

# ACUMEN4D ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY

## 1.1 Mission

ACUMEN4D recognises environmental and social (E&S) risk management as a critical issue that requires systems to monitor and control in line with legal and applicable international requirements in its operational sectors. This E&S Policy delineates ACUMEN4D's vision and commitment to sustainable development and how it is fully integrated into ACUMEN4D's core business processes and lays the foundation of the environmental and social management system (ESMS) that is put in practice.

## 1.2 Goal

ACUMEN4D is committed to promote sustainable agricultural practices in its focus countries. As an environmentally informed and socially responsible organisation, ACUMEN4D is committed to avoid or mitigate adverse E&S impacts, if any, of its interventions.

ACUMEN4D is committed in promoting the use of an appropriate ESMS in order to improve the management of the E&S implications of all of its funded projects and activities.

## 1.3 Guiding principles

In implementing this E&S Policy, ACUMEN4D shall adhere to a set of guiding principles as listed below:

- Avoid, reduce or limit negative environmental, social and climate impacts and improve the E&S benefits of its initiatives;
- Support the preservation and protection of biodiversity and sustainably manage natural resources;
- Avoid negative impacts on the living conditions, livelihoods and land tenure of communities;
- Ensure the health and safety at work of its own employees and require its subcontractors and partners to implement measures to protect the health and safety of their employees at work;
- Condemn forced labour and child labour, prohibit discrimination, prohibit and combat harassment and support the freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining of workers;
- Comply with all relevant environmental, social, health and safety as well as land acquisition policies, laws and regulations of the countries of intervention and international standards.

## 1.4 Implementation of E&S policy principles

ACUMEN4D will implement its E&S Policy through its ESMS and all other key institutional policies including the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Persons Policy, Ethics Policy and Partners Code of Conduct and ensure compliance with the respective governing laws and regulations as well as international standards specified in the ESMS.

ACUMEN4D's ESMS is designed to guide its implementation of the E&S commitments contained in this E&S Policy.

In particular, ACUMEN4D will establish and maintain the following E&S operational requirements:

- Screen all projects requesting funding and activities by ACUMEN4D against ACUMEN4D's Exclusion List ;
- Take informed grant-award decisions based on robust categorisation of projects according to E&S risk levels, ascertained through various types of review processing including screening, E&S due diligence (ESDD) and, if and where required commensurate with the scale of the Project and the Project risks, environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA);
- Clearly define roles and responsibilities of implementation of the E&S activities across the entire institution, as well as emphasise on management review and reporting procedures;
- Have measures in place to monitor compliance with all relevant E&S policies, laws, and regulations of the country/-ies of intervention through ACUMEN4D's work;
- Continuously develop and improve institutional capacity to understand, assess and manage E&S impacts and risks associated with ACUMEN4D's interventions;
- Implement the ESMS to deliver the commitments under this Policy and to monitor compliance with this Policy across its portfolio and periodically report to its management as well as collaborate and share information with development partners and Project/programme beneficiaries.

- Communicate this Policy with employees, partners and other external stakeholders;
- Establish key identified partnerships with external stakeholders to manage E&S risks and work with partners, employees and contractors to raise awareness of E&S management risks and, if identified, to ensure that they are treated appropriately.

## 2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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