

Republic of Uzbekistan

JSC UZTRANSGAZ

Uzbekistan Gas Leak Repair Facility

(P508941)

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

Appraisal

October 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Uzbekistan (the Borrower) will implement the Uzbekistan Gas Leak Repair Facility Project (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MoEF) and Joint Stock Company (JSC) UZTRANSGAZ (UTG), as set out in the Grant Agreement (the Agreement). The International Development Association (the Association), acting as the administrator of the GFMR trust fund, has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in Agreement.
2. The Borrower shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Association. The ESCP is a part of the Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Borrower shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, their respective timeframes; institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements; and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) documents, consisting of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or ESMP checklist, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including a Project Grievance Mechanism (GM), a Labor Management Procedure (LMP) including GM for project workers will be embedded into the ESMF. These documents shall be prepared or updated, consulted, disclosed and implemented under the Project, consistent with the ESSs, in form and substance acceptable to the Association. Said E&S documents may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association. As provided for under the referred Agreement, the Borrower shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.
4. As agreed by the Association and the Borrower, this ESCP will be revised from time to time, if necessary, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes or unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Association and the Borrower agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Borrower's Representative specified in the Agreement. The Borrower, through the UTG, shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
5. The subsection on "Indicators for Implementation Readiness" below identifies the actions and measures to be monitored to assess Project readiness to begin implementation in accordance with this ESCP. Nevertheless, all actions and measures in this ESCP shall be implemented as set out in the "Timeframe" column below irrespective of whether they are listed in the referred subsection.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CAPACITY SUPPORT			
A	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Establish and maintain a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in UTG with qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) risks and impacts of the Project including one environmental specialist, one social safeguard specialist, all with experience and qualifications acceptable to the Association, to be responsible for ensuring full compliance with the ESSs, ESCP, and relevant instruments.</p>	Establish a PIU and hire one environmental and one social specialist no later than 0 days after the Effective Date and thereafter maintain the PIU and these positions throughout Project implementation.	UTG, PIU
B	<p>CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES</p> <p>Prepare and implement a capacity building plan including the following training for UTG/PIU staff who is involved in implementation of the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) • WBG Environmental, Social, Health, and Safety (ESHS) Guidelines. • Labor Management Procedures (LMP) including Handling workers’ and beneficiaries’ Grievances. • Stakeholder Engagement and public awareness, and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) procedures. • Prevention and response to potential cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV)/Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) and application of Codes of Conduct; • E&S Screening along with preparation and implementation of site-specific E&S assessments and management plans (eg. Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and ESMP checklists, etc.) as guided by the ESMF prepared for the Project. • Reporting on the ESHS performance of the Project 	No later than 60 days after the Effective Date of the Agreement OR prior to the commencement of civil works, and implement thereafter throughout Project implementation.	PIU, UTG, WB
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
C	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on the E&S performance of the Project. The reports shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP. • Summary of stakeholder engagement activities carried out as per the SEP. • Complaints submitted to the grievance mechanism, the grievance log, and progress made in resolving them. • E&S performance of contractors and subcontractors as reported through monthly contractors’ and supervision firms’ (where one is contracted) reports. • Number and status of resolution of incidents and accidents reported under action E below. 	Submit semestral reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Association no later than 15 days after the end of each reporting period.	PIU, UTG

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting shall also cover compliance with the LMP, and each site-specific ESMP/ESMP checklist. 		
D	<p>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on E&S performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Association.</p>	Submit the monthly reports to the Association upon request OR as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action C above.	PIU, Contractor
E	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Notify the Association of any incident or accident relating to the project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers, including those resulting in death or significant injury to workers or the public; acts of violence, discrimination or protest; unforeseen impacts to cultural heritage or biodiversity resources; pollution of the environment; dam failure; forced or child labor; displacement without due process (forced eviction); allegations of SEA/SH; or disease outbreaks. Provide available details of the incident or accident to the Association upon request.</p> <p>Arrange for an appropriate review of the incident or accident to establish its immediate, underlying and root causes. Prepare, agree with the Association, and implement a Corrective Action Plan that sets out the measures and actions to be taken to address the incident or accident and prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p>Notify the Association no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. Provide available details upon request.</p> <p>Provide review report and Corrective Action Plan to the Association no later than 10 days following the submission of the initial notice, unless a different timeframe is agreed to in writing by the Association.</p>	PIU
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS</p> <p>1. Prepare, disclose and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.</p> <p>2. Prepare, disclose and implement the site specific ESMP/ESMP Checklists for the project as set out in the ESMF and consistent with the relevant ESSs. The proposed subprojects and activities described in the exclusion list set out in the ESMF shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.</p> <p>3. Require Contractors to develop Contractor's ESMPs, including OHS Management, Waste Management, Community Health and Safety, and other plans and method statements in accordance with ESHS specifications included in their contracts all to the satisfaction of the supervision firms (where one is contracted) PIU. Adopt the ESMP/ESMP checklists before launching the bidding process for the respective civil works or equipment installation works that requires the adoption of such ESMP/ESMP checklists.</p>	<p>Prepare and disclose the ESMF prior to the Effective Date thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Prepare the site-specific ESMP/Checklist and incorporate it as part of the respective bidding documents for the respective Project activity prior to the commencement of the bidding process. Once finalized, implement the respective ESMP/Checklist throughout Project implementation.</p>	PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
1.2	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, ESMP/ESMP Checklists, relevant E&S assessments, the LMP, and Code of Conduct, into the E&S specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms and ensure that Contractors comply with the E&S specifications of their respective contracts.</p> <p>Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and that they require their subcontractors to comply with the E&S specifications of their respective contracts. Provide copies of the relevant contracts with contractors/subcontractors and supervision firms to the Association.</p>	<p>As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts.</p> <p>Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Copies of relevant contracts provided to the Association upon request.</p>	PIU
1.3	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Carry out the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies, if applicable), capacity building of environmental risk management, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project, in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter prepare and finalize the outputs of such activities in compliance with the terms of reference.</p>	<p>Prior to the preparation of procurement documents and throughout Project implementation.</p>	PIU
1.4	<p>ASSOCIATED FACILITIES</p> <p>If relevant, ensure that activities that meet the criteria for associated facilities are carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of this ESCP and the ESSs, including, inter alia, the ESMF, relevant ESMPs, and the POM.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	PIU
1.5	<p>USE OF BORROWER'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL FRAMEWORK</p> <p>Ensure that the E&S risks and impacts of the Project are managed in consistent with this ESCP, Project's E&S documents (ESMF, LMP, SEP and others) and with the Borrower's national E&S framework, which includes, inter alia, the country's relevant policy, legal and institutional framework, including its national, departmental, or local implementing institutions, and the applicable laws, regulations, procedures, and implementation capacity procedures, and implementation capacity.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	PIU
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Prepare, disclose and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project including, provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment), Code of Conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance mechanism for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.</p>	<p>Prepare and disclose the LMP prior to the Effective Date, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.</p>	PIU
2.2	<p>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN</p> <p>Prepare and implement a Project-level OHS Management Plan to assess and manage the OHS risks and impacts of the Project, as part of the ESMF.</p> <p>AND</p>	<p>Same timeframe as for p. 1.1.1</p>	PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Require contractors and subcontractors to prepare and implement site-specific OHS Plans in accordance with ESMF, as part of their site-specific ESMP/ESMP checklist.		The contractor
2.3	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Establish grievance mechanism prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	PIU
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN Prepare and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP), as part of the ESMF prepared for the Project, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.	Same timeframe as for p. 1.1.1	PIU
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMF to be prepared under action 1.1 above.	Same timeframe as for p. 1.1.1	PIU
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the ESMF to be prepared under action 1.1 above.	Same timeframe as for p. 1.1.1	PIU
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, potential safety risks from gas leaks, traffic and road safety, and community exposure to health issues, and include mitigation measures in the site-specific ESMPs/Checklists to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.	Same timeframe as for p. 1.1.1	PIU
4.3	SEA AND SH RISKS Prepare and adopt a Code of Conduct to address and manage SEA/SH, which will be incorporated into the LMP.	Same timeframe as for p. 2.1.	PIU
4.4	SECURITY MANAGEMENT¹ Ensure all engagement of security personnel (if any) to safeguard project workers, sites, assets, and activities is conducted in accordance with the relevant requirements of ESS4.	Throughout Project implementation.	UTG/PIU
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
ESS 5 is currently not relevant to the project			
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
ESS 6 is currently not relevant to the project			
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			

¹ Depending on security risks and details of the project, the Borrower may retain or engage public security personnel, including military, to provide security for the project. Such cases may require a specific security management assessment and/or security management plan and setting out specific measures and actions in the ESCP. See Annex to the “Tip Sheet: Drafting the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan” for further guidance.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESS 7 is currently not relevant for the project			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS Incorporate measures to screen for known cultural sites and manage potential risks to them in the ESMF and site-specific ESMPs/ESMP Checklists to be prepared under action XX above. Ensure permission from relevant authorities is obtained prior to the start of civil works near cultural/historical objects.	Same timeframe as for p. 1.1.1	PIU
8.2	CHANCE FINDS Describe and implement the Chance Finds Procedures, as part of the ESMF of the Project.	Same timeframe as for p. 1.1.1	PIU
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
ESS 9 is currently not relevant for the project			
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN Update and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.	Update the SEP no later than 60 days after the project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.	PIU
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all Project-affected parties, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10. The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.	Establish the grievance mechanism prior to the Effective Date, and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.	PIU
INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS			
The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness:			
A. a: Establish a PIU and hire one environmental and one social specialist no later than 60 days after the Effective Date.			
B. a: Prepare the Capacity Building Plan prior to the Effective Date			
1.1. a: Prepare, consult on, and disclose the ESMF prior to the Effective Date			
2.1. a: Prepare and implement the LMP prior to the Effective Date			
10.1. a: Prepare and disclose the SEP by Appraisal			
10.2. a: Establish and publicize an accessible grievance mechanism by Appraisal.			