

Government of the Republic of Albania
Improving Equitable Access to High Standard
Public Services through GovTech (P177845)
Draft
ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

November, 2022

Republic of Albania
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ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

Introduction

1. The Republic of Albania through the Prime Minister's Office and the Agjencia Kombëtare e Shoqërisë së Informacionit (AKSHI or National Agency for Information Society (AKSHI)) shall implement the Program Improving Equitable Access to High Standard Public Services through GovTech (P177845) ("the Program"). The Program consists of a Program-for-Results Financing component (the "PforR") and an Investment Project Financing component (the "IPF"). The implementation shall be done through a Results Monitoring Unit (RMU) at AKSHI and a smaller Program Implementation Unit (PIU) housed at RMU.

Other contributing implementing agencies on specific sub-RAs of the Program are the following:

RA 1.2: Ministry of Finance and Economy, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, and Ministry of Interior and

RA 2.1: Ministry of Education and Sports

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development ("the Bank"), is acting as administrator for the Program Improving Equitable Access to High Standard Public Services through GovTech (P177845) and has agreed to provide financial support for the realization of this Program.

2. The Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) of the World Bank was launched on October 1, 2018 and enables the World Bank and Borrowers to better manage the environmental and social risks of projects and to improve development outcomes. The ESF applies to all new World Bank projects using Investment Project Financing (IPF) instrument. The ESF offers broad and systematic coverage of environmental and social risks. It makes important advances in areas such as transparency, non-discrimination, public participation, and accountability—including expanded roles for grievance mechanisms. It also brings the World Bank's environmental and social protections into closer harmony with those of other development institutions. The present Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) has been prepared to match the requirements under the ESF regarding [Environmental and Social Standards](#) (ESS) which apply to Borrowers, under Investment Project Financing.

3. **The Investment Project Financing (IPF) component will provide financing** technical assistance, capacity building, and change management activities in support of the Program implementation and the achievement of the Program results

4. The AKSHI shall ensure that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**). **ESCP** sets out material measures and actions, any specific documents or plans, as well as the timing for each of these. Given that the IPF shall support the diagnostic and feasibility studies and capacity building activities (i.e., through consultancies or service contracts), the environmental and social risks and potential impacts are relatively limited.

5. The AKSHI shall also comply with the provisions of other E&S documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, and/or in the Labor Management Plan (LMP), and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and with the timelines specified in those documents.

6. The table below summarizes the measures and actions that are required, as well as the timing and responsible institution. Ultimately, the Republic of Albania is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by a Ministry, agency or unit (in this case, those referenced in paragraph 1).

7. Implementation of the measures and actions set out in this ESCP shall be monitored and reported to the World Bank through AKSHI as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Bank shall monitor and assess progress and completion of the measures and actions throughout the implementation of the Project.

8. As agreed by the World Bank and the Government of Albania, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to assessment of Project performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, the AKSHI 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 WB and the AKSHI. The AKSHI shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

9. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and potential impacts during Project implementation, the Government of Albania shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts, which may include risks and impacts that are relevant to the Project, such as environmental, social, health and safety impacts, labor influx, and gender-based violence.

Summary of the Measures and Actions to Mitigate the Project's Potential Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts		Timeframe	Responsible Entity/ Authority
ESCP MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the WB 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 (Stakeholder Engagement and Labor Management Plans) and Project activities.</p>	<p><i>Every six months during the Project's implementation in conjunction with the Project's progress reports, or more frequently depending on the Progress review findings</i></p>	AKSHI/RMU
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS NOTIFICATION:</p> <p>Notify the Bank within 24 hours of its occurrence any incident or accident related to the Project or that has an impact on it, and that has or could have a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public, or the workers included, for example, occupational accidents that could result in serious injury, minors, injuries, falls, vehicle accidents, larger spills of chemicals, oils, fuels, and Including SEA/SH, child and forced labor.</p> <p>The AKSHI shall provide report in form and substance satisfactory to the Bank not later than 7 calendar days after the occurrence of the incident. The report shall provide sufficient detail regarding the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken to address it and include any information provided by any Contractor/Subcontractor or supervising engineer. Incident and accidents reporting requirements shall be incorporated into the project implementation and procedures manuals.</p>	<p><i>Any incident or accident shall be registered immediately and shall be reported to the Task Team Leader of the Bank within 48 hours</i></p>	AKSHI/RMU

Summary of the Measures and Actions to Mitigate the Project's Potential Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts		Timeframe	Responsible Entity/ Authority
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE Establish an organizational structure with qualified staff to support the management of environmental and social risks of the Program and Project. By means of the TA, AKSHI will have access to social and environmental expertise, on demand, according to specific needs.	AKSHI will have access to expert advice from qualified environmental and social consultants, hired locally based on ToRs satisfactory to the Bank.	AKSHI/RMU
1.2	DEVELOPMENT OF TORs FOR STUDIES, PLANS, STRATEGIES Prepare TORs for the studies, plans, and strategies, in a manner that ensures that relevant environmental and social issues are considered in conducting the studies and are consistent with the ESF. <i>The environmental and social specialist shall assist AKSHI to make sure that TORs for studies, plans, and strategies include relevant E&S requirements and ESF considerations and shall be included in their studies.</i>	Throughout Project Implementation	AKSHI/RMU
1.4	MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS Instruments for the IPF component under World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Management Procedure (LMP); and • Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) 	Prepared, disclosed, consulted upon, and adopted in a manner acceptable to the Bank by the conclusion of the Project appraisal Date and implemented throughout Project implementation.	AKSHI/RMU

Summary of the Measures and Actions to Mitigate the Project's Potential Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts		Timeframe	Responsible Entity/ Authority
1.5	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>AKSHI shall develop and implement procedures for managing Contractors and subcontractors to incorporate the obligation of preparing an Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) plan/Labor Management Procedures (LMP) into the contractual agreements with contractors and subcontractors for activities under IPF.</p> <p>Also, will ensure that the relevant obligations related to SEA/SH are appropriately reflected in contracts, including CoC, training, GM, as well as measures prohibiting child labor and forced labor</p>	<p><i>Prior to the preparation of procurement /bidding documents.</i></p> <p><i>Prior to signature of contracts</i></p> <p><i>Implementation of the management tools and instruments required throughout Project implementation</i></p>	AKSHI/RMU
1.6	<p>REPORTING TO WB</p> <p>AKSHI shall submit semiannual Environmental and social performance reports to the World Bank on IPF implementation, and how the implementation of proposed environmental and social measures has been applied.</p>	<p><i>Semi-annual, beginning on effectiveness date and throughout Project Implementation</i></p>	AKSHI/RMU
<p>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</p> <p>This ESS is applicable to activities financed under the IPF</p>			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Develop maintain and implement, throughout Project implementation, labor management procedures consistent with national legislation and ESS2, and ensure they are available to Project workers¹ and all sub-contractors engaged. The Labor management procedures (LMP) shall address all issues identified in ESS2, including the applicable requirements regarding non-discrimination and equal opportunity.</p>	<p><i>Prior to carrying out any works</i></p> <p><i>LMP to be applied throughout Project implementation</i></p>	AKSHI/RMU

¹ The term “project worker” refers to: (a) people employed or engaged directly by the Borrower (including the project proponent and the project implementing agencies) to work specifically in relation to the project (direct workers); people employed or engaged through third parties to perform work related to core functions of the project, regardless of location (contracted workers); (c) people employed or engaged by the Borrower’s primary suppliers (primary supply workers); and (d) people employed or engaged in providing community labor (community workers). ESS2 applies to project workers including fulltime, part-time, temporary, seasonal and migrant workers.

Summary of the Measures and Actions to Mitigate the Project's Potential Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts		Timeframe	Responsible Entity/ Authority
2.2	<p>OHS MEASURES</p> <p>Develop and implement occupational health and safety measures (OHS), including emergency preparedness and response measures, Project workers training to heighten awareness of possible risks (PPE, first aid, firefighting equipment, etc.), injuries and to mitigate impacts on local communities.</p>	<p><i>Contractual obligation</i></p> <p><i>Maintained throughout Project implementation</i></p> <p><i>OHS measures should be finalized before commencement of IPF activities at any of the sites.</i></p> <p><i>LMP to be applied throughout Project implementation</i></p>	AKSHI/RMU
2.3	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>Develop and maintain a grievance mechanism for any Project-related labor and employment matters, easily accessible and promptly disclosed to Project workers, in line with ESS2 and labor laws in Albania.</p>	<p><i>Mechanism shall be operational not later than one (1) month after the Effective Date and information about it is disseminated to employees and it should be maintained throughout the whole period of Project implementation.</i></p> <p><i>For specific contracts, the mechanism shall be available throughout the duration of the contract</i></p> <p><i>The GM will be equipped to deal with SEA and SH complains</i></p>	AKSHI/RMU
<p>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT [the relevance of ESS3 is established during the ESA process. ESS3 may require the adoption of specific measures to cover energy, water and raw materials use, management of air pollution, hazardous and nonhazardous wastes, chemicals and hazardous materials and pesticides. Depending on the project, these measures may be set out in an E&S document (e.g. ESMP) already mentioned in the section under ESS1 above or as a stand-alone document or a separate action. Indicate whether ESS3-related measures are covered under an existing document or as stand-alone actions. See examples below].</p>			

Summary of the Measures and Actions to Mitigate the Project's Potential Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts		Timeframe	Responsible Entity/ Authority
	Develop and implement SOPs and its Implementation Plan for management of e-waste, adopting GIIP for the collection, storage, and safe disposal of e-waste generated by the Project during its lifetime. SOP to incorporate gap filling measures, between national legislation and GIIP, on determining the operators for handling e-waste	<i>Preparation: Within 1 year of Project Effectiveness Implementation throughout the Project</i>	AKSHI/RMU
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY [the relevance of ESS4 is established during the ESA process. As with ESS3, ESS4 may require the adoption of specific measures that may be set out in an E&S document (e.g. ESMP) already mentioned in the section under ESS1 above or as a stand-alone document or a separate action. Indicate whether ESS4-related measures are covered under an existing document or as stand-alone actions. See examples below].			
	Not relevant to the project, IPF shall finance TA only		
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT [the relevance of ESS5 is established during the ESA process. If during Project preparation, it is determined that resettlement documents need to be prepared, this should be reflected in the ESCP. See examples below]			
	Not relevant to the project		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES [the relevance of ESS6 is established during the ESA process. As with other ESSs, ESS6 may require the adoption of specific measures that may be set out in an E&S document (e.g. ESMP) already mentioned in the section under ESS1 above or as a stand-alone document or a separate action. Indicate whether ESS6-related measures are covered under an existing document or as stand-alone actions. See examples below].			
	Not relevant to the project		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES [See examples of possible actions below, if determined that ESS7 is relevant].			
	Not relevant to the project		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE [the relevance of ESS6 is established during the ESA process. As with other ESSs, ESS6 may require the adoption of specific measures that may be set out in an E&S document (e.g. ESMP) already mentioned in the section under ESS1 above or as a stand-alone document or a separate action. Indicate whether ESS8-related measures are covered under an existing document or as stand-alone actions. See examples below].			
	Not relevant to the project		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES [This standard is only relevant for Projects involving Financial Intermediaries (FIs). See below a couple of examples of actions that should be considered when FIs are involved.]			
	Not relevant to the project		

ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION Prepare, disclose, consult upon and adopt the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). Thereafter implement the SEP. The SEP may be amended and updated (and redisclosed) as needed during Project implementation.	By the conclusion of the Project appraisal Throughout Project Implementation	AKSHI/RMU
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Develop and implement a grievance mechanism for the Project. The SEP includes a commitment to communicate to stakeholders the establishment of the grievance mechanism to ensure that affected stakeholders are aware of its existence and familiar with the process for submitting grievances to such grievance mechanism.	Shall be established and operational not later than one (1) month after the Effective Date and maintained throughout Project implementation. Maintenance of grievance database. Report the summary of grievances annually The GM will be equipped to deal with SEA and SH complains	AKSHI/RMU
10.3	SEP REPORTING Include results of the stakeholder engagement process in project monitoring reports as indicated in the SEP	Semi-annually	AKSHI/RMU
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS2	The training shall focus on Project workers, contractors, community organizations and government agent officials involved in the Project. The training plan shall include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESF • SEP and GM; • Performance of the Project (and incidence and accident reporting) • SEA/SH Risk Prevention and Management; • COVID-19 Prevention; • LMP and Labor GM • Codes of Conduct for the contractors' workers including ESHS, OHS, SEA/SH, SEP and GM. 	Throughout Project Implementation	AKSHI/RMU

