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# Ministry of Education

# SKILLS FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY PROJECT (SAVE PROJECT)

# Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

**Disclosure Notice**

The Government of Malawi intends to implement Skills for a Vibrant Economy Project (SAVE) with support from the World Bank. SAVE is expected to run for a period of five years from 2021 to 2026. SAVE will be co-financed through a grant envelope of US$100 million from International Development Association for a period of four years. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase equitable access to market-relevant skills in priority areas of the economy, especially for females and vulnerable youth.

The program consists of 4 Components which are; Component 1.**SupportingIncreased access to skills development programs in in higher education**; Component 2. **Supporting increase in access to TEVET skills development**; Component 3. **Tertiary education system strengthening, project management, M&E and communications**; Component 4. **Contingent Emergency Response**.

The Program involves activities whose sites have not yet been identified. For this reason, it was not possible at the program preparation stage to know the type of environmental and social assessment required for individual project sites. As a result of this, the Ministry has developed an Environmental and Social Management Framework.

# Objectives of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

The aim of the environmental and social management framework (ESMF) is to establish procedures for initial screening of the negative impacts which would require attention, prior to project implementation. Key specific objectives for the assessment are:

1. To recommend environmental and social screening process for sub-project sites and sub-project activities for environmental and social considerations.
2. To review environmental policies of Malawi Government in implementation of the project and relevant the World Bank’s Environmental and Social frameworks triggered by the sub-projects.
3. To undertake initial forecast of the main potential environmental and social impacts of the planned and future sub-project activities.
4. To develop a generic environmental and social management plan with recommended mitigation measures for addressing negative impacts and risks in the course of project implementation and operation within the environment.
5. To recommend appropriate capacity building for environmental planning and monitoring in the sub-project activities, including supervision of sub-projects
6. To recommend appropriate further environmental work, including preparation of the site-specific ESIAs/ESMPs for sub-projects.

**Potential Environmental and Social Impacts of SAVE project**

The interventions proposed under SAVE project are not likely to result in significant adverse environmental or social impacts. However, the implementation of building structures under Component 1 and 2 may lead to some negative environmental and social impacts which have to be well managed. The ESMF identifies the potential impacts in the 3 main phases of Pre-construction, Construction and Operation and Maintenance.

**Pre-Construction Phase:**The likely impacts during this phase include; increase in employment Opportunities, increase in business Opportunities, loss of vegetation, increased risk of soil erosion and blockage of some footpaths.

**Construction Phase:**The ESMF identifies a considerable number of potential impacts under this phase which includes; increase in employment opportunities and associated labour issues, increase in business opportunities, source of Government revenue, noise, vibration and emissions, soil erosion, generation of waste, HIV & AIDS and other STIs, increased risk of spread of COVID-19, traffic disruption, Gender based violence and sexual exploitation of students, disruption of classes, occupational health and safety, public safety, water pollution, gender based violence, violence against children, risk of exposure to hazardous wastes and chemicals and theft cases increase.

**Operation and Maintenance Phase**: The likely potential impacts under this phase will include increase in employment opportunities, increase in number of students enrolled, promotion of teaching and learning of labour market relevant skills, increased knowledge in ICT, Improved learning space and equipment, , generation of solid and liquid waste, soil and water pollution, sexual exploitation of students, HIV & AIDS and other STIs and increased risk of spread of COVI-19, increased energy and water use as well as safety and access issues to students and staff with respect to building design.

**Mitigation and enhancement plans**

As part of the environmental and social assessment process, sub-project specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) will need to be prepared and implemented. These mitigation and enhancement measures are impact specific but some include but not limited to employing locals, creating space for market to boost businesses, awareness and sensitizations, enforcement of use of PPE, replanting of vegetation, restricting speed limits, engaging community and community policing structures, employing alternative technologies e.g. water harvesting etc. Thus, currently the ESMF has provided a generic ESMP and monitoring plan to guide the project implementers. The ESMF also spells out various roles of stakeholders in the implementation of the mitigation measures.

The general public is therefore being informed that copies of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) are available at Ministry of Education Headquarters.

For further information, please contact

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