

Social and Environmental Screening Template (2021 SESP Template, Version 1)

The completed template, which constitutes the Social and Environmental Screening Report, must be included as an annex to the Project Document at the design stage. Note: this template will be converted into an online tool. The online version will guide users through the process and will embed relevant guidance.

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh Phase II
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	00091274
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Bangladesh
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Implementation
5. Date	03/03/2022

Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach

Formulation mission deployed by UNDP and EU have developed this project having close consultation with different stakeholders including community people (who have received judicial services) and representatives of Union Parishads (who deliver judicial services through village courts) to meet the needs of beneficiaries and keeping consistency with local and national priorities. This project has developed based on the success of the pilot phase aiming to improve access to justice for disadvantages and marginalized groups of people. It will empower the targeted beneficiaries to seek remedies for injustices and to resolve their disputes at the local level in an expeditious, transparent and affordable manner. On the other hand, it will enhance the capacity of the local authorities so that they can offer legal services in the form of well functional village courts. It will revise the policy framework to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of village courts.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

One of the objectives of the project is to increase capacity of women in obtaining and delivering local justice. The project has an explicit focus on increasing women's participation and access to the village courts in terms of numbers and in terms of quality. And it has a specific target of reducing gender disparity in access to justices and knowledge gap between men and women, and increasing of women in representation of VCs decision-making process. Meanwhile, it has developed a gender strategy, providing a framework for mainstreaming gender equality issues throughout the project interventions and elaborate gender specific awareness-raising interventions by developing and implementing gender awareness raising strategy and action plan.

It has been increased capacity of around 40,000 UP representatives on Village courts where around 20% women participated. In addition, it has delivered message on Village Courts and its function to around 57,24,000 women through courtyard meetings, Multi Drama Show, Community Sharing Meeting, Youth Workshop and Rally As a result, 70,002 women (30% of total) sought remedy through village courts till December 2021. Of the women who sought remedies, 85% got remedy. The project initiatives also encourage petitioners and respondents to nominate women as village court panel members. As a result, representation of women in village court's decision-making process been has increased from 2% in 2017 to 18%% in 2021.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience
The project is embedded in local government structures (Union Parishad) and backed up by the legal framework (Village Court Act, 2006 and Government Order). VC's services which has strengthened by the project supports are affordable local level disputes resolution services to the common people specially for poor and women, as the fees of 20 BDT (USD 0.24) for civil cases and 10 BDT (USD 0.12) for criminal cases and courts users' needs to spend only BDT161 (USD 2) on average as court fee, conveyance, and food cost to get services from village court.
Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders
The project has tried to ensure accountability of VC's service providers from local level to central level by building their capacity; involving them in different activities of the project; and forming and activating district and Upazila level Village Courts Management Committee.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i>	QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</i>			QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High
Risk Description <i>(broken down by event, cause, impact)</i>	Impact and Likelihood (1-5)	Significance (Low, Moderate, Substantial, High)	Comments (optional)	Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High
No risk identified	Not applicable			Not applicable
	QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?			
	Low Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This project doesn't have any intervention that may cause harm to social or environmental issue.	
	Moderate Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Substantial Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)			
	Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects			

	<u>Is assessment required? (check if “yes”)</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>			Status? (completed, planned)
	<i>if yes, indicate overall type and status</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Targeted assessment(s)	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	
	Are management plans required? (check if “yes”)	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	<i>If yes, indicate overall type</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	
	Based on identified <u>risks</u>, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?		Comments (not required)		
	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind				
	Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	Accountability	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	<input type="checkbox"/>			
	4. Cultural Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>			
5. Displacement and Resettlement	<input type="checkbox"/>				
6. Indigenous Peoples	<input type="checkbox"/>				
7. Labour and Working Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>				
8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

Signature	Date	Description
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QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have “checked” to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have “cleared” the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
INSTRUCTIONS: The risk screening checklist will assist in answering Questions 2-6 of the Screening Template. Answers to the checklist questions help to (1) identify potential risks, (2) determine the overall risk categorization of the project, and (3) determine required level of assessment and management measures. Refer to the SES toolkit for further guidance on addressing screening questions.		
Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind		Answer (Yes/No)
Human Rights		
P.1	Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
P.2	Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project?	No
P.3	Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		No
P.4	adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
P.5	inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities? ¹	No
P.6	restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	No
P.7	exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
P.8	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
P.9	adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
P.10	reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
P.11	limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	No
P.12	exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence? <i>For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc.</i>	No
Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below		

¹ Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender and transsexual people.

Accountability	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.13 exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
P.14 grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	No
P.15 risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project?	No
Project-Level Standards	
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
1.1 adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	No
1.2 activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No
1.3 changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4 risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	No
1.5 exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	No
1.6 introduction of invasive alien species?	No
1.7 adverse impacts on soils?	No
1.8 harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.9 significant agricultural production?	No
1.10 animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.11 significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No
1.12 handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms? ²	No
1.13 utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development) ³	No
1.14 adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
2.1 areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	No
2.2 outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters?	No

² See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#).

³ See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Nagoya Protocol](#) on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

	<i>For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events, earthquakes</i>	
2.3	increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)? <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	No
2.4	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
3.1	construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance projects that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	No
3.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	No
3.3	harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	No
3.4	risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	No
3.5	transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.6	adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	No
3.7	influx of project workers to project areas?	No
3.8	engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
4.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	No
4.2	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	No
4.3	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No
4.5	utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
5.1	temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	No
5.2	economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No

5.3	risk of forced evictions? ⁴	No
5.4	impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
6.1	areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	No
6.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)? <i>If the answer to screening question 6.3 is “yes”, then the potential risk impacts are considered significant and the project would be categorized as either Substantial Risk or High Risk</i>	No
6.4	the absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6	forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 5 above</i>	No
6.7	adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8	risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 4 above.</i>	No
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to project and contractor workers)</i>		
7.1	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	No
7.2	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	No
7.3	use of child labour?	No
7.4	use of forced labour?	No
7.5	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	No
7.6	occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle?	No
Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		

⁴ Forced eviction is defined here as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. Forced evictions constitute gross violations of a range of internationally recognized human rights.

8.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
8.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
8.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	No
8.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol, Minamata Convention, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention</i>	No
8.5	the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
8.6	significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No