

Social and Environmental Screening Template

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Strengthen national and local systems to support the effective socio-economic integration of returnees in the Western Balkans
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	00130475
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Sub-regional/Western Balkans
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design
5. Date	2 June 2021

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 is part of the broader IPA II Multi-Country Action, EU support to Fundamental Rights of Roma Community, and Reintegration of Returnees. It aims to address the institutional and individual barriers and discriminatory practices, which prevent vulnerable Roma returnees to enjoy their fundamental human rights e.g. right to education, decent employment, social protection, gender equality. The project has been designed based on an in-depth assessment of the status and the root causes for violation of human rights among Roma, conducted by UNDP and the World Bank in 2017/2018, and proposes integrated approach to tackling the negative stereotypes and prevalent biases in local communities as well as a set of policy and institutional changes at systemic level.

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

The proposed project outputs reflect and respond to the disproportional position of women in households, local community and in the labour market. The project activities are designed to address the challenges at all levels. Technical assistance and capacity development programmes will be provided at individual and family level to reflect the distinct needs of men and women and tackle the pre-existing gender-based inequalities within the household and local communities. Considering the multi-dimensional vulnerabilities experienced by women returnees and women left behind, they will be offered professional coaching and mentoring support, including psycho-social and confidence-building support. Individual employability improvement plans will reflect the distinct needs for mentoring support of women, arising from the disproportional burden which is being shouldered by women in terms of housework, care duties as well and in some cases physical and emotional distress caused by incidents of gender-based violence, both being exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The community development improvement plans and small-scale infrastructure projects to be supported by the project will also reflect the needs of women. Women and youth will be given priority in the implementation of the entrepreneurship component. Different models of organizing the businesses will be explored, including women-led social enterprises. The project has set up sex-disaggregated targets and indicators for all relevant activities.

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

The development context analysis provides ample evidence on the combined social and economic dimensions of poverty and inequalities experienced by vulnerable Roma men and women, which are key negative drivers for repetitive and irregular migration. The project design has coincided with the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the region. While

the initial assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 induced crisis on this particular vulnerable group has been elaborated in the project document a more in-depth analysis shall be conducted during the inception phase in the nine target municipalities i.e. 3 per country. integrated solutions to the social and economic challenges, which propel irregular migration or protracted exclusion of vulnerable returnees and their families will be designed and implemented that will be considered of the environmental impact. For this purpose project will support collaborative models of service provision among employment and social protection agents at the national and local level, which should strengthen individuals' and households' resilience to uncertainties and distress upon their return to home community. Moreover, design of the local reintegration strategies and criteria for supporting business start-up and employment programmes envisage a set of criteria which pay due attention to the social, economic and environmental impact

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

The project aims to enhance the capacities of Western Balkan authorities at central and local levels to implement effective reintegration policies for returnees and respond effectively to the needs of vulnerable returnees. The context analysis provides an in-depth assessment of the policy and institutional gaps at national and local levels as well as the outstanding challenges for the implementation of effective reintegration policies. Output 3 of the project specifically focuses on strengthening the institutional capacities of relevant public service providers. In parallel, to ensure accountability, mechanisms will be established to keep the key stakeholders informed. For this purpose, the Project will provide technical assistance for setting up a data collection system to monitor the progress and report on the implementation of local returnees' strategies. This will entail analysis of the available administrative data and information gathered by the local NGOs and international organizations active in this area. Moreover, the Project intends to explore the possibility of using alternative data sources, which can provide quantitative and quality insights regarding the social and economic wellbeing of returnees. On annual basis, surveys, micro-narratives, ethnographic assessments or other alternative data collection tools will be used to monitor the progress against the established targets.. Local platforms, which will be established under the project will ensure broad and consistent outreach to relevant populations to ensure they have access to necessary information.

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 (broken down by event, cause, impact)	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
Risk 1: Potential sensitivities/tensions between returnees and the local population. Increased number of returnees due to closed border, lack of opportunities for seasonal work in neighbouring countries and EU member states can increase intra and inter-ethnic tensions	I = 2 L = 2	Low	The design of the project envisages actions that can improve community cohesion, ensure active and early engagement of local authorities and local NGOs in co-designing the local programs; implement local level interventions, which	

			will be of benefit for the entire community.	
Risk 2 Weak capacities (central and local level of governments) and the responsible staff endorse and implement whole of government and integrated approaches to service delivery. Transparent systems, openness for including user perspective in developing innovative solutions.	I = 2 L = 2	Low	Alignment of the policies on returnees' reintegration with the broader reforms on social inclusion of vulnerable including Roma; high-level advocacy by international organizations and the enlargement negotiations with central authority. Keeping regular involvement of senior policy officials throughout the project implementation. Involvement of the civil society, Roma NGOs etc. can ensure greater political engagement	
[add additional rows as needed]				
QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?				
<i>Low Risk</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Moderate Risk</i> <input type="checkbox"/>				
<i>Substantial Risk</i> <input type="checkbox"/>				
<i>High Risk</i> <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)	
<u>Are management plans required? (check if "yes")</u>		<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 risks, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?		Comments (not required)	
	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind			
	Human Rights	x		
	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	x		
	Accountability	x		
	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	x		
	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 Vesna Djuteska Bisheva Employment Programme Specialist <i>Vesna Djuteska-Bisheva</i>	10/06/2021	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 Ekaterina Paniklova Chief, COST/RP, IRH/RBEC <i>Ekaterina Paniklova</i>	10/06/2021	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.
LPAC Chair Gerd Trogemann, IRH Manager <i>Gerd Trogemann</i>	10/06/2021	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?	yes
P.3	Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	yes
<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? 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