



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL FRAMEWORK



ESS4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

CONTEXT

In August 2016, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), which will go into effect in 2018 and progressively replace the Bank's Safeguards. The ESF protects people and the environment from potential adverse impacts that could arise from Bank-financed projects, and promotes sustainable development. Within the ESF, ten Environmental and Social Standards set out responsibilities for Borrowers. The Standards are designed to help Borrowers manage project risks and impacts as well as improve environmental and social performance, consistent with good international practice and national and international obligations.

Overview

Project activities, equipment, and infrastructure can increase community exposure to risks and impacts. In addition, communities that are already subjected to impacts from climate change may also experience an acceleration or intensification of impacts due to project activities. This standard addresses the health, safety, and security risks and impacts on project-affected communities and the corresponding responsibility of Borrowers to avoid or minimize such risks and impacts, with particular attention to vulnerable people.

Objectives

The Environmental and Social Standard on Community Health and Safety (ESS4), requires Borrowers to:

- Anticipate or avoid adverse impacts on the health and safety of project-affected communities during project life-cycle from routine and non-routine circumstances
- Promote quality, safety, and climate change considerations in infrastructure design and construction, including dams

- Avoid or minimize community exposure to project-related traffic and road safety risks, diseases and hazardous materials, and have in place effective measures to address emergency events
- Ensure that safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out in a manner that avoids or minimizes risks to the project-affected communities

Highlights

ESS4 puts an emphasis on community exposure to risks and impacts of project. This includes road safety risks; and risks associated with security personnel.

ESS4 requires Borrowers to address water-related, communicable and non-communicable diseases that can result from projects activities.

Cognizant of the fact that projects' direct impacts on ecosystem services can affect the health and safety of communities, ESS4 mandates Borrowers to identify and mitigate these impacts.

In projects that involve the provision of services to communities, ESS4 requires Borrowers to apply the concept of universal access, where technically and financially feasible.

More information

The full text of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is available at www.worldbank.org/esf

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