

**Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards**

**Of Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center**

**Community Health, Safety and Security**

## Chapter I Policy

1. FECO established this standard to (i) anticipate and avoid adverse risks and impacts on the health and safety of the affected community during the project cycle from both routine and non-routine circumstances; and (ii) ensure that the safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out in a manner that avoids or minimizes risks to the affected communities. Requirements of this standard apply to projects that may pose significant risks to community health and safety. Occupational health and safety requirements for workers are included in Standard X, and environmental standards to avoid or minimize risks and impacts on human health and the environment due to pollution are included in Standard III.

2. Where the project includes new buildings and structures that will be accessed by members of the public, considerations should be given to the incremental risks of the public's potential exposure to operational accidents or natural hazards, especially the special needs and exposure of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups or individuals, in particular women and children.

3. When structural elements or components are situated in high-risk locations, and their failure or malfunction may threaten the safety of communities, projects or programs engage one or more external experts with relevant and recognized experience in similar projects, separate from those responsible for the design and construction, to conduct a review as early as possible in project development and throughout the stages of project design, construction, operation, and decommissioning

4. Projects shall avoid or minimize the potential for community exposure to hazardous materials and substances that may be released by the projects. Special care will be exercised to avoid or minimize public exposure by modifying, substituting, or eliminating the condition or material causing the potential hazards. The executing agency shall exercise commercially reasonable efforts to control the safety of deliveries of hazardous materials, and of transportation and disposal of hazardous wastes, and shall implement measures to avoid or control community exposure to pesticides, in accordance with the requirements of Standard III and Standard IV.

5. Projects shall avoid or minimize adverse health and safety risks and impacts to affected communities resulted from the projects' direct impacts on priority ecosystem

services<sup>1</sup>. Risks and potential impacts on priority ecosystem services that may be exacerbated by climate change will be identified where appropriate and feasible. Adverse impacts on priority ecosystem services should be avoided, and if these impacts are unavoidable, the executing agency shall implement mitigation measures in accordance with Standard II.

6. Projects shall avoid or minimize the potential for community exposure to water-borne, water-based, water-related, and vector-borne diseases, and communicable diseases that could result from project activities, taking into consideration differentiated exposure to and higher sensitivity of vulnerable groups. At the same time, the projects will avoid or minimize transmission of communicable diseases that may be associated with the influx of temporary or permanent project labor.

7. The executing agencies shall assist and collaborate with the affected communities, local government agencies, and other relevant parties, in the preparations to respond to accidental and emergency situations in a manner appropriate to prevent and mitigate any harm to people and/or the environment. The emergency preparedness and response activities, resources, and responsibilities, shall be documented and disclosed to affected communities, relevant government agencies, or other relevant parties.

8. Where the project involves engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and personal property, security arrangements should be proportional and consistent with applicable national laws and good international industry practice. Potential risks posed by security arrangements to those within and outside the project area shall be assessed.

## **Chapter II Institutional Structures**

FECO has designated a staff person as the institutional focal point for community health, safety and security. This staff will be responsible for the coordination, implementation and oversight of FECO's standard on community health, safety and security.

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<sup>1</sup> With respect to this standard, ecosystem services are limited to provisioning and regulating services as defined in of Standard II.

FECO maintains a pool of external specialists in the area of community health, safety and security, taken from the field of environmental management, chemistry and related disciplines, which will perform specialized functions in the implementation of FECO's standard on community health, safety and security.

## **Chapter III Guidelines**

### **Section I Infrastructure and Equipment Design and Safety**

The proponent will design, construct, operate, and decommission the structural elements of the project in accordance with “Construction Law of the People’s Republic of China”, “Work Safety Law of the People’s Republic of the People’s Republic of China”, “Regulations of Safe Production Management for Construction Project”, the “Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs)”<sup>2</sup> and other Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), taking into consideration safety risks to third parties and affected communities. Structural elements of a project will be designed and constructed by competent professionals, and certified or approved by competent authorities or professionals. Structural design will take into account climate change considerations, as appropriate, and the types of measures that can be incorporated to reflect climate change considerations and other risk conditions such as flooding are discussed in more detail in the EHSGs and GIIP.

Where the project includes new buildings and structures that will be accessed by members of the public, the proponent will consider the incremental risks of the public’s potential exposure to operational accidents or natural hazards, including extreme weather events. Where technically and financially feasible, the proponent will also apply the concept of universal access<sup>3</sup> to the design and construction of such new buildings and structures.

When structural elements or components of a project are situated in high-risk locations, including those with risk of extreme weather or slow onset events, and their failure or malfunction may threaten the safety of communities, the proponent will

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<sup>2</sup>[https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics\\_ext\\_content/ifc\\_external\\_corporate\\_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/ehs-guidelines](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/ehs-guidelines)

<sup>3</sup> The concept of universal access means unimpeded access for people of all ages and abilities in different situations and under various circumstances, as set out in GIIP.

engage one or more independent experts with relevant and recognized experience in similar projects, separate from those responsible for the design and construction, to conduct a review as early as possible in project development and throughout the stages of project design, construction, operation, and decommissioning. Where the project involves a new or existing dam, please refer to FECO's standard on Safety of Dams.

## **Section II Safety of Services**

Where the project involves provision of services to communities, the proponent will establish and implement appropriate quality management systems to anticipate and minimize risks and impacts that such services may have on community health and safety. In such circumstances, the proponent will also apply the concept of universal access, where technically and financially feasible.

Projects may provide many kinds of services to communities, such as those relating to education and health, social security and social protection, transport, and utilities, such as electricity and gas, water and sanitation, and waste disposal. Management systems that address the safety of such services are important because without adequate protection measures the provision of such services can present dangers for communities. Such systems address the community health and safety risks posed by project services, for example, risks associated with:

- (i) Water or irrigation canals, such as drowning, flooding, or water-related diseases;
- (ii) Waste disposal, such as toxicity, waste dump collapse, or air pollution;
- (iii) Quarries or excavation works, such as rock falls or hazardous equipment;
- (iv) Water and sanitation services, such as contaminated water or spread of disease;
- (v) Electricity supply, which may result in electric shock from electrical cabinets or cables;
- (vi) Service providers, which may use their service for the purpose of financial, sexual, or other exploitation, particularly of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly.

Management systems allow for timely identification of community health, and safety risks, and are designed to provide for compliance with national and internationally recognized environmental, health, and safety standards. The system

should set out as a minimum the organizational arrangements and responsibilities for hazard identification and assessment; and process for monitoring and managing risks; and the processes for developing and monitoring of appropriate mitigation measures during the design, construction, operation, or provision of such services. These systems should take into account project-related risks as well as external risks that may impact the project. In the event that such management systems are not in place at the start of the project identification, they could be developed as part of the project.

### **Section III Ecosystem Services**

The project's direct impacts on ecosystem services may result in adverse health and safety risks to and impacts on affected communities. With respect to this standard ecosystem services are limited to provisioning and regulating services. The provisioning services that ecosystems provide include the products people obtain from the ecosystems, such as food, freshwater, timbers, fibers, and medicinal plants. Regulating services of ecosystems are the benefits people obtain from the regulation of ecosystem processes, such as surface water purification, carbon storage and sequestration, climate regulation, and protection from natural hazards. Where appropriate and feasible, the proponent will identify the project's potential risks and impacts on ecosystem services that may be exacerbated by climate change. Adverse impacts will be avoided, and if they are unavoidable, the proponent will implement appropriate mitigation measures.

For example, land use changes or the loss of natural buffer areas, such as wetlands, mangroves, and upland forests, which mitigate the effects of natural hazards such as flooding, landslides, and fire, may result in increased vulnerability and community safety-related risks and impacts. The diminution or degradation of natural resources, such as adverse impacts on the quality, quantity, and availability of freshwater, may result in health-related risks and impacts.

### **Section IV Community Exposure to Health Issues**

The project will avoid or minimize the potential for community exposure to waterborne <sup>4</sup>, waterbased <sup>5</sup>, water-related, and vector-borne <sup>6</sup> diseases, and

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<sup>4</sup> Waterborne diseases are conditions caused by pathogenic microorganisms within a water source. Consuming water contaminated by human, animal, or chemical wastes while bathing, washing, drinking, or by eating food exposed to infected water, is the primary source of such diseases.

communicable<sup>7</sup> and non-communicable diseases that could result from project activities, taking into consideration differentiated exposure to and higher sensitivity of vulnerable groups. Where specific diseases are endemic in communities in the project area, the proponent is encouraged to explore opportunities during the project life cycle to improve environmental conditions that could help minimize their incidence.

The types of projects that may contribute to increased health risks and, therefore, call for particular consideration, include those that create permanent or temporary water bodies that may increase incidences of water-related diseases, such as dams, irrigation schemes, construction pits, or other depressions; projects in areas that lack adequate sanitary wastewater discharge and treatment infrastructure; projects that may result in exposure to air pollution, hazardous materials, chemicals, particulate matter, or radiation, or that contribute to a higher incidence of noncommunicable diseases; projects that exacerbate existing health conditions, affect mental health, or reduce the quality of nutrition; and projects that lead to greater risk of exposure to disease or health issues, for example, as a result of changes to mobility or behavior

Measures shall be taken to avoid or minimize transmission of communicable diseases that may be associated with the influx of temporary or permanent project labor. Labor influx is when all or part of a labor force for a project comes from outside the area of the project. In some cases, other people may follow the incoming workforce with the aim of selling them goods and services or in pursuit of job or business opportunities. The project's environmental and social impact assessment is the main mechanism for determining the risk of communicable diseases as a result of labor influx, and where appropriate, identifying measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the transmission of such diseases. It is important to establish a baseline as part of the environmental and social assessment for monitoring and managing these

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These diseases are especially prevalent in areas lacking access to adequate sanitation or treatment facilities, and include cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, and typhoid.

<sup>5</sup> Water-based diseases are caused by organisms that have an aquatic development cycle and another cycle as fully grown parasites in other animal or human hosts. These diseases include guinea worm and schistosomiasis.

<sup>6</sup> Vector-borne diseases are caused by pathogens in human populations transmitted by vectors and are often region specific in nature, such as mosquitoes, ticks, and so forth. These diseases include Chagas disease, human African trypanosomiasis, Japanese encephalitis, leishmaniasis, malaria, onchocerciasis, schistosomiasis, and yellow fever.

<sup>7</sup> Communicable diseases are illnesses caused by an infectious agent or its toxins that occur through the direct or indirect transmission of the infectious agent or its products from an infected individual or via an animal, vector, or the inanimate environment to a susceptible animal or human host. Communicable diseases are transmissible from person to person through air, blood, or other bodily fluid and include hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, influenza, polio, syphilis, and tuberculosis.

risks. Risks and impacts may be potentially more significant in certain circumstances, for example, when large numbers of project workers, contractors, and third parties are involved in project activities, or due to the sensitivity of project location or the characteristics of the affected communities.

### **Section V Management and Safety of Hazardous Materials**

The proponent will avoid or minimize the potential for community exposure to hazardous materials and substances that may be released by the project. Where there is a potential for the public (including workers and their families) to be exposed to hazards, particularly those that may be life threatening, the proponent will exercise special care to avoid or minimize their exposure by modifying, substituting, or eliminating the condition or material causing the potential hazards. Where hazardous materials are part of existing project infrastructure or components, the proponent will exercise due care during construction and implementation of the project, including decommissioning, to avoid exposure to the community.

The production, storage, dealing, operation and transportation of hazardous chemicals should strictly comply with “Regulation on the Safety Management of Hazardous Chemicals (2011 Revision)” The disposal of waste hazardous chemicals shall be governed by “Law of the People's Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Environment Pollution Caused by Solid Wastes (2020 Revision)”, “Measures for the Administration of Permit for Operation of Dangerous Wastes (2016 Revision)” and other provisions of the state on environmental protection.

### **Section VI Emergency Preparedness and Response**

The proponent will identify and implement measures to address emergency events. An emergency event is an unanticipated incident, arising from both natural and man-made hazards, typically in the form of fire, explosions, leaks, or spills, which may occur for a variety of different reasons, including failure to implement operating procedures that are designed to prevent their occurrence, extreme weather, or lack of early warning. The measures will be designed to address the emergency event in a coordinated and expeditious manner; to prevent it from injuring the health and safety of the community; and to minimize, mitigate, and compensate for any impacts that may occur.

Projects with the potential to generate emergency events will conduct a Risk



Hazard Assessment (RHA) as part of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment. Based on the results of the RHA, the proponent will prepare an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) in coordination with the relevant local authorities and the affected community, and will take into account the emergency prevention, preparedness, and response arrangements put into place with project workers.

A RHA is a mechanism to identify potential risks to community health and safety that are caused by man-made or natural emergency events. Where such emergency events could have a significant impact on the communities, for example, fire, explosions, leaks, or spills. The RHA should describe the process for:

- (i) Identifying hazards and other risk factors that may cause harm, and who may be at risk;
- (ii) Analyzing and evaluating the hazards and risks;
- (iii) Identifying and implementing the controls necessary to eliminate the hazard or control the risks, at all stages of the project life cycle;
- (iv) Connecting with relevant national and local authorities, in particular those set forth under the framework of the international health regulations.

In preparing the RHA, emergency events need to be assessed. The RHA can help determine if such emergency events call for the preparation of an ERP. In preparing the ERP, it is important that the views of all segments of the local community, including the elderly, children, and any vulnerable groups that may be present, along with those of the emergency services/local response teams and relevant government agencies, be taken into consideration. An ERP will include, as appropriate:

- (i) engineering controls (such as containment, automatic alarms, and shut-off systems) proportionate to the nature and scale of the hazard;
- (ii) identification of and secure access to emergency equipment available on-site and nearby;
- (iii) notification procedures for designated emergency responders;
- (iv) diverse media channels for notification of the affected community and other stakeholders;
- (v) a training program for emergency responders including drills at regular intervals;
- (vi) public evacuation procedures;
- (vii) designated coordinator for ERP implementation; and
- (viii) measures for restoration and cleanup of the environment following any

major accident.

The emergency preparedness and response activities, resources, and responsibilities will be documented, and appropriate information will be disclosed, as well as any subsequent material changes thereto to affected communities, relevant government agencies, or other relevant parties. The proponent will assist and collaborate with affected communities, relevant government agencies, and other relevant parties in their preparations to respond effectively to an emergency event, especially where their participation and collaboration will be an important part of an effective response.

The proponent will review the ERP on a regular basis and confirm that it is still capable of addressing the potential range of emergency events that might arise in connection with the project. The proponent will support affected communities, relevant government agencies, and other relevant parties through training and collaboration, and will conduct such training in conjunction with the training provided to project workers.

## **Section VII Security Personnel**

When the proponent retains direct or contracted workers to provide security to safeguard its personnel and property, it will assess risks posed by these security arrangements to those within and outside the project site. In making such arrangements, the proponent will be guided by the principles of proportionality and GIIP, and by applicable law in relation to hiring, rules of conduct, training, equipping, and monitoring of such security workers. The proponent will not sanction any use of force by direct or contracted workers in providing security except when used for preventive and defensive purposes in proportion to the nature and extent of the threat.

Decisions on the appropriate scope of the project's security arrangements are guided by an assessment of (i) potential risks to the project's personnel and property, which may require a security response; (ii) appropriate responses to the identified security risks; (iii) potential impacts of a security incident on the project, local communities, and other parties; and (iv) potential mitigation measures.

It is important to design and implement security arrangements that are proportional to the nature and significance of identified security risks and the project's operating environment, and that take into account both GIIP and national law. For example, for projects in low- to medium-risk contexts, fencing, signposting, lighting,

basic security awareness training, and a security guard may be all that are needed to manage security risks. For larger, more complex projects or projects in high-risk contexts, more comprehensive security arrangements may be necessary. For some projects, it may be appropriate to engage external security experts to prepare more comprehensive and detailed risk assessments and management plans.

The proponent will (i) make reasonable inquiries to verify that the direct or contracted workers retained by the proponent to provide security are not implicated in past abuses; (ii) train them adequately (or determine that they are properly trained) in the use of force (and where applicable, firearms) and appropriate conduct toward workers and affected communities; and (iii) require them to act within the applicable law and any requirements set out in the Environmental and Social Management Plan.

It is important that the project-level grievance mechanism be able to accept concerns or complaints regarding the conduct of security personnel and that such concerns and complaints, as well as any associated evidence and facts, be promptly documented and assessed and action be taken to prevent recurrence. The responses implemented in response to complaints should be monitored and the outcomes communicated to relevant parties, taking into account the need to protect the confidentiality of victims and complainants.

## **Chapter IV Procedures**

### **I. Stage of Eligibility Assessment**

Project proponents need to explain if the proposed project potentially causes impacts to community health, safety and security. This information will be used by the institutional focal point to determine whether or not this standard is triggered in the proposed project.

### **II. Stage of the Project Document Assessment**

If the standard on community health, safety and security is triggered, the project will evaluate the risks and impacts of the project on the health and safety of the affected communities during the project life cycle, including those who, because of their particular circumstances, may be vulnerable. The project will identify risks and impacts and propose mitigation measures in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy. The above mentioned assessment can be conducted as part of the ESA. Consultation and disclosure will be part of the ESA document preparation process, and affected

parties and stakeholders will be notified of the decision to develop an ESMP and will be appropriately consulted in its formulation.