SES POLICY AND SCREENING UPDATE JANUARY 2021

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW
UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards (SES) make a difference in the lives of our beneficiaries every day, in areas including:

- STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE
- PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS
- PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT
WHAT'S NEW?

Alignment with the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.


Provisions addressing the rights of persons with disabilities.

Provisions to strengthen disaster risk management.

Alignment with UNDP’s updated Programme and Project Management (PPM) and Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) policies.
NEW STANDARD ON LABOUR AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Highlights workers’ fundamental rights, their fair treatment, and the provision of safe and healthy working conditions.

Ensures sound worker-management relationships and cooperation in their design and implementation.

Ensures applicable parties comply with employment and labour laws, rules and regulations and international commitments.

Prevents the use of child labour and forced labour.

Assess risks to project workers and develop labour management measures.
NEW RISK CATEGORY: SUBSTANTIAL

- Projects with more varied/complex potential adverse social and environmental risks and impacts than Moderate Risk projects but which are more limited in scale and of lesser magnitude than those of High Risk projects (e.g. reversible, predictable, smaller footprint, less risk of cumulative impacts).

- Scoped, fit-for-purpose Environmental and Social Impact Assessment & Plan (ESIA & ESMP) needed to analyze the range and interactions of potential risks and impacts.

- For Substantial Risk projects that promote plans and policy reforms a scoped Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) may be required.
Social and Environmental Standards first come into effect.

SES Implementation Plan and Learning Strategy approved by the OPG.

Launch of the updated SES policy.

Approval of the Updated SES and SESP.


Supporting implementation
TRANSITION PERIOD

To facilitate a seamless changeover to the updated SES, a transition period has been introduced. Especially for projects that initiated their preparation process under the 2015 SES, a flexible approach may be required. For these cases the signature date of the Project Document will be the decisive factor in determining the applicability of the 2015 or 2021 SES Policy as shown below:

**Signature Between 01 Jan 2015 – 31 Dec 2020**

Projects will be assessed for compliance against the 2015 SES policy.

**Signature Between 01 Jan 2021 – 31 Dec 2021**

Projects will be assessed for compliance against either the 2015 SES or the 2021 SES depending on which SESP is included in Annex to the signed Project Document.

**Signature On/After 01 Jan 2022**

Projects will be assessed for compliance against the 2021 SES policy and will apply the 2021 SESP.

If these projects undergo a substantive revision after 01 January 2021, they are required to apply the 2021 Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) that is aligned to the 2021 SES policy and will thereafter be assessed for compliance against the 2021 SES policy.

Should this be the 2015 SESP this project will be assessed against the 2015 SES policy.

Should this be the 2021 SESP this project will be assessed against the 2021 SES policy.

Projects that are SESP exempt will be assessed for compliance against the policy that was in effect at the start of implementation.
Regional SES Strengthening Support through dedicated Action Plans.

Expansion of SES Roster for external consultants.

Learning Strategy: Capacity Building, Webinars, Train-the-trainers, Communications Material.

SES Toolkit Update with expanded guidance materials and guidance notes.


Launch of the SES Online Screening Tool and Dashboard.