



THE MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ENHANCED ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE

The mandate of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development is to ensure a rational, sustainable and effective use and management of land and orderly development of urban and rural areas as well as safe, planned and adequate housing for socio-economic development. In this pursuit the Ministry through the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development, Additional Financing (USMID-AF) Program is focusing on development of urban infrastructure and institutional strengthening at the Local Government (District and Municipality) level. The Ministry along with USMID participating local governments is committed to the highest standards of Environmental, Social, Health and Safety performance throughout the planning, implementation and operation of the projects.

As a minimum, the Ministry and the participating Local governments commit to the following:

1. Compliance to the National policies, laws and regulations as well as international best practices throughout the lifecycle of all projects under the Ministry;
2. Prompt filling of all key staff in ESHS positions. These positions include Natural Resources officers, Environment Officers, Community Development Officers, Health and Safety Officers and Land Acquisition Officers;
3. The Ministry and the participating Local Governments shall implement a systematic and comprehensive Management System to ensure that environment and social risks are identified, avoided or mitigated in accordance to the National Laws and international best practice. No projects shall be implemented without due clearance for both environment and social requirements implying that:
 - a. All projects shall be screened and approved by the respective local government;
 - b. All projects shall be in the physical Development Plan;
 - c. All projects must be cleared of land acquisition before proceeding to procurement. The steps for land acquisition are in the programme Operational Manual section 13.0;
 - d. All projects that require an ESIA shall follow the National Environment Act No.5 2019;
 - e. The Local Governments shall acquire the NEMA certificate prior to the procurement of works.
4. Providing and maintaining a healthy and safe work environment for employees and contractors;
5. Protecting the health and safety of local communities where our projects are implemented, with particular concern for those who are disabled, elderly, or otherwise vulnerable;
6. Engaging with and listening to affected persons and stakeholders through full disclosure and be responsive to their concerns, through a clear Grievance Redress Mechanism in consideration of free and informed consent and register;
7. Incorporating a gender perspective and providing an enabling environment where women and men have equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, planning and development or execution of all projects;
8. Be intolerant of, and enforce disciplinary measures for illegal activities including among others Gender Based Violence, child sacrifice, child defilement, and sexual harassment;
9. Minimizing the spread of diseases that pose a risk to the health and safety of workers and communities within project areas such as HIV AIDs, COVID 19 etc.
10. Provide an environment that fosters the exchange of information, views, and ideas that is free of any fear of retaliation.

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PERMANENT SECRETARY