

Annex [#]. 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. Please refer to the [Social and Environmental Screening Procedure](#) and [Toolkit](#) for guidance on how to answer the 6 questions.

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Sustainable Economic Empowerment and Development for SMEs (SEEDS)
2. Project Number	00127823
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Maldives

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

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?
Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams the human-rights based approach
This project will ensure maximum impact and sustainability, in line with a human security and human rights-based approach. It targets to support vulnerable groups such as women, youth, persons with disabilities (PWDs) and people who suffered income loss due to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project aims to increase agriculture production and promote food security through building entrepreneurship amongst farmers and creating a new generation of agri-business.
Briefly describe in the space below how the Project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment
Women are identified as a key target group and women's participation is prioritized in selection of direct beneficiaries of the project. The project intends to demonstrate agri-business as a potential source of productive urban employment for women who have limited employment prospects in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis.
Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability
The project is expected to have a number of environmental benefits, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in food security and reduced carbon footprint of food imports

2. Use of good, environmentally friendly agricultural practices including safe chemical use and low-carbon, innovative farming
3. Reduced vulnerability of food supply to climate change-related risks (e.g. transportation), through increased food availability and access in target locations.
4. Promotion of circular economy through linkages with other UNDP initiatives.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening Checklist (based on any “Yes” responses). If no risks have been identified in Attachment 1 then note “No Risks Identified” and skip to Question 4 and Select “Low Risk”. Questions 5 and 6 not required for Low Risk Projects.</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 6</i>			QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?
Risk Description	Impact and Probability (1-5)	Significance (Low, Moderate, High)	Comments	Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.
Risk 1: Loss of trees, plantation, etc due to clearance of land for agricultural use and/or construction of urban agriculture facilities.	I = 3 P = 3	Moderate		UNDP as quality assurer must ensure that clearance of any trees and/or plants follows the Government’s due process on relocation and compensation (where applicable).
Risk 2: Potential exposure of project stakeholders to the COVID-19 health risks.	I = 3 P = 3	Moderate		Project implementation must follow the national Health Protection Agency’s guidelines at all times. UNDP must ensure that all precautionary measures are taken for any interactions between project stakeholders, beneficiaries, associated consultants, contractors, or vendors involved in project implementation.
Risk 3: Seepage of pesticides and other chemicals used for farming into soil.	I = 2 P = 2	Low		With the technical support of Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture, the project must ensure that any agriculture work undertaken follows the Good Agricultural

				Practice (GAP) guidelines and ensure safe use and disposal of any pesticides, chemicals or other pollutants.
Risk 4: Adverse impact on the sense of community due to repurposing of land for project use.	I = 3 P = 4	Moderate		Project must consider the social value assigned to the use of community spaces. Project information must be clearly communicated in both English and Dhivehi at regular intervals, and in different forms accessible to all including PWDs. Project must allow adequate time for community consultation and feedback regarding any decision that concerns project beneficiaries.
Risk 5: Potential grievances from target community in selection process and other stages of project implementation.	I = 3 P = 3	Moderate		Project related communication must be transparent and disseminated regularly as stated above. Project must establish means for transparent communication and accountability. This includes setting up a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) with a dedicated point of contact (hotline, email, etc), logging and maintenance of complaints/grievances with duration taken for resolution. Information on the GRM set-up must be communicated regularly to beneficiaries in a transparent manner. UNDP as quality assurer must establish a direct and independent line of contact for beneficiaries should they wish to lodge any complaints directly.
	QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?			
	Select one (see SESP for guidance)		Comments	
	<i>Low Risk</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<i>Moderate Risk</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If the appropriate mitigation measures are put in place during the project, the project will have a low risk over the long-term impacts.	
	<i>High Risk</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?			
	Check all that apply		Comments	
	<i>Principle 1: Human Rights</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

	Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	4. Cultural Heritage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	6. Indigenous Peoples	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Final Sign Off

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	
Principles 1: Human Rights	Answer (Yes/No)
1. Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
2. Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups? ¹	No
3. Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?	No
4. Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No

¹ Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, 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 people and transsexuals.

5. Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	No
6. Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
7. Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	No
8. Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	
1. Is there a likelihood that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
2. Would the Project potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
3. Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	No
4. Would the Project potentially limit 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
Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below	
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	
1.1 Would the Project potentially cause 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 change</i>	Yes – only if mitigation measures are not included

1.2 Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including 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 Does the Project involve 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 Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?	No
1.5 Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.6 Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.7 Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.8 Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No
1.9 Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)	No
1.10 Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No

<p>1.11 Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area?</p> <p><i>For example, a new road through forested lands will generate direct environmental and social impacts (e.g. felling of trees, earthworks, potential relocation of inhabitants). The new road may also facilitate encroachment on lands by illegal settlers or generate unplanned commercial development along the route, potentially in sensitive areas. These are indirect, secondary, or induced impacts that need to be considered. Also, if similar developments in the same forested area are planned, then cumulative impacts of multiple activities (even if not part of the same Project) need to be considered.</i></p>	No
<p>Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p>	
<p>2.1 Will the proposed Project result in significant² greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?</p>	No
<p>2.2 Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?</p>	No
<p>2.3 Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)?</p>	No

² In regards to CO₂, 'significant emissions' corresponds generally to more than 25,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). [The Guidance Note on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation provides additional information on GHG emissions.]

<p><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></p>	
<p>Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</p>	
<p>3.1 Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?</p>	<p>No –if mitigation measures are included</p>
<p>3.2 Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?</p>	<p>No –if mitigation measures are included for safe management of agriculture related chemicals</p>
<p>3.3 Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?</p>	<p>No – construction of farming plots is small in nature</p>
<p>3.4 Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>3.5 Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?</p>	<p>No</p>

3.6 Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No –if mitigation measures are included in relation to COVID-19 pandemic
3.7 Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No
3.8 Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9 Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage	
4.1 Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact 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
4.2 Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement	
5.1 Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2 Would the Project possibly result in 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 Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? ³	No
5.4 Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community-based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No – if mitigation measures are in place
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples	
6.1 Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	No
6.2 Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3 Would the proposed Project potentially affect 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 the screening question 6.3 is “yes” the potential risk impacts are considered potentially severe and/or critical and the Project would be categorized as either Moderate or High Risk.</i>	No
6.4 Has there been an 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 Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6 Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.7 Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No

³ Forced evictions include acts and/or omissions involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating the ability of an individual, group, or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.

6.8 Would the Project potentially affect the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9 Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No
Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	
7.1 Would the Project potentially result in 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 – if good agricultural practices (GAP) are in place.
7.2 Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No – limited in quantity but negligible
7.3 Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose 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 Stockholm Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol</i>	No
7.4 Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	Yes – but project will have mitigation measures and GAP in place
7.5 Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No – not significant