

ANNEX 2. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING TEMPLATE

Project Information

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Project Information | |
| Project Title | Building a resilient social protection system in Armenia |
| Project Number (i.e. Quantum project ID, PIMS+) | 00145866-00133102 |
| Location (Global/Region/Country) | Armenia |
| Project stage (Design or Implementation) | Design |
| Date | 10 April 2023 |

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 joint Action will capitalize on the wide range of partnerships with national and international counterparts around social protection. Leaving no one behind means moving the extra mile, making the extra effort and leveraging extra resources to ensure that progress and economic growth benefits all population groups at a disaggregated level, thus a human-rights based approach to programming will be adopted. These include alignment of interventions with the recommendations and observations of various human rights mechanisms (CRPD, CRC, CEDAW etc.) and national human rights instruments and institutions, and close consultations with established networks, including child protection and women's groups, organizations of persons with disabilities, human rights NGOs, workers' and employers' organizations, as well as beneficiaries. Moreover, among the overarching principles of the Project is to apply design-thinking methodology for designing all project activities, as well as the solutions/services helping to identify what is desirable from a human point of view. By using citizen insights and putting the user in the centre of the creation process, the project will ensure all aspects of human-rights based approach, promoting participation, accountability, non-discrimination and equality, empowerment and legality.

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

Women, especially rural women and those with disabilities, represent an untapped potential and still lag behind men in many areas, including access to and treatment in the labour market, access to basic social services, higher domestic burdens, especially in women-headed households, gender-based violence, and many other forms of discrimination. Social protection has the potential to transform social and economic gender dynamics. Apart from tackling gender equality at policy level, the programme will pay special attention to women's needs through pro-active identification of vulnerable women, especially rural and young women, single mothers and those with disabilities, conducting targeted inclusive needs assessments and supporting their integration in the labour market, expanding the sectoral scope of their labour force participation through development of innovative active labour market programmes. Furthermore, social protection and employment policies and programmes that consider specificities of young men and women, such as concentration in the informal sector and lower contributory capacity, will be tested, including through social assistance and insurance scheme design, strengthening links between benefits and services, and access to active labour market.

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

The Action has embedded sustainability elements throughout its design, including full national ownership of interventions through co-design with UN agencies, use of existing structures and leveraging on ongoing reform processes, as well as clearly defined horizontal and vertical linkages between planned outputs and activities. The Action will seek to forge multi-stakeholder partnerships as opposed to siloed interventions that can mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement and sustainability of interventions.

Moreover, the sequenced approach to Action implementation will allow for translation of various policy reform processes, including revisions in legal framework, mechanisms, SOPs, into coherent administrative data systems and strengthened national capacities at various levels of Government and service delivery, finalized and tested through prototyping and piloting activities. Three levels of sustainability can be outlined:

- *Policy level sustainability- this will be ensured through close alignment of interventions with the Government Programme 2021-2026, Labour and Social Protection Strategy and related sub-strategies, revisions in the Laws on Social Assistance, Child rights, Family Code and related laws, ongoing reform processes, as well as constant engagement of civil society and development partners in shaping the policy agenda for greater ownership.*
- *Institutional level sustainability will be ensured through creation and development of appropriate capacities within line Ministries and affiliated agencies (e.g. USS, NILSR, Nork Center), social service workforce and service providers at national and local level.*
- *Financial level sustainability will be ensured through financed policy reforms as part of the state and community budgets, including their reflection in the MTEF processes.*

Sustainability and scale-up of piloted and prototyped activities will be ensured through participatory design and implementation, as well as solid documentation of key lessons learned and challenges. Moreover, services, programmes and approaches tested in the three target regions, once documented and proven viable and sustainable, will be grounded in the legal and policy framework as finalized programme packages for national rollout and application by the Government. In this regard, the Action will support in creating the necessary preconditions at the national level for appropriate scale-up of community-based interventions, including through regular Government policy-making and budgeting processes.

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

The project is one-of-a-kind in terms of the extended network of stakeholders and partners. At the national level, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs will be the primary owner and stakeholder of the project considering their lead role in strengthening the labour and social protection system in Armenia, including involvement in project design and implementation, with direct participation in decision-making and coordination with line Ministries and partners. The Government of Armenia will be a key stakeholder, considering their coordination and decision-making power, and overall leadership in setting the tone for the resilient recovery and growth agenda, as well as shaping reforms in other sectors that may impact social sector reforms. The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MoTAI), as a key stakeholder in the community consolidation reform and local level service delivery, will be continuously involved in policy and reform discussions to support replication of developed mechanisms across the country. The Ministry of Economy (MoE) as the key institution in charge of development of economic policy in the country, will be a key stakeholder in the design of the Employment sub-strategy and development of active labour market and graduation programmes.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

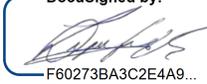
| QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i> | QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding 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 <i>(optional)</i> | Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High |
| Risk 1: No risk identified | I = L = | | | |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [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"/> | <i>Status? (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) |
| <i>Are management plans required? (check if “yes”)</i> | | <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) |

| | <i>Based on identified <u>risks</u>, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?</i> | | Comments (not required) |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | <i>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</i> | | |
| | <i>Human Rights</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <i>Accountability</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <i>2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <i>3. Community Health, Safety and Security</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <i>4. Cultural Heritage</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <i>5. Displacement and Resettlement</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <i>6. Indigenous Peoples</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <i>7. Labour and Working Conditions</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | <i>8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

| Signature | Date | Description |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>QA Assessor</p> <p>DocuSigned by:  F60273BA3C2E4A9...</p> <p>Tigran Tshorokhyan Innovation & SDG Finance team leader a.i</p> | <p>10 April 2023</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>QA Approver</p> <p>DocuSigned by:  2F8B327203914C5...</p> <p>Konstantin Sokulskiy UNDP Armenia Deputy Resident Representative</p> | <p>10 April 2023</p> | <p>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 LPAC.</p> |
| <p>LPAC Chair</p> <p>DocuSigned by:  2F8B327203914C5...</p> <p>Konstantin Sokulskiy UNDP Armenia Deputy Resident Representative</p> | <p>10 April 2023</p> | <p>UNDP chair of the LPAC. In some cases LPAC 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 LPAC.</p> |

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

| Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>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.</p> | |
| <p>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</p> | |
| <p>Human Rights</p> | |
| 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)? |
| | <i>No</i> |
| 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? |
| | <i>No</i> |
| P.3 | Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights? |
| | <i>No</i> |
| <p><i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i></p> | |
| 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? |
| | <i>No</i> |
| 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 |
| | <i>No</i> |
| 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? |
| | <i>No</i> |
| P.7 | exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals? |
| | <i>No</i> |
| <p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</p> | |
| 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)? |
| | <i>No</i> |
| <p><i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i></p> | |
| P.9 | adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls? |
| | <i>No</i> |

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.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 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 | |
| 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, tsunamis 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 |

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.

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 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> | | |

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.

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 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? | <i>No</i> |
| 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? | <i>No</i> |
| 8.2 | the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)? | <i>No</i> |
| 8.3 | the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals? | <i>No</i> |
| 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> | <i>No</i> |
| 8.5 | the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health? | <i>No</i> |
| 8.6 | significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water? | <i>No</i> |