Jerusalem Office and once the situation allows, will assign ES Specialist in the Gaza Strip to support the management of ESHS risks and impacts and report to MoF.</p>	<p>a. The relevant ESHS measures shall be incorporated into the agreement with contractors and WFP for the relevant Project activities for new bidding processes with contractors, and thereafter implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>b. ES Specialist to be hired or assigned at WFP (Jerusalem Office) within one months of the AF II project effective date, and once allowed in the Gaza Strip, and shall be maintained throughout the AFII Project implementation.</p>	MOF/WFP
1.3	<p>EXCLUSIONS: Exclude all the activities listed in the exclusion list in the Parent ESMF of the Project as ineligible for financing under the Project.</p>	During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	MOF

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
1.5	<p>CONTINGENT [EMERGENCY] [EARLY] RESPONSE FINANCING</p> <p>a. Prepare and ensure that the Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) Manual as specified in the legal agreement includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements including, for the implementation of Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component, in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>b. Prepare and adopt any environmental and social (E&S) instruments 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 preparation and adoption of the CERC manual and other instruments, in form and substance acceptable to the World Bank by December 2023.</p> <p>b. Adopt any required E&S mitigation measures/instrument and include it as part of the respective procurement 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 mitigation measures/instruments in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.</p>	MOF/WFP
1.6	<p>THIRD PARTY MONITORING</p> <p>Third Party Monitoring Agent(s) shall engage on the terms of reference satisfactory to the Association, to provide independent review of Project implementation and verification of Project results and adherence to all Environmental & Social requirements addressed in the ESCP and all ESHS instruments, including through, inter alia: periodic site visits, assessment of local context and conditions, interviews, and preparation of reports.</p> <p>Each monitoring report is prepared bi-weekly by the Third-Party Monitoring Agent(s) – the frequency will be reviewed in the context of changes to access / security.</p>	<p>Third-Party Monitoring Agent(s) are maintained throughout its Project implementation.</p> <p>Throughout the Project implementation.</p>	WFP
1.7	<p>ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO RETROACTIVE FINANCING</p> <p>Activities associated with the retroactive financing identified in the PAD need to be in compliance with the ESF and will be reviewed to verify ESF compliance. If needed, proportionate corrective action measures, as appropriate and agreed with the Bank, will be implemented.</p>	<p>Within two months of the Project Effective Date</p>	MoF

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Update Labor Management Procedures (LMP) prepared for the parent and first AF project and disclose, adopt and implement for the Project AF II.</p> <p>The updated LMP will be adopted, implemented, monitored, and evaluated throughout AF II Project. The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS2, in a manner acceptable to the Bank, including through, inter alia, the updated LMP/Labor management setting out grievance arrangements for Project workers including SEA/SH complaints, and incorporating labor working conditions requirements into the ESHS specifications of the agreement documents with WFP. All project contractors will comply with ESS2.</p>	<p>Updated LMP to be disclosed within one month of the project effectiveness date, and thereafter adopted and implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoF/WFP
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>a. Direct workers GM established under the parent and the first AF project shall continue to be applicable for the AFII and shall be maintained throughout the implementation of the project.</p> <p>b. The WFP will use its existing Grievance Mechanisms for workers to cover project activities as described in the updated LMP and project SEP and consistent with requirements under relevant national law and ESS2, and maintained and operated for the Project, in a manner acceptable to the Bank</p>	<p>a. Maintain throughout the Project implementation.</p> <p>b. Starting after signing the agreement with WFP and maintained throughout the Project implementation.</p>	<p>MOF</p> <p>WFP</p>
2.3	<p>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES</p> <p>The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures in line with the updated ESMF and updated LMP in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p>	<p>OHS measures shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoF/WFP
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p>Applicable waste management measures related to food distribution will be reflected in the ESMF and the SFA and will be implemented by all contractors.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	MoF/WFP

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY Incorporate WFP traffic and Road Safety Guidelines in the ESMF and implement throughout the project.	Throughout Project implementation.	MoF/WFP
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Community Health and Safety Management Measures required for AFII including for crowd management, will be prepared and included in the updated ESMF and adopted and implemented for the AFII Project. No use of military or security personnel is envisaged in the implementation of Project activities.	Same timeframe as for Action 1.2 and thereafter implemented throughout Project implementation.	MoF/WFP
4.3	SEA AND SH RISKS Adopt and implement measures to assess and manage GBV/SEA/SH risks in line with the Community Health and Safety Management Measures included in the updated ESMF.	Same timeframe as for environmental and social risk screening under 1.2b and 1.2c above, and thereafter implemented throughout Project implementation.	MoF/WFP
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
	This standard is not relevant.	N/A	
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	This standard is not relevant.		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	This standard is not relevant.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
	This standard is not relevant.		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	This standard is not relevant.		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE		
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION:</p> <p>a. Prepare a SEP for AFII and disclose and implement throughout the project.</p> <p>b. Report back to stakeholders according to the mechanisms prescribed in the updated SEP.</p> <p>c. Prepare and share with the Bank reports on the implementation of the updated SEP.</p>	<p>a. The SEP will be disclosed on November 19, 2023. The SEP shall be implemented throughout the implementation of the AFII project.</p> <p>b. Reporting back to stakeholders shall be carried out according to the frequency prescribed in the SEP.</p> <p>c. Bi-Monthly reporting on the implementation of the SEP shall be provided to the Bank, starting from the Project Effectiveness Date and throughout Project implementation. Annual reports shall be prepared and shared with the Bank for review and approval throughout Project implementation.</p>
		<p>a. WFP</p> <p>b. WFP</p> <p>c. MOF</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>a. The grievance mechanism (GM) that was developed for the parent and the first AF project shall remain accessible and functional to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the AFII Project in accordance with ESS10 and in a manner acceptable to the Bank. Adequate resources shall be provided for the continued operation of the GM. The GM shall also receive, register and address concerns and grievances related to GBV/SEA/SH in a safe and confidential manner, including through the referral of survivors to gender-based violence support service providers.</p> <p>b. The WFP shall utilize its existing grievance mechanism for AF II to cover the project activities as described in the SEP prepared and disclosed for AFII and in accordance with ESS10. The WFP GM will be further strengthened during implementation, if required and as agreed with the Bank, to suit the conditions on the ground in Gaza. Adequate resources shall be provided for the continued operation of the GM. The GM shall receive, register and address concerns and grievances related to GBV/SEA/SH in a safe and confidential manner, including through the referral of survivors to gender-based violence support service providers. WFP has existing links with a local NGO for GBV issues and these will be maintained.</p>	<p>a. The GM is operational and shall be maintained throughout the implementation of the Project.</p> <p>b. The WFP GM is operational and will be further strengthened, if required, during implementation. The GM will be maintained throughout the implementation of the Project. Existing links with a local NGO/service provider for GBV issues will also be maintained throughout the Project implementation.</p>	<p>a. MoF</p> <p>b. WFP</p>
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
CS1	<p>a. Training to be provided to targeted groups [e.g. project workers, MOSD staff, WFP] on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental and Social Framework fundamentals • Environmental and social mitigation measures/instruments implementation, monitoring, and reporting • Grievance Mechanism, including Workers’ Grievance Mechanism • Stakeholder Identification and Engagement • Gender and Inclusion Issues (e.g. regarding vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, women-headed households, elderly, etc.) • Prevention and response to potential cases of SEA/SH • Labor Management • Code of Conduct for Workers • Community Health and Safety Measures 	Throughout the project implementation	MoF / The World Bank / WFP