



THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA

Preparation of Proposed Western Africa Regional Digital Integration Program (WARDI) -Mauritania (P176932) Project Preparation Advance No. [IDA-V4020]

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

18 Novembre 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, (*hereinafter referred to as the “Recipient”*), is planning to implement the **Western Africa Regional Digital Integration Program (WARDI-Mauritania; P176932)** (the Project), for which it has requested a Project Preparation Advance (PPA). The *International Development Association (hereinafter “the World Bank”)* has agreed to provide the PPA to finance activities related to the preparation of the Project.
2. The *Recipient* shall carry out the PPA activities in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) sets out material measures and actions to be carried out or caused to be carried out by the Recipient, including the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, grievance management and the environmental and social assessments and instruments to be prepared or updated, consulted, disclosed or re-disclosed, adopted, and implemented, all in a manner acceptable to the World Bank.
3. As agreed by the World Bank and the Recipient, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during the implementation of PPA activities, to reflect adaptive management of changes and unforeseen circumstances related to the PPA activities or in response to assessment of PPA performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, The Recipient shall agree to the changes with the World Bank and shall update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP shall be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the World Bank and the Recipient. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
4. Where such changes, unforeseen circumstances, or performance assessment result in changes to the risks and impacts during the implementation of PPA activities, the Recipient shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts, which may include environmental, social, health and safety risks.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the World Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the PPA activities, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, the state of preparation of environmental and social (E&S) instruments indicated in this ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities (including gender considerations), status of any complaints received.</p>	Starting from three months after the Effective Date of the Advance Agreement, on quarterly basis throughout the PPA implementation period	<i>Project implementation Unit (PIU)¹</i>
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Promptly notify the Association regarding any incident or accident related to the PPA activities, which has or is likely to have significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers, including, but not limited to, any allegations of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH), and work-related accidents or deaths, strikes and social unrest or conflict.</p> <p>Provide sufficient details of the incident or accident, indicating the immediate measures taken to address it without delay, and including the information made available by any supplier or service provider as well as by the supervisory entity, as appropriate.</p> <p>Subsequently, at the request of the Association, prepare a report, in form and substance acceptable to the Association, that provides details regarding the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.</p> <p>For incidents related to GBV/SEA/SH, to guarantee confidentiality, only non-identifiable information will be shared (type of violence, age/sex of survivor and link to the project - if known).</p>	<p><i>Throughout the implementation of PPA activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Notify the Association within 48 hours at the latest after learning of the occurrence of serious incidents or accidents; and, and within 24 hours at the latest for severe incidents/accidents</i> - <i>Provide an incident or accident report within a time frame acceptable to the Association</i> 	<i>PIU</i>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			

¹ The WARDI project is going to be using a PIU that is already in place, the same PIU that has been implementing the WARCIP project in Mauritania (P123093) since 2013. This is considering the good track record the PIU has with bank projects and the upcoming closure of WARCIP on January 31, 2022.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.1 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Recruit, on a full-time basis, and with terms of reference, qualifications, and experience satisfactory to the Association: one (1) environmental specialist, one (1) gender and social protection specialist for the Project,</p> <p>Hire or appoint additional environmental and social specialists and staff with terms of reference, qualifications, and experience satisfactory to the Association for short or long-term assignments in accordance with the assessment or institutional needs to support identification, management, monitoring and reporting of environmental, social and gender risks related to PPA activities, as agreed with the Association.</p>	<p><i>Environmental and social development specialists must be in place no later than three months after the Effective Date of the Advance Agreement and maintained throughout the implementation of PPA activities.</i></p>	<p>PIU</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies, capacity building, training and any other technical assistance activities financed by the PPA, including any environmental and social/gender assessments and related environmental and social instruments (SEP and ESCP prepared for the project), as well as gender action-plans are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association and duly incorporate and take into consideration the requirements of the ESSs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) of the project. - The project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including the Grievance Mechanism (GM) - Framework Studies: Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). - Labor Management Plan (LMP) - Environmental and social impact studies for intervention sites - The Resettlement Action Plan if the need is confirmed by the Association <p>Ensure that any outputs from the technical assistance activities, including, inter alia, any environmental and social assessment and related environmental and social instruments, are consistent with the ESSs.</p>	<p><i>Throughout the implementation of the PPA activities</i></p>	<p>PIU</p>
<p>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</p>		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>2.1 LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>(a) Ensure that the relevant aspects of ESS2 apply to any workers engaged in the implementation of the PPA activities as reflected in the project manual and will be included in the terms of reference and consequently the work contract.</p> <p>(b) Prepare and adopt Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the PPA phase of the project including a Grievance Mechanism, codes of conduct and contracts for workers.</p>	<p>(a) PIU manual of procedures to be adopted no later than 60 days after the Advance Agreement Effective Date and prior to hiring workers for the implementation of the PPA activities.</p> <p>(b) same timeline with the preparation of the manual of procedures</p>	<p>PIU</p>
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT		
The requirements of ESS 3 shall be taken into account as relevant as part of action 1.2 above.		
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY		
The requirements of ESS 4 shall be taken into account as relevant as part of action 1.2 above.		
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT		
The requirements of ESS 5 shall be taken into account as relevant as part of action 1.2 above.		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL		
The requirements of ESS 6 shall be taken into account as relevant as part of action 1.2 above.		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES		
There are no known Indigenous Peoples in the Project area and, as such, this ESS is not relevant at this stage.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE		
The requirements of ESS 8 shall be taken into account as relevant as part of action 1.2 above.		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES		
ESS9 is not relevant for this proposed Project		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>10.1 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</p> <p>(a) Ensure that technical assistance activities carried out under the PPA incorporate stakeholder engagement and information disclosure measures in a manner consistent with ESS10 and acceptable to the World Bank, including the preparation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the PPA. The SEP shall be updated during the implementation of PPA activities as needed, and as communications and stakeholder engagement needs evolve.</p> <p>(b) Develop a draft of the SEP for the Project, including 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><i>(a) SEP for the PPA to be finalized and disclosed prior to the approval of the PPA and implemented throughout the PPA</i></p> <p><i>b) Submit a draft SEP for the Project for the World Bank’s review and approval before Project appraisal.</i></p>	<p>PIU</p>
<p>10.2 GRIEVANCE MECHANISM ARRANGEMENTS</p> <p>(a) Establish, maintain, and operationalize a Grievance Mechanism (GM) as reflected in the PPA SEP with a view to: receive and resolve any complaints submitted in relation to the PPA activities (including complaints relating to GBV and SEA/SH incidents), in accordance with ESS10, and in a manner acceptable to the World Bank.</p> <p>b) Support the establishment, strengthening and operation of a Grievance Mechanism (GM) for the PPA. Details for the operationalization of this GM shall be reflected in the final version of the SEP for the PPA.</p>	<p><i>Throughout PPA implementation</i></p>	<p>PIU</p>
<p>10.3 Capacity building</p>		
<p>Organize training sessions for PPA workers in order to make them better aware of the risks and the effects of the PPA activities on occupational health and safety (OHS), SEA/SH, and COVID transmission for workers, and the effects on local populations.</p>	<p>Throughout the implementation of PPA activities</p>	<p>PIU</p>