

UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Template

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	Aspire to Innovate (a2i) Programme
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	00093849
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Countrywide
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Implementation
5. Date	20 January 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

The project has been designed to work alongside the Government of Bangladesh, various private sector entities and the citizens of the country to enhance public service access and availability while increasing transparency and accountability in government. Through its various interventions project will ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement, including through various mechanisms of feedback from people involved and affected by the project. Through the project's policy framework initiatives, it will work toward improving decent work for all, particularly for vulnerable women, youth, and marginalized populations. The project also plans to empower vulnerable women, youth and marginalized populations by providing universal access to basic services and financial and non-financial assets to build productive capacities, so they can benefit from sustainable livelihoods and jobs. E-Judiciary, Virtual court, e-court, Online cause-list etc. are the initiative taken to ensure justice for all engaging relevant stakeholders like the Supreme Court and other courts all over the country. To ensure the right to justice, and establish a transparent, accountable, innovative and open-minded judiciary, those initiatives are taken and more to take to reduce the detachment between court and citizens. In addition, the project will work toward empowering social innovators and entrepreneurs who are working toward challenging and improving social and environmental issues in support of social progress.

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

The project works toward ensuring women, especially those living in rural areas have full and easy access to public services. Special attention is given to expanding women's entrepreneurship and gender-sensitive service delivery by increasing the capacity of women by providing training on business and marketing skills, so they can achieve a high level of success as Digital Centre Entrepreneurs and '333' call operators. As part of new education initiatives, the focus will be given to ensuring gender sensitivity in education to promote positive stereotypes. More women especially in rural areas will be encouraged to take on entrepreneurship because of initiatives like DFS, which will allow women entrepreneurs to pursue forward integration in businesses easily and bypass middlemen to reach end-consumers directly. In addition, women empowerment and gender equality will be in forefront of all awareness and sensitization campaigns the project will introduce for its various initiatives. When it comes to tracking project progress all appropriate data will incorporate age and sex-disaggregate data and gender statistics to ensure tracking of fair representation is taking place.

Basic gender analysis has been carried out and results from this analysis are scattered (i.e., fragmented and not consistent) across the development challenge and strategy sections of the project document. The results framework includes gender-sensitive outputs and/or activities. Gender disaggregated data is also incorporated into the a2i Dashboard

(<http://dashboard.a2i.gov.bd/login>) which is being used to track project progress. Similarly, gender inequality is given particular emphasis in DFS and SSN initiatives as the excludability rate in financial services and social safety nets has been historically high. Similarly, a gender plan has been finalized and shared with the UNDP and a Gender Focal has been onboarded to monitor and evaluate gender-specific progress.

Gender analysis has been used in the project design. The results of the analysis and a gender strategy have been formulated which has accelerated the process of developing a gender-based action plan for the project comprising 4 key sectors.

- Internal procedures
- Programmatic Interventions
- Institutional Behavior Change
- Partnerships

The project is also working toward ensuring women, especially those living in rural areas have full and easy access to public services. Special attention is given to expanding women's entrepreneurship and gender-sensitive service delivery by increasing the capacity of women by providing training on business and marketing skills, so they can achieve a high level of success as Digital Centre Entrepreneurs and '333' call operators. As part of new education initiatives, the focus is given to ensuring gender sensitivity in education to promote positive stereotypes. In addition, women empowerment and gender equality will be in forefront of all awareness and sensitization campaigns the project will introduce for its various initiatives.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience

This project will take steps to adopt innovative and accountable actions through its education initiatives, and social media campaigns and by supporting social innovators and entrepreneurs, who are working toward addressing emerging challenges in areas such as climate change. The project has a clear transition arrangement and a phase-out plan developed with key stakeholders to sustain or scale up results. The project will Transfer the software/systems and technologies created as outputs of this project to relevant government agencies and ensure adequate maintenance and upgrade of the systems. Government officials will be capacitated for the proper monitoring and up gradation of the software/systems and technologies. It is the mandate of the project to establish an institutional form of a2i that will continue to integrate and mainstream the various work streams of the project into the government's regular rules of business and working procedures. The project will invest in up-skilling and reskilling of youth, returning migrant workers and women to take advantage of new market opportunities and continuously improve the necessary enabling environment; regardless of the duration of particular supporting projects or programmes. (P:21, Technical Assistance Project Proposal of Aspire to Innovate (a2i) programme).

As part of the sustainability, the implementing authority of the project has been shifted to ICT Division from the Prime Minister's Office. The establishment of the a2i Authority is in progress. Besides, a2i has highlighted focus on sustainability and institutionalization to make different initiatives such as e-Nothi, e-Mutation, Service Process Simplification (SPS), etc. sustainable

The project has been focused on national and international partners as a platform for sustainability. The inclusion of different ideas and initiatives in the training module of government institutions was ensured by the project. Different evaluations are undertaken to review the project's strategies and challenges and also to meet the requirements of the plan.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders

UNDP's corporate Accountability Mechanism has been followed to strengthen accountability to stakeholders. Both online and offline Grievance mechanism is in place. Project-affected people have been actively informed and can access grievance redressal services effectively. Product wise individual hotline mechanism to collect grievances is in-build for beneficiaries and users. In addition, the Customer Innovation Lab Team and Research team also work to collect grievances and feedback to understand how to address grievances as well as strive towards incorporating the findings into lessons learned guidelines.

Stakeholders' engagement in every step of product implementation ensures accountability to stakeholders. Defining and engaging stakeholders is the in-build practice for products/initiative implementation. National partners (or regional/global partners for regional and global projects) have full ownership of the project and lead the process of the development of the project jointly with UNDP.

The project has been designed according to the policies and regulations of the implementing partner ICT Division, Cabinet Division, Prime Minister's Office, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Planning and UNDP. Decision-making through PSC and PIC meetings which take place every three months.

The implementing agency ICT Division will manage the project activities following UNDP's National Implementation Modality (NIM)/National Execution (NEX) guidelines in a manner consistent with the GoB's and UNDP's policies and procedures. The design of the project has been conducted by active participation and consultation of implementing partners and is approved by them.

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 <i>(1-5)</i>	Significance <i>(Low, Moderate, Substantial, High)</i>	Comments (optional)	Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High																
Risk 1:	I = L =																			
Risk 2	I = L =																			
[add additional rows as needed]																				
QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?																				
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Low Risk</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Moderate Risk</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Substantial Risk</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">High Risk</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					Low Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moderate Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		Substantial Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>		High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>					
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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																				
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Is assessment required? (check if "yes")</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 45%;"></td> <td style="width: 10%;">Status? (completed, planned)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>if yes, indicate overall type and status</i></td> <td></td> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted assessment(s) <input type="checkbox"/> ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment) <input type="checkbox"/> SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment) </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Are management plans required? (check if "yes")</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>If yes, indicate overall type</i></td> <td></td> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others) </td> <td></td> </tr> </table>					Is assessment required? (check if "yes")	<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)	
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		<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 risks, 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
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>		
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? ¹⁶	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

¹⁶ 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.

Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below		
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? ¹⁷	No
1.13	utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development) ¹⁸	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>		

¹⁷ See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#).

¹⁸ See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Nagoya Protocol](#) on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

2.1	areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severewinds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	No
2.2	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters? <i>For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events, earthquakes</i>	No
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? ¹⁹	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 Standard 6 requirements apply, and the potential significance of risks related to impacts on indigenous peoples must be Moderate or above. *</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

¹⁹ 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.

* Note: revised July 2022 modifying presumption of risk significance from Substantial or higher to Moderate or higher.

Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
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