



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

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BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Afghanistan	SOUTH ASIA	P178933	
Project Name	Afghanistan NGO/CSO Capacity Support Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Sustainability and Inclusion	Investment Project Financing	6/6/2022	6/22/2022
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		

Proposed Development Objective

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to enhance the capacities of select registered national and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to improve their performance and effectiveness.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	20.00

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

Yes

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

The proposed Project Development Objective is to enhance the capacities of registered national and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and select civil society organizations (CSOs) to improve their performance and effectiveness. The desired outcome is to build the capacities of select NGOs and CSOs, ultimately contributing to sustain the provision of basic services and to provide life-saving support to the most vulnerable populations, in the short to medium term.



The project aims to target NGOs and CSOs that improve basic service delivery and promote socio-economic empowerment of women and girls. Special focus will be placed on women-led NGOs and CSOs, as well as those which programs and activities focus on the socio-economic empowerment of the most vulnerable populations (girls and women; youth; persons with disabilities; etc.). Although non-governmental community platforms are well established (e.g., Community Development Councils, CDCs) and unregistered shuras (community-based councils) and jirgas (tribal assemblies of elders) are also active and are key civil society actors in Afghanistan, these community structures would not fall within the scope of the proposed project.

The project consists of 4 components which all are relevant to ESF. Component 1 (mapping and capacity strengthening of select NGOs and CSOs) will enhance knowledge of the current civil society landscape, including capacity gaps of the NGO and CSO sectors and strengthen capacity of select NGOs/CSOs to implement local service delivery & community mobilization- it will also support on-the-job-training; Component 2 (operational support grants to select NGOs/CSOs) will extend operational ability of targeted national and local NGOs/CSOs to implement on the ground; Component 3 (Development and coordination of NGO platform) the project will support improving coordination structure and increased service delivery effectiveness of the NGO sector [via networking; peer-to-peer learning; technical support]; and Component 4 (Project Management) reinforce project implementation capacity.

The selection criteria are based on two sets of (i) eligibility criteria and (ii) priority criteria and will entail human resource capacity to design, deliver and monitor services:

Eligibility criteria: (i) registered national and local NGOs and CSOs; (ii) active operations for past 24 months; (iii) presence in geographically targeted locations.

Priority criteria: NGOs with track record in health-, education-, agriculture-, livelihoods-related arenas; CSOs led by women and/or working on women socio-economic empowerment and/or vulnerable groups (including youth and people with disabilities).

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

The project will cover all 34 provinces across the eight administrative regions. This project targets first NGOs which have operational and programmatic capacity in education, health, agriculture, and livelihoods and select CSOs that focus on women and the most vulnerable communities. The interventions will be informed/designed based on community needs and the approach will ensure that capacity building activities are demand and task driven, to ensure that NGOs/CSOs can contribute tangibly to the ultimate desired outcome of enhancing basic service delivery.

Project Beneficiaries. Targeted beneficiaries amount to 500 NGOs and 215 CSOs for capacity support and 200 NGOs and 85 CSOs for small grants.

The selection of CSOs will prioritize women led CSOs and CSOs that promote gender equality principles, support girls' and women's empowerment and their access to basic services (education, vocational training, health services, legal services, livelihoods support, access to finance, GBV services, etc.).



D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

UNDP has vast experience implementing projects in other FCV countries. UNDP has implemented the Yemen Emergency Social Protection Enhancement and COVID-19 Response Project (ESPECRP) under the World Bank ESF. They have gained experience in the preparation and implementation of the ESF documents, such as Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Labor Management Procedures (LMP), and the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). Furthermore, the E&S staff has participated in the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) training provided by the World Bank. As the implementing agency in this project, UNDP will establish and maintain a Project Management Unit (PMU) with qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) risks and impacts of the Project. The PMU will include one Environment and Social Specialist (national), Community Engagement/GRM Specialist (national), one Gender and GBV Specialist-international (P3) and one social and environmental specialist (international), including E&S focal points from the NGOs/CSOs selected Small Grants Manager (international), and M&E Expert (National). The Programme Manager (P6) and Programme Management Specialist (P4) in Kabul will also have a role and responsibility in managing the ESHS risks and impacts, along with an International M&E Specialist- International (P3). In the sub-national level, UNDP will leverage its capacities in the eight regional offices/hubs in the implementation of the ESF , including the Area Managers-internationals (P4) who are heading the sub-offices, and the National Programme Officers. In addition, UNDP will provide oversight and assurance capacity through its Afghanistan Country Office, including a Programme Advisor (P5). UNDP has engaged an Environmental& Social and Specialist-International (P3) for preparation of the ESF documents (SEP, ESMP, and de-facto Environmental and Social Management Plan comprising -LMP, COVID 19 infection prevention plan, Security risk management measures , SEA/SH action plan and negative list of activities)-the international E&S specialist will also provide E&S capacity building trainings. Additional UNDP CO, regional and global social and environmental safeguards oversight capacity will be made available to the project as needed. A Capacity Building and Training Plan will be developed after the effective date which will training for relevant UNDP staff, NGO and CSO staff and sub- grant recipients. The capacity building training on ESF implementation will be started within two months after the effective date and to be provided throughout project implementation as needed.

Public Disclosure

II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating Low

Potential environmental risks are considered low given that the project is designed to provide technical assistance in the form of capacity strengthening and general purpose grants to CSOs and registered local NGOs. The grant selection following the negative list to be included in the ESMP that excludes activities with adverse such as environmental and Social impacts, land acquisitions as per the sub-grant selection criteria (overview of sub-grants in Annex 3 of PAD). The approach will be community centered, procurement of IT equipment will be very minimal and small grants for training purposes These activities are expected to be limited in scope and will not pose any environmental risks requiring mitigation measures to be implemented as these remain within skills development and acquisition to enhance and sustain critical livelihoods. There is expected to be positive environmental impacts from this project because support for capacity building and livelihoods will support communities, CSOs and NGOs with skills for income generation which will reduce over exploitation of natural resources and environmental degradation, which could potentially occur without the intervention of this project in this time of critical need and ultra-poverty.



Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The social risks and impacts are moderate, given that it is the aim of the project to enhance the capacities of NGOs and CSOs to improve their performance and effectiveness. The Project’s adverse social risks and impacts are: i) exclusion and discrimination of potential beneficiaries (NGOs and CSOs); ii) risk of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH); iii) risk of resistance from ITA of the approach to prioritize women led NGOs and CSOs given their known aversion to such approaches. iv) risk of non-compliance of labor and working conditions; iv) risk of data insecurity on private information; v) risk of spreading of communicable diseases especially Covid 19; and (vi) Possible occurrence of conflict (including armed conflict) near training facilities and/or terrorist attacks on project staff is also an important contextual risk that may affect safety of the project staff and beneficiaries. Overall, the project will have significant positive benefits in the form enhanced capacity of the local NGOs and CSOs in delivering essential services in the areas of agriculture, health, education, livelihoods, and social protection which are required in Afghanistan.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

The overall Environmental and Social risks of the project are rated moderate. The environmental risks and impacts are rated low and social risks and impacts are rated moderate. The environmental and social risk assessment requirements as required under ESS1 will utilize a negative list which avoids activities that will have negative environmental and social impacts and focus on issues related to Covid 19 infection prevention , Community Health and Safety (CHS) including managing contextual security risks to project workers and communities and an effective Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for beneficiaries (NGOs and CSOs) and workers to raise their concerns, Labor management , and stakeholder engagement activities. UNDP has prepared the Environment and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The SEP includes a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and communication strategy. Within 30 days of project effective date, the UNDP will also develop Labour Management Procedures (LMP). Additionally, UNDP will include relevant environmental and social issues (ESSs 1–10) in the TORs for consultancies, submit to the World Bank to be reviewed and considered when conducting the studies in a manner that is consistent with the ESF as per the project Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). The risk of communicable diseases, including COVID 19, spreading because of face-to-face training will be mitigated by ensuring that appropriate COVID protocol is available and implemented for any such trainings.

The risk of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) will be addressed by incorporating prevention and mitigation measures in the ToRs for consultancies and agreements for small grants transfer to select NGOs/CSOs. The ToRs/small grants agreements will also include requirements for a contractor’s code of conduct (CoC) and requirement for in-depth training, and sensitization of project workers and staff. Project staff will be trained on the behavioral obligations under the CoC. The risk of exclusion and nepotism will be addressed by applying clear and transparent selection criteria and inclusive and participatory decision-making process. The selection criteria will be subject to consultations with key stakeholders. With respect to data privacy, the project will rely on UNDP’s personal data protection policies and procedures. The legal agreement of the project will include personal data protection clauses to ensure adequate protection of personal data processed in line with intercalation best practices.

Public Disclosure



Management of project workers will be conducted consistent with the requirements of ESS2, and this has been addressed through the developed Labour Management Procedures.

The implementation of E&S instruments will be regularly monitored and reported on by UNDP. As part of broader monitoring oversight, the ARTF Monitoring Agent (MA) will be engaged for E&S risk management monitoring. The ARTF MA will provide quarterly reports covering the field level E&S issues.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

UNDP will engage in meaningful consultations with a range of stakeholders including network of NGOs and CSOs, beneficiaries (select NGOs and CSOs), de facto government local central and provincial authorities, UN agencies, including UN Women Afghanistan. This will include mechanisms for information sharing, citizen engagement and beneficiary feedback. A Communication Strategy will be prepared within the first two months of the Project. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been prepared and this will be updated throughout the project. The SEP has identified marginalized and vulnerable groups who need to be consulted. Furthermore, the SEP has included the design of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), including an effective GRM to be responsive to SEA/SH complaints to address concerns by stakeholders and beneficiaries. Key stakeholders include network of NGOs and CSOs, beneficiaries (select NGOs/CSOs). The project will seek direct feedback on the final deliverable, database, and taxonomy of the current NGO and CSO landscape. The results of the rapid mapping and needs assessment will be circulated among beneficiaries to strengthen the final database and effectively close the feedback loop.

Furthermore, public outreach and communication materials will be developed to promote awareness raising among beneficiaries. The eligibility process and selection criteria will benefit from meaningful feedback from stakeholders. Special effort will be placed on seeking direct participation from select NGOs and CSOs to ensure their views and perceptions are well reflected in the project design. Emphasis will be given to CSOs and NGOs engaging vulnerable groups, especially women and other marginalized groups to be empowered and voice their needs, views, and concerns. Finally, to strengthen the voice of vulnerable groups and ensure that beneficiary needs are addressed, the project will continue to engage beneficiaries during the implementation of small grants and capacity building activities and integrate their feedback in future rounds of activities through a beneficiary perception survey that captures perceptions on both outcomes and processes.

Given the context of gender inequality and related risks in Afghanistan, potential risks related to support provided to women led CSOs/NGOs will be carefully and proactively managed and monitored, including through the following:

- All communications, messaging and information on the project will be carefully managed to remain focused on the project's objectives of building NGO/CSO capacity for service delivery and livelihoods support. The Project, in coordination and consultation with the UN Gender Working Group and other partners/initiatives supporting NGOs/CSOs (including women-led), will provide close monitoring and oversight as well as support on sensitization of the project goals, approach, etc. vis a vis the communities and ITA and advocacy/engagement.
- Potential risks to women-led NGOs/CSOs supported by the project, given the context as well as the particular NGO/CSO, will be factored into the selection of the supported NGOs/CSOs. This will include understanding any existing contact or relationship the NGO/CSO has with the Taliban, and how these risks can be managed. The project will not support NGOs/CSOs if there are particular risk factors identified that cannot be readily managed and would exacerbate or compound existing risks if support is provided through the project.



- For selected NGOs/CSOs, related risks and risk management measures will be incorporated into the Low Value Grant Agreement, consistent with the overall ESMP (which will include a SEA/SH action plan) as well as the Security management measures and negative list of activities..
- Capacities for managing this risk, including risks related to gender inequalities, GBV, SEA/SH, will be included in the capacity building support provided through the project.
- Careful and ongoing monitoring of this risk, to also identify any emerging risks or issues, will be conducted as part of the risk management strategy for the project.
- Gender related risk assessments, management measures, monitoring, and capacity building will be further supported by dedicated capacity of the international Gender Specialist, and through implementation of the UNDP Afghanistan Country Office Gender Action Plan.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

The project activities may employ the use of direct workers to be engaged by UNDP-PMU and contracted staff/workers to be engaged through consultancies and NGOs/CSOs staff to fulfill small grants activities. The standard is relevant to address issues relating to labor and working (direct and contracted staff); unsafe working conditions, and potential exposure of workers and communities to communicable diseases such as COVID-19. A shortened and streamlined LMP to be prepared by UNDP will include provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, COVID 19 infection prevention (including personal protective equipment (PPE) , and emergency preparedness and response given potential physical safety risks for project actors due to the FCV context), code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance redress arrangements for Project workers (responsive to SEA/SH), and applicable requirements for grant recipients and contractors.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Not relevant because the project activities are limited to technical assistance and capacity building activities.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The contextual risks of the project pose potential security risks to participating CSOs, NGOs and local communities. UNDP will implement and cause participating NGOs and CSOs to adhere to the UN security protocols and any other measures necessary to ensure consistency with the provisions of the ESF The security risk management measures necessary for the implementation of the Project activities and for the provision of security to Project workers and assets will be included as part of the project operations manual .. The LMP will include a brief description of the UN security protocols and any additional measures.

The SEA/SH risk is moderate. The project activities, especially the capacity strengthening and operational support grants to women-led NGOs/CSOs can cause SEA/SH risk. The Project will develop and implement a SEA/SH action plan, in consultation with women’s organizations. Additionally, project staff will be trained on the behavioral



obligations under the employees’ CoC and SEA/SH action plan implementation. The Project grievance mechanism contains stipulations for sensitive grievances, including those related to SEA/SH. The ESCP also includes appropriate actions with time-bound commitments for mitigation of SEA/SH risk.

The training modules to be developed will also support developing institutional codes of conduct for NGOs/CSOs staff that will include prohibitions against SEA/SH for the entire NGOs/CSOs sector

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not relevant because there will be no land acquisition, restriction on land use or resettlement in the project.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Not relevant because the project activities are not expected to support any construction or rehabilitation activities that would involve the movement of earth (thereby potentially having an impact on biodiversity).

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

This standard is considered Not Relevant as there are no people in Afghanistan meeting the criteria in ESS7 for Indigenous People/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLC).

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This standard is currently considered Not Relevant as the project is not expected to support any construction or rehabilitation activities that would involve the movement of earth (thereby potentially having an impact on tangible cultural heritage), or other activities that could have an impact on intangible cultural heritage.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard is Not Relevant because financial support is provided in the form of grants for humanitarian purposes.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

B.3. Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts

Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework? No

Public Disclosure



Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:

The borrower framework is not being used in this project

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Olivier Lavinal
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Christophe Crepin Cleared on 01-Jun-2022 at 07:00:14 GMT-04:00
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Pablo Cardinale (SAESSA) Concurred on 01-Jun-2022 at 08:49:55 GMT-04:00

Public Disclosure