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Health, Safety, Social and Environmental (HSSE) screening

1 message

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To: rashak@unops.org

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Thanks for filling out [Health, Safety, Social and Environmental \(HSSE\) screening](#)

Here's what was received.

Health, Safety, Social and Environmental (HSSE) screening

The Health, Safety, Social and Environmental Management System (HSSE) procedures are mandatory and are designed to meet the requirements and objectives of EOD 3.

As part of the HSSE requirements, projects are screened for their inherent social and environmental risks regardless of planned mitigation and management measures. It is necessary to identify potential inherent risks in the event that mitigation measures are not implemented or fail. This means that risks should be identified as if no mitigation or management measures were to be put in place.

This form will guide you through some preliminary steps to determine if the screening requirement apply to your engagement. If so, you will be directed to the screening questionnaire. Depending on the outcome of this process, the necessary HSSE templates will be generated in your HSSE folder in oneUNOPS Projects.

For any questions, you can contact the HSSE team: hse@unops.org

Your email (rashak@unops.org) was recorded when you submitted this form.

Health, Safety, Social and Environmental (HSSE) screening

Enter your engagement base number *

Example: 12345

23279
.....

Is your project with a site or without a site? *

- ☒ With a physical site
- ☐ Without a physical site

Is the level of Social/Environmental risk already known?

Certain project activities are known to have minimal or no risks of adverse social or environmental impacts; on the contrary, some activities entail a risk of significant or irreversible adverse impacts. Please check the lists below to see if your engagement falls within one of these categories.

List A: Minimal or no adverse environmental or social risks and/or impacts

- Communication and translations
- Small training and workshops
- Management of funds (pass-through and small grants)
- Management of Social Protection activities

List B: Moderate or unknown adverse environmental or social risks and/or impacts

- All projects which are not included in lists A or C.

List C: High adverse environmental or social risks and/or impacts

- Large infrastructure projects
- Dams
- Power stations
- Ports and associated infrastructure
- Airports
- Industrial installations (refineries, chemical installations, nuclear plants)
- Long distance roads, rail, transmission lines (water, power)
- Waste treatment and disposal installations
- Large water and wastewater treatment plants
- River basin or land development
- Large-scale irrigation
- Mining projects
- Large -scale demining, weapons and ammunition destruction projects
- Projects involving significant quantities of hazardous substances

To which option does the project belong? *

- ☐ List A - see above for description



List B - see above for description



List c - see above for description

Has an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) that covers the project already been completed by the government, donors or other partners and is available? *



Yes



No

SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE - POTENTIAL SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

Please complete this Screening Questionnaire that will help determining the level of inherent risk for FOR PROJECTS WITH A PHYSICAL SITE. The questionnaire consists of 24 questions across 9 thematic areas. Some questions may require interdisciplinary or external knowledge, and in those cases you are encouraged to seek advice as necessary.

For any questions, you can contact the HSSE team: hse@unops.org

Biodiversity, Habitats & Management of Natural Resources

1. Will the project directly or indirectly affect fragile, protected or endangered ecosystems or species? *



Yes



No



I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Is the project located in or in proximity of protected areas or other areas classified as vulnerable?
- Can the project cause disruption of wild life migratory routes?
EXAMPLE: A project is planning to build a new commercial road, that may cross through a wildlife sanctuary and disrupt the migratory route of large land animals.
- Can the project cause disruption of natural habits or critical habits such as natural forests, wetlands, estuarine, coral reefs, mangroves, or to endemic species, endangered species and the like?
- Can the project introduce invasive alien species or Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)?

****EXAMPLES:** A project is supporting livelihoods development by teaching fish farming for local youth. However, some alien fish species are used in the project and there is a risk of accidental escapes that would release them into the environment. Another project includes a landscaping plan in its infrastructure plans; it is a common practice in the area to utilize alien and potentially invasive species in re-vegetation. ******

2. Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the project involve significant physical changes, such as topography or land use (e.g. construction camps, housing, etc.)? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Will the project require the acquisition, conversion or degradation (also temporary) of significant areas of land?
- Is there reason to believe that the project site has been converted with negative impacts on biodiversity and natural resources in anticipation of the project?

****EXAMPLE:** A project is planning a construction on a brownfield area. However, after stakeholders consultation it emerges that the land was a natural habitat part of the neighbouring forest, that has recently been cleared to prevent any objections to the project. ******

3. Is the project likely to cause adverse impacts to water resources and soils? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Is the project located directly on coastal or river embankments?
 - Will the project involve extraction, diversion or containment of surface or groundwater?
- **EXAMPLE:** A project involves the development of a small hydroelectric plant; impacts on water quality, biodiversity, water flow and access to water for impacted populations need to be analysed. ******
- Is the project likely to cause soil erosion, siltation or degradation?
- **EXAMPLE:** A project builds a hospital on a hill side, where it is necessary to remove large part of the existing vegetation, which could lead to accelerated soil erosion during the rain season. ******

4. Can the project directly or indirectly impact ecosystems upon which communities rely for food, water, fibres or other basic needs, including cultural and spiritual needs - also known as ecosystem services? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Are the needs of the project likely to exceed temporarily or permanently the capacity of existing ecosystem services (for example, water supply, sanitation systems)?

****EXAMPLE:** To realize a project, it will be necessary to bring a considerable amount of workers from another region of the country. There is a concern that their water consumption together with the water needs of the project will result in water shortages in the area.**

5. Does the project involve harvesting of renewable natural resources (e.g. forest, fisheries, etc) or depletion of non-renewable natural resources? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Will the project involve natural forest harvesting or plantation development without an independent forest certification system for sustainable forest management?

- Will the project involve significant harvesting of living natural resources such as fisheries, plants, livestock, etc.?

- Will the project require (during implementation or after completion) significant amounts of water, energy, raw materials or other non-living natural resources?

Pollution Prevention (from routine, non-routine or accidental sources) and Waste Management

6. Will the project result in a significant (anything more than negligible amounts) production of solid waste? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Will the project result in the production of general waste, directly by the project or by workforce?
- Will the project result in the production of toxic or hazardous waste (e.g. used oils, inflammable products, pesticides, solvents, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, ozone depleting substances)?
EXAMPLE: A project involves the construction and rehabilitation of hundreds km of roads. It is reasonably expected that spills and leaks of oil, asphalt products and paints, etc. will occur.
- Is it foreseen that the project will cause, directly or indirectly, trans-boundary movements of hazardous waste?

7. Will the project cause air pollution? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Will the project generate dust, soil or other small particles pollution on the project site and nearby?
- Will the project emit significant amounts of greenhouse gases?
- Will the project emit significant amounts of other air pollution sources, such as nitrogen oxide, particulate matter (PM), volatile organic compounds, etc?
EXAMPLE: A project involve the installation of a small incinerator, that will produce dioxin, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, hydrochloric acid, heavy metals and fine particles as an output of the combustion process.

8. Will the project cause water pollution? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Will the project produce effluents (waste water)?
- Can the project affect the quality of surface or groundwater? (e.g. discharges, leaking, leaching, boreholes, siltation, excess alkalinity, etc.)

9. Will the project cause soil pollution? *

- ☐ Yes

- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Will the project require use of chemicals (e.g. fertilizers, pesticides, paints, etc.)?
- Is there any risk of accidental spill or leakage of toxic or hazardous material?

Community Health and Safety

10. Does the project have health and safety impacts on local communities? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Will the project be located in a densely populated area?
- Will the project lead to an increase in population movement and (inter-regional) traffic?
- Will the project lead to a temporary influx of workers in the area, and potentially increased spread of communicable diseases or violence?

****EXAMPLE:** A project requires the construction of a fairly large contractor's camp, that will host 200 workers from another region for up to 3 years.**

- Will the project lead to significant population density increase (short and long-term), or in any other way affect environmental sustainability, social infrastructure and ecosystem services?
- Will the project require accommodation or services for the workforce?
- Will the project produce significant noise pollution, disturbing nearest settlement?
- Would elements of project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?

****EXAMPLE:** A project involve the installation of a small incinerator, that may release pollutants and create health risks for the population living nearby.**

11. Is there a significant risk of fire, explosion or other emergency situations? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Will the project be located in an area at risk for presence of landmines and explosive remnants of war?
NOTE: this question is not relevant if the main purpose of the project is to remove the explosive remnants of war.
- Is the project located in an area prone to recurrent natural disasters (e.g. floods, cyclones, landslides, earthquakes, etc.)?

12. Is the project being designed and properly budgeted for full compliance with UNOPS health and safety policies? *

For this question, NO is the risk answer

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know

13. Is the project fully complying with UNOPS requirements on design review and safety of infrastructures? *

For this question, NO is the risk answer

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

To better answer this question, consider:

- Is the project involving high risk infrastructure development, refurbishment or maintenance?
- Could the project lead to increased short-term risks and vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters?
- Could the project result in long-term risks and vulnerability in front of shifting weather patterns, and in maladaptation to climate change?

EXAMPLE: A project is building social houses for informal dwellers. The land selected for the project is not prone to flooding. However, it is low on sea level, and hydrological studies show that vulnerability to floods will significantly increase in a 50 years perspective.

Labour and Working Conditions

14. Will the project involve employment in an environment where there are challenges to the implementation of core labour standards (freedom of association, non discrimination and equal opportunities, elimination of child labour and of forced labour) or of fair terms and conditions of employment? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Is the project implemented in a country that has not ratified one or more ILO Fundamental Conventions?
- Is the project implemented in a country/area where there is low enforcement of applicable national employment and labour laws, and collective agreements?
- Is the project likely to employ directly or indirectly certain categories of workers that may be particularly vulnerable (e.g. women, children, migrant workers)?

****EXAMPLE:** A project involves construction works. It is well known that local construction companies employ migrants from neighbouring countries as cheap manpower.**

Displacement and Resettlement

15. Will the project cause directly or indirectly a situation of legal but involuntary physical displacement (i.e. where the affected person(s) do not have the right to refuse land acquisition)? And/or will the project cause directly or indirectly a situation of involuntary economic displacement? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Will the project displace people with formal rights to land or assets?
 - Will the project displace people with informal but recognisable/recognised rights to land or assets under national law?
 - Will the project displace people with no recognisable rights or claims to the land they occupy or use?
- **EXAMPLE:** A project is implementing a port development on a piece of land that the land owner has agreed to sell in a market transaction. However, the land is currently occupied by shelters of informal settlers belonging to an ethnical minority group, without any legal right to the land.**
- Is there any risks or likelihood that displacement can be caused by project-related externalities (e.g. pollution, impacts on biodiversity, impact on ecosystem services)?

****EXAMPLE:** A project is developing a small waste-to-energy plant; because of the expected fumes and smells from the plant operations, local villagers are forced to abandon their homes and agricultural land around the site.**

16. Is there reason to believe that displacement in anticipation of the project activities has taken place? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

****EXAMPLE:** A project is planning to rehabilitate several of hectares of agricultural land; the projects is expected to raise land productivity in rural areas. During preliminary consultation, it is mentioned that local farmers, in anticipation of the increased land productivity, have evicted a group of tenants with no legal rights to the land, that were previously cultivating the less productive parcels of land.**

Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage

17. Will the project be located in or close to a site of natural or cultural value? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Is the project site known - through stakeholder consultation, historical knowledge or otherwise - to have high probability of presence of cultural or natural heritage remains?

****EXAMPLE:** A project is about to start construction in a valley. During consultation with local villagers, several people report that they routinely find "very old" pieces of pottery and carved stones; and that everyone knows the whereabouts of some "old ruins" in the forest nearby.**

- Have stakeholder consultations identified any natural features with cultural significance in the project area?

- Can the project potentially affect tangible cultural and natural heritage of indigenous people?

- Will the project temporarily or permanently restrict access to cultural heritage sites?

****EXAMPLE:** A project is rehabilitating the main access road to a worship site, that need to remain closed for the duration of the works.**

- Will the project make use of or commercialise tangible elements of cultural heritage?

****EXAMPLE:** A project is providing vocational training for youth, including training on traditional pottery techniques typical of a nearby village, and sale of the final products.**

18. Can the project potentially adversely impact intangible cultural elements such as practices, knowledge, skills, traditions? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Have stakeholder consultations identified any intangible elements of cultural heritage that should be considered by the project?
- Can project potentially significantly affect the cultural traditions of affected communities?
- Can the project potentially affect intangible cultural heritage of indigenous people?

****EXAMPLE:** A project is providing grant support for small entrepreneurs in an indigenous people area. Some of the beneficiaries are planning to sell records of traditional songs to tourists, but the majority of the community opposes the idea as they see it as a desecration of their religious rituals. ******

- Will the project make use of or commercialise intangible elements of cultural heritage?

Indigenous People

19. Are there Indigenous People in the project area or in the project's affected area? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Can indigenous people be negatively affected in their livelihoods (e.g. land ownership issues, access to resources, loss of downstream beneficial uses such as water supply or fisheries) or belief systems as a consequence of the project?

****EXAMPLE:** A project is building a system of small dams, that will reduce the water flow and the amount of fish in an area used by indigenous tribes as fishing reservoir. Furthermore, the dams will flood part of a forest considered sacred by the local indigenous people. ******

- Will the project lead to involuntary displacement of indigenous populations?
- Can the project affect the development priorities of indigenous people, without previously conducting culturally appropriate consultations?

****EXAMPLE:** A project is building a system of small dams, but indigenous people that use the watercourse in the project area in the area are not convinced of the benefits of the projects. ******

Human Rights and Gender Equality

20. Can the project potentially result in negative impacts on the enjoyment of human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of affected stakeholders?

*

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Is there a recent legacy of human rights violations in the project area?
- Is the project implementing arrangement that foresee the use of security arrangements and security personnel?
- Is the project being implemented in communities that are vulnerable to sexual harassment, gender-based violence and/or sexual exploitation and abuse of women, men, girls and boys?
EXAMPLE: A project is being implemented in an area where sexual abuse and exploitation is widespread; the project envisages frequent interactions between local population and members of the military forces.
- Has the risk of human rights violation been raised by any stakeholders (including affected communities and minority groups within) during the project consultations, design, development and implementation?

21. Does this project have the potential for discriminatory impact on particular groups of individuals? (e.g. products or services are inaccessible to certain disadvantaged or vulnerable groups - women and girls; persons with disabilities; racial, ethnic, national or religious groups; indigenous groups; particular age groups, etc.) *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

To better answer this question, consider:

- Is there a risk that the project does not equally consult women, men, girls and boys in the design and implementation, and consider them for the access to opportunities and benefits?
EXAMPLE: A project is building a school; overlooking the design of culturally appropriate sanitary facilities may result girls not attending school.
- Is the project located in a conflict area, or does it have the potential to cause social issues and exacerbate conflicts, for instance, related to land tenure and access to resources?

****EXAMPLE:** A project is building a bridge in an area where tribal violence is common. The suggested location would favour one tribe over the others in the access to disputed pasture land, and could result in a new outbreak of violence.**

- Will the project interact with disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, that may be at risk of further marginalisation or disproportionate adverse impacts?

****EXAMPLE:** A project is designing improvements to sanitation facilities in a slum area, and is planning to consult the municipality and traditional community representatives; however, this approach may not capture the views and the needs of some disadvantaged groups in the community, in particular persons with disabilities and widows.**

General questions

22. Is an Environmental and/or Social Assessment required by the law of the country where project is undertaken? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

23. Is there a risk that the project cannot be partially or fully maintained after handover, thus impacting the delivery of the planned outcomes? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

****EXAMPLE:** A project is planning to build a new health clinic; however, there are concerns that the local government does not have the resources to staff it with doctors and nurses.**

24. Is there a risk that the project fails to perform a meaningful, effective and informed consultation of stakeholders? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ I don't know

Screening questionnaire results

The officer performing the screening should determine the level of risk based on the number of "yes" or "I don't know" answers and on the magnitude of the potential impacts/risks. Indicatively:

- 1 or very few "yes" or "I don't know" = low risk
- between 5 and 10 "yes" or "I don't know" = medium risk
- more than 10 "yes" or "I don't know" = high risk

The number of risk areas should be assessed together with the magnitude of the impacts to determine the risk level. When a risk area is identified, the relative Requirements & Guidance must be consulted and applied.

Screening results *

- ☒ No or very low environmental/social risk
- ☐ Moderate environmental/social risk
- ☐ Significant environmental/social risk

For further guidance, contact hse@unops.org

Recommendation:

There are no formal requirements for this project. However the general principles of UNOPS Policy on Health, Safety, Social and Environmental Management still apply

Before you click submit, please copy the below recommendation and add it to the engagement HSSE recommendation box.

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