



SUMMARY  
**SECURITY MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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1. The Government of Ghana is implementing the Gulf of Guinea Northern Regions Social Cohesion (SOCO) project in Ghana's Northern, Upper East, Upper West, North East, Oti and Savannah regions over a five-year period. It is expected to improve the socio-economic and climate resilience in targeted regions of Ghana exposed to conflict and climate risk. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development (MLGDRD) in collaboration with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) and other stakeholders.
2. The Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), ESS1<sup>1</sup> and ESS4<sup>2</sup> require the Borrower to assess, manage and monitor potential social risks and impacts from Bank-funded operations. Accordingly, a Security Risks Assessment (SRA) was prepared by the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development. The SRA systematically identified potential security risks and their potential impacts on the project. In addition, it assessed the security risks that could threaten the safety and security of the project workers, infrastructure and the beneficiary communities.
3. The Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development developed the Security Management Plan (SMP) as a framework within which this identified risk can be managed to safeguard assets and lives. The main objective of this SMP is to assess the level of acceptance, protection and deterrence of risks identified by the SRA. The SMP proffers appropriate mitigating measures based on the specified security levels and specific activities of the Project. It outlines how security will be managed, the responsible institutions, and the required resources. It also guides the project on how implementation should avoid reinforcing existing conflict stressors but rather leverage opportunities to reinforce resilience to promote peace and stability.
4. In this regard, the primary and secondary data validated some security risk factors found in the SRA, including the theft of equipment and material, armed robbery, chieftaincy crises, land disputes, and political interferences. Others also highlighted the activities of Nomadic herders, violent extremism/terrorism, community unrest, employee industrial action, GBV, environmental and health risks, Road Traffic Accidents (RTA), and exposure to natural hazards (flooding).
5. The SMP recommends a structured security coordination and communication mechanism to update the security situations on project sites and activities. Furthermore, it recommends prioritising community members in employment opportunities created by the project and sub-projects to build good relationships with the community to minimise some security threats from theft and tension from labour influx.
6. Horizontal and vertical coordination and control lie with the Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development while the management of security issues is by the Security Focal Person. The Security Focal Person will be responsible for managing the plan, preparing Standard operating procedures for activities of the project based on the SMP as well as managing the stakeholders on issues related to security.
7. The SRA and SMP will be updated and monitored annually throughout the implementation of the project with room for an immediate update where security levels and situations demand.

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<sup>1</sup> ESS1- Assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts

<sup>2</sup> ESS4- Community health and safety