



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

An International Environmental, Social, and Health and Safety (ESHS) Specialist is required to support the Ministry of Health & Medical Service (MoHMS) to develop and assist with the implementation of Environment & Social Framework, ESF, instruments required under the World Bank Environment and Social Framework (ESF).

PROJECT BRIEF/TERMS OF REFERENCE

Project Title	Fiji COVID-19 Emergency Response Project
Human Resource Required	International Environmental, Social and Health and Safety Specialist
Reports to	Project Manager
Location	Based in Suva
Remuneration	Approx. FJD \$1,050.00 to \$1,450.00 per day <i>(Inclusive of travel and per diem)</i>
Duration	Initial 6 months with a possible extension

1.0 Background

An outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) has been spreading rapidly across the world since December 2019, following the diagnosis of the initial cases in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Since the beginning of March 2020, the number of cases outside China has increased thirteenfold and the number of affected countries has tripled. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global pandemic as the coronavirus rapidly spreads across the world. As of 1st August 2020, the outbreak has resulted in an estimated 17,132,653 cases and 669,160 deaths globally. There were 28 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 1 death.

The Government of Fiji (GoF) have prepared and are now implementing the Fiji Coronavirus (COVID-19) Preparedness and Response Plan.

The Fiji Covid-19 Emergency Response Project aims to assist the GoF in its efforts to prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness.

A part-time International Environmental, Social, and Health and Safety (ESHS) Specialist is required to support the Ministry of Health & Medical Service (MoHMS) to develop and assist with the implementation of Environment & Social Framework, ESF, instruments required under the World Bank Environment and Social Framework (ESF). Given the current context, the Specialist will not be required to visit Fiji.

2.0 Project Description

The Fiji Covid-19 Emergency Response Project will be comprised of the following components:

- **Component 1: Emergency COVID-19 Response**
- **Component 2: Health System Strengthening**
- **Component 3: Project Implementation Management, Monitoring and Evaluation**

*All correspondence to be addressed to the Permanent Secretary for Health and Medical Services,
P O Box 2223, Government Building, Suva, Fiji. Fax: (679)3306163 Phone: 3306177*

3.0 Environmental and Social Requirements

The project will be implemented in accordance with World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), WHO Guidance on COVID-19 and Fiji law. The ESF outlines ten Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) including

- i) Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts;
- ii) Labor and working conditions;
- iii) Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management;
- iv) Community health and safety;
- v) Land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement;
- vi) Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources;
- vii) Indigenous peoples;
- viii) Cultural heritage;
- ix) Financial intermediaries; and
- x) Stakeholder engagement.

The Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) completed by the World Bank during project preparation, outlines the relevant ESSs for the project including key risks and management measures.

The project is expected to result in positive environmental and social impacts as it seeks to improve planning, processes and on ground service delivery for COVID-19 surveillance, monitoring, containment and response and improving medical waste management in a long term. However, project activities also present substantial environmental, social, health and safety risks for the project workforce and communities.

The primary risks identified include:

- (i) environmental and community health related risks from inadequate storage, transportation and disposal of infected medical waste;
- (ii) occupational health and safety issues related to the availability and supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers dealing with COVID19 patients; and
- (iii) the occupational and environmental health and safety issues related to testing and handling of chemicals supplies and the possibility that they are not safely used by laboratory technicians and medical crews;
- (iv) those linked to small scale construction activities, i.e. building the incinerator;
- (v) community health and safety risks relating to community transmission and operation of the incinerator;
- (vi) possible risks around social exclusion for access to health facilities and services;
- (vii) patient-centric risks for those receiving treatment for COVID-19 symptoms, including GBV or sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) completed by the GoF and endorsed by the World Bank sets out material measures and actions to ensure the project is implemented in accordance with the relevant ESS requirements.

4.0 Scope of Work

The International ESHS Specialist, reporting to the Project Manager and collaborating closely with the local ESHS & CE Specialist, will develop and support the implementation of environmental and occupational health and safety instruments that are compliant with local legislation, good international industry practice (GIIP), including WHO Guidance on COVID-19 and the World Bank ESF. Specifically the International ESHS Specialist will:

Early Project Implementation (within 30 days of project effectiveness)

- (i) Development the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and associated instruments - The ESMF will be developed utilizing the ESMF COVID-19 templates and will: i) establish clear procedures and methodologies for the screening and consideration of environmental and social aspects related to activities/subprojects; ii) outline mitigation measures largely based on WHO technical guidance on COVID-19 response , World Bank EHS Guidelines and other GIIP; iii) specify appropriate roles and responsibilities for managing, monitoring and reporting on environmental and social aspects of the Project; iv) identify the training, capacity building and technical assistance needed to

successfully implement the provisions of the ESMF; v) establish the project budget required to implement the ESMF requirements; and vi) provide ESHS tools and templates for implementing the ESMF.

- (ii) The ESMF will include an assessment of environmental and social risks associated with the investments funded by the project and associated mitigation measures; an Infection Prevention and Waste Management Plan (IP&WMP) for all facilities including laboratories, and Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for Project health workers and contracted workers to ensure proper working conditions and management of worker relationships, occupational health and safety, and to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. The ESMF will also include a section on the CERC based on indicative activities.
- (iii) Update the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (and Grievance Mechanism) - in close collaboration with the MoHMS and Ministry of Communication including: i) specific stakeholder engagement plans/information disclosure strategies for each stakeholder group when finalizing the SEP, as per the COVID-19 SEP template and Tip Sheet; and ii) expanding the GRM section to include the key elements in the COVID-19 SEP template and Tip Sheet.

Ongoing Project Implementation (throughout project implementation)

- (i) Review the consultant's report relating to the incinerator needs assessment work.
- (ii) Develop the ESIA and ESMP for the installation and operation of the incinerator.
- (iii) Develop/ review ESHS procedures and co-ordinate training for the operation of the incinerator.
- (iv) Provide technical support to the ESHS&CE Specialist to implement the project's ESMF and associated instruments in accordance with the World Bank ESF, ESCP and GoF legal requirements including:
 - Support the ESHS&CE to develop and deliver ESHS training for relevant stakeholders.
 - Support environmental screening, preparation and disclosure of site-specific instruments, and consultation and information dissemination activities with relevant stakeholders.
 - Support site-based environmental, safety and social monitoring. Advise on suitable corrective actions/opportunities for improving performance.
 - Support/Review monthly and six-monthly monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project.
 - Support notification, reporting and management of incidents or accidents related to the Project which have, or are likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers.
 - Participate (remotely) in semi-annual Project Supervision missions, representing MoHMS on environmental, safety and social aspects.

5.0 Key Deliverables and Timelines

The International ESHS Specialist will be contracted for an initial period of 90 days to complete the following deliverables during early implementation:

- (i) Environmental and Social Management Framework.
- (ii) Infection Prevention and Waste Management Plan (IP&WMP).
- (iii) Labor Management Procedures (LMP).
- (iv) Updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan (and Grievance Mechanism).
- (v) ESMF implementation tools including screening checklist, monitoring & reporting templates.

The International ESHS Specialist will be contracted for a further 15 days per year to support ongoing ESHS risk management including the following deliverables:

- (i) ESHS training package and delivery (remote).
- (ii) Technical review of screening checklists and relevant instruments.
- (iii) Technical review and inputs for monthly and 6-monthly monitoring reports and incident reports.
- (iv) Participation in semi-annual Project Supervision missions

The International ESHS Specialist will be contracted for a further 30 days per year to support the completion of the incinerator TA work and associated procurement (including the ESIA and ESMP).

6.0 Qualifications and Experience

The required profile for the specialist include:

- University qualifications and a minimum of 10 years work experience relating to safeguards implementation, ideally for health projects with a particular focus on disease control and waste management;
- Experience of working in developing countries (ideally Fiji or similar context) and teaching/capacity building experience in cross-cultural contexts;
- Demonstrated experience in the development and implementation of safeguards instruments; and
- Experience working with the World Bank, WHO or other development agencies

HOW TO APPLY

Written applications together with an updated CV outlining qualifications and experience related to the Scope of Works must be addressed to the “Acting Permanent Secretary of Health & Medical Services, Suva, Fiji and emailed to recruitment@health.gov.fj

Submission

Applications must be submitted **by 21st September 2020.**