

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	SOUTH ASIA PUBLIC HEALTHCARE COVID-19 PL
Project Number:	2021-0368
Country:	Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives
Project Description:	Programme loan to support public sector counter-parties in containing the COVID-19 pandemic: emergency response, pandemic preparedness interventions (including vaccines purchasing and vaccination campaigns) and health sector resilience interventions for countries in South Asia.

EIA required no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The proposed programme loan is composed of sub-projects that intends to finance a range of measures to support the health emergency response and pandemic preparedness interventions for five South Asian countries.

The programme finances the shortages in the healthcare services and supply of critical medical supplies, medicines and vaccines during the period whilst WHO maintains the pandemic or health emergency status for COVID-19. Due to the nature of the investments (purchase of equipment, devices, consumables, COVID-19 vaccines and coverage of vaccination campaigns, etc.) and if properly managed (proper discharge of materials), it is unlikely that the project will have significant negative impact on the environment. The Bank will require the promoters to ensure that implementation of the sub-projects will be done in accordance with the Bank's environmental and social policy and standards.

An independent environmental assessment will be performed at the level of each sub operation.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 15/09/2021

Social Assessment

By financing the shortages in the healthcare services and supplies during the period of an epidemic/ a pandemic situation, the programme ensures the medical treatment of the affected population while reducing the negative impacts on the society. Hence, the project is acceptable considering the EIB's environmental and social policy and standards.

The project promotes Gender equality, as it is addressing women status of health, more affected by the pandemic either as health workforce or informal carers, and it's aimed to improve their access to social and economic benefits.

An independent social assessment will be performed at the level of each sub operation.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

To be evaluated at the level of each sub operation.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

To be evaluated at the level of each sub operation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project finances the shortages in the healthcare services during the period whilst WHO maintains the pandemic or health emergency status for COVID-19.

The Bank will perform a full E&S due diligence at the level of each sub-operation and will require all promoters to ensure that implementation of the sub-projects will be done in accordance with the Bank's environmental and social policy and standards.

In light of the above, the project is acceptable considering the EIB's environmental and social policy and standards.