

# LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

## MINISTRY OF HEALTH



Health and Nutrition Services Access Project Phase II (P178957)

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY VERSION (FINAL DRAFT)

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Prepared by  
**Ministry of Health**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1. Project overview

The World Bank will be supporting Ministry of Health (MOH) in implementing the Health and Nutrition Services Access Project II (P178957). The objective of the project is to improve access to quality health and nutrition services in target areas of Lao PDR and to provide immediate response in case of an eligible health emergency or crisis. The project will support the following activities:

- Component 1: Financing for Primary Health Care (PHC) services using National Health Insurance Scheme (NHI) payments (US\$ 20m)
- Component 2: Integrated PHC Service Delivery (US\$ 19.5m):
- Component 3: Adaptive Learning and Project Management (US\$5m):
- Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component (US\$ 0m):

The project activities will take place nationwide in all 17 provinces and the capital city. Key activities that give rise to environmental and social risks (identified in Chapter 5) are mainly those implemented under Component 2 which aims to deliver integrated PHC services and strengthening the Primary Health Care (PHC) system. Key activities under Component 2 include: a) provision of essential medical supplies and medicines for target Health Centers, b) providing training to clinical health centers, c) improving financial management capacity of staff at Health Centers, d) enhancing pandemic preparedness plan, e) improving PHC services for the poor, including immunization, TB and HIV/AIDS treatment services. In addition, nutrition activities to be carried out also include a) training of mothers on nutrition knowledge and good practices, b) cooking demonstration (which are facilitated by an extensive network of community workers), c) provision of maternal healthcare service to pregnant women and mothers, d) immunization for children in target communes and villages, and e) supporting rights-based demand-side interventions including health promotion and social behavioural change communication (SBCC). The project will also assist in minor repair of healthcare facilities such as painting, repairing toilets, fencing and fixing minor things..., and provide medical treatment to those living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis. The target groups include also Service women (SW), Men Having Sex with Men (MSM), and Transgender (TG), people from ethnic groups, people with disability. The project also build capacity for local healthcare staff in hazardous waste management.

The project is expected to bring about a range of positive impacts and benefits to different segments of the population nationwide. However, there are a number of potential social risks anticipated from the project investments and implementation. These include (i) risks of social exclusion of vulnerable and ethnic groups, especially those from remote area or hard-to-reach villages due to their socio-economic circumstances, cultural norms and practice, and risks of possible discrimination which is gender based, (ii) risk of occupational health and safety that may be encountered by project personnel, health workers and contractors or suppliers during their work to provide medical services to visitors who may be infected with COVID-19 and other types of communicable diseases in health care facilities, road accidents during their travel to hard-to-reach villages, and potential exposure to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) incidents during field visits, (iii) community health and safety (CHS) risk and impacts on local people and patients such as risk of communicable diseases from health personnel and outside visitors as well as risks related to SEA/SH, GBV and Violence Against Children (VAC) that may occur in health facilities. There are also risks related to providing project financed services to especially vulnerable populations, including the provision of STD awareness raising, testing and medical services to service women, some of whom may be underage, requiring careful vetting and training of the health workers involved in providing these services.

## 2. Purpose of ESMF

This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared to identify the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities and propose suitable mitigation measures to manage these risks and impacts. It maps out the Lao PDR's laws and regulations and the World Bank policies applicable to the Project, and describes the principles, approaches, implementation arrangements, and environmental and social mitigation measures to be followed.

## 3. Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts & Mitigation Measures

As mentioned above, key project activities that give rise to environmental and social risks (identified in Chapter 5) are mainly those implemented under Component 2 which aims to deliver integrated PHC services and strengthening the PHC system. Environmental and social risks and impacts associated with project activities are identified as follows:

### Environmental:

- Noise, dust, vibration (associated with minor repair of healthcare facilities/offices)
- Generation of construction wastes (which may include hazardous waste such as Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM)<sup>1</sup>)
- Generation of hazardous health care waste (sharps, infectious wastes, and pharmaceutical waste)
- Risks related to Occupational Health and Safety for construction workers and health staff (who are exposed to medical/hazardous waste during day-to-day operation of healthcare facilities and delivery of healthcare services,

### Social:

- Road Safety (particular with the extensive network of community health workers).
- Contracting/Spreading of Communicable Disease(s)
- Sexual Exploitation & Abuse, Sexual Harassment, and Violence Against Children, including risk related to providing project-financed STD awareness raising and medical services to service women, some of whom may be underage service women
- Domestic violence
- Child labor
- Risk of project staff consuming/trading of wildlife and other Non-Timber Forest Product
- Risk of exclusion of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, including risks faced by women and LGBTI groups
- Lack of Cultural awareness of ethnic groups

All the above environmental and social risks and impacts will be made known to project stakeholders during project consultation, and prior to implementation of project activities, including key measures that will be used in the early stages of subproject planning and design to avoid and minimize these impacts (See Chapter 5 for proposed mitigation measures for identified E&S risks and impacts. Since the office upgrade is very minor in term of scope of impact and take place in existing healthcare center, ESCOP will be applied to manage identified E&S risks and impacts of minor civil works which are expected to be site-specific, manageable and low. The overall E&S risk of the whole project is Substantial of which the project's overall environmental risk is substantial and the overall social risk is moderate.

## 4. Implementation Arrangements.

The National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) will be responsible for overall E&S implementation, including ensuring budget is arranged and timely and sufficiently available for E&S implementation and monitoring. During the first year of project implementation, key E&S training will be provided to ES staff of NPCO and relevant staff at provincial and district levels to ensure they know all identified E&S risks and

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<sup>1</sup> ACM, which is present in old zinc roof, is the only hazardous material during demolition process.

impact and assist NPCO in implementation and monitoring. The total estimated budget proposed for ESMF implementation USD391,000.

## **5. Monitoring.**

NPCO will be responsible for E&S monitoring – through internal monitoring. Due to small E&S risks and impacts, independent E&S monitoring is not required.

## **6. Stakeholder Engagement**

A separate **Stakeholder Engagement Plan** (SEP) has been prepared for the Project, based the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standard 10 on Stakeholder Engagement. The SEP can be found at this link (insert link to the disclosed SEP)

