

UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Template (v. July 2022)

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

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1. Project Title	Women in Politics, Public Administration and Civil Society (WiPPACS)
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	00122149 - 00117856
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	UNDP/RBEC/Armenia
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design
5. Date	1 July, 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 is a standalone gender equality initiative and focuses on promotion of gender equality, women empowerment and women's rights. It will enable women in communities, national and local government and civil society to advance their leadership opportunities and capacities towards more equal, gender-balanced and gender-responsive governance processes in Armenia. The project also enables support models and women in various sectors to contribute to policy making processes and development agenda at the community, regional and national levels. Although the project dwell predominantly on political participation of women, the participatory models it will offer may enable participation of women in broad spectrum of issues, including social, economic and environmental aspects of community development. The right-holders (women leaders, active citizens, civil servants) will be trained to claim their rights, effectively contribute to the local and national decision-making, multiply the knowledge among broader citizenry and popularize human rights. Overall, capacity development activities, knowledge and research products, policy recommendations will be developed based on the human rights principles and with the highlight of those. The project will also apply special effort to reach women in vulnerable and marginalized groups and make them part of the learning and policy development process.

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

Women in Politics, Public Administration and Civil Society is a gender equality project in its core. It addresses women empowerment for their entry or contribution to the local politics, national government and civil society. The project objectives contribute to **Outcome** (UNSDCF, CPD, RPD): **UNSDCF 2021-2025** Outcome 8: All persons benefit from gender equality and equal opportunities to realize their human rights; fulfil their economic, political, and social potential; and contribute to the sustainable development of the country; **CPD 2021-2025** Outcome 3: Output 3.3: Systems/ mechanisms to ensure equal opportunities/ rights to participate in decision making; **Strategic Plan 2022-2025**: Signature Solution 6: Output 6.2; **SDG 5**; 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

To contribute to more inclusive, gender-balanced and gender-sensitive political participation and governance processes in the Republic of Armenia at all levels the project will: (i) advance women’s leadership and political participation in local decision-making via public or civic roles; (ii) strengthen the gender sensitivity and gender responsiveness of public administration system and gender mainstreaming in public institutions at national and local levels; (iii) strengthen the role of civil society in setting agenda, contribution to decision-making and monitoring of governance processes on gender equality, women rights and women empowerment in Armenia. The project will include research, rigorous capacity development models, network and policy dialogue building elements, and development of systemic solutions – mechanisms and practices - for engendered public administration and political processes.

From the point of view of legal environment, societal norms and standards, issues of gender equality and women participation contain sensitivity elements especially for population groups orienting with patriarchal norms and practices. The project will ensure that that overarching intervention strategy both at national and local level is conflict sensitive and is based on a solid understanding of the context/ actors, is nuanced to consider perceptions and cautiously address them, especially during the work in the communities. Regular consultation and coordination with local and national governments, non-governmental organizations working with women, especially from vulnerable and marginalized groups, will be ensured to manifest relevant support elements, which can nudge women rather than prevent them from participation in project activities. One of the elements of transformative approaches proposed by the project is engagement of men (30%) in all capacity development schemes for women. These approaches will enable them to receive the same level of knowledge that women get, and not only get more knowledgeable and informed, but also to become agents of change and enablers of gender equality and women empowerment. Another aspect of sensitivity is the effects of the double crisis of pandemic and conflict, in the results of which new target groups of women emerged who lost a family member in armed conflict and/or became main breadwinners in their households (e.g. in situation of wounded male family member/breadwinner). The project will be attentive to enable these women with empowerment skills to manage and handle the complex situation in their lives and find avenue to raise and defend interests of their families. Third, the political turbulence – both external and internal are continuously may potentially affect the implementation of the project. UNDP, in line with its impartiality approach will secure that all activities, communication and direct work with women is sensitized to the situation and maximum effort applied to avoid any escalation or tension in any kind of communication and collaboration. Facilitative approach will be applied, with extensive consultation with all relevant parties at all ends to ensure smooth and effective work toward achievement of planned results.

The project includes a number of positive women-led actions for social inclusion, mobilization and cohesion aimed to tackle the effects of inequality, change attitudes and behavioral patterns and enable women and youth groups at community level to fully participate in governance. We specifically aim to encourage community members, local and national authorities to promote a sense of belonging, empower people to play a part in improving their communities and promote a culture of inclusive society and active citizenship.

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

The project will also employ small grant schemes for women-led initiatives covering various aspects of governance. In cases when the local initiative has an environmental dimension, the project will ensure that the proper expertise reaches the project implementers both from UNDP and the external parties, and the project contributes to the sustainable community development, even if in small scale. UNDP applies the following standards to all its projects: biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management; climate change mitigation and adaptation; community health, safety and working conditions; cultural heritage; displacement and resettlement; indigenous peoples; pollution prevention and resource efficiency. The WiPPACS project will apply these standards in all relevant actions.

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

One of the key approaches of the project is participatory and user-centric planning and implementation of the programmatic activities, which imply engagement of the key stakeholders in co-design of the solutions, capacity development modules and other. Several formats – community of practices, co-design modalities and similar – help to meaningfully engage stakeholders and allow co-creatory process, which contributes to more effective results of higher relevance, and en

route strengthens the quality of the partnership between UNDP and the stakeholders and builds up the trust. The project will report to the donor on quarterly basis, and to national partner on semi-annual basis. Quartelry meeting between the partners will measure the progress of the project, track the lessons learnt and discuss the context and its implications on project progress and results. Annual Outcome Boards will enable strategic discussion on the project progress, emerging opportunities and obstacles (if any), strengthen the buy-in of the project main stakeholders and beneficiaries. The visibility on the project activities and results will regulary be ensured via UNDP public spaces, including social media.

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: Duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project	I = 2 P = 2	Low	New cadre in the new government might lack respective knowledge and skills	Reach out to all possible local partners. Motivate them to engage, possibly through high profile events, spend more time, efforts and targeted advocacy campaigns at local level. Engage community networks established under various programs
Risk 2: Rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights	I = 2 P = 2	Low	Low level of capacity, especially in rural areas	Support schemes to raise motivation, interest and capacity of women to engage in local governance processes. Raise and cultivate civic responsibility among women and youth. Sensitize decision-makers on the aspects of gender equality at local level.
QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?				
Low Risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
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? <i>(completed, planned)</i>	
<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)	
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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	X		
	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	X		
	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	1 July 2022	Natalya Harutyunyan, Gender Equality Portfolio Manager
QA Approver	1 July 2022	Konstantin Sokulskiy, Deputy Resident Representative
PAC Chair	1 July 2022	Natia Natsvlshvili, Resident Representative

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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? 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)?	N/A
<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>		No
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>		No
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>		No
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