

## What Projects Must Be Screened?

- As part of UNDP's quality assurance role, UNDP requires adherence to the SES for project activities implemented using funds channeled through UNDP's accounts, regardless of Implementation Modality (e.g. NIM, DIM). With some exceptions (see below), all proposed projects are required to be screened.
- The SESP applies to all development activities not included in the SESP exemptions list below. This includes "projects" supported by different UNDP delivery instruments as outlined in the following table:

<i>Standard Delivery Instruments</i>	<i>SESP applied to:</i>
Development Projects	Project Document
Engagement Facility	Multi-year Workplan
Development Services	Development Services Agreement
<b><i>Other Instruments</i></b>	
Portfolio of Projects	Project Document; if multiple ProDocs, screen each
Initiation Plan	If utilized to initiate or conduct development activities, then "Description of Activities" should be screened

- Projects that consist solely of any of the following functions or activities will be **exempt** from the screening requirement:
  - UNDP serves as Administrative Agent;
  - Preparation and dissemination of reports, documents and communication materials;
  - Organization of an event, workshop, training;<sup>1</sup>
  - Strengthening capacities of partners to participate in international negotiations and conferences;
  - Partnership coordination (including UN coordination) and management of networks; and/or
  - Global/regional projects with no country-level activities (e.g. activities such as knowledge management, inter-governmental processes);
  - Development Effectiveness projects and Institutional Effectiveness projects.
- The exemption criteria apply when they comprise the entire scope of the project, not just one component. For projects that meet the SESP exemption criteria, Project Developers indicate in the SESP Tool that the SESP is not required and indicate the reason for the exemption. The SESP exemption is recorded in the project Design Stage QA Assessment Rating Tool.
- For projects that are not exempt from the screening requirement, all project activities must be screened. Most UNDP projects involve partners that contribute in-kind resources or parallel funding and apply their own policies and procedures to achieve common objectives. Therefore, while UNDP does not ensure compliance with the SES beyond those activities funded through UNDP's accounts, UNDP reviews the entire project for consistency with the requirements of the SES.<sup>2</sup> It is important for UNDP to review all project-related activities (including those directly

<sup>1</sup> For information on best practices in organizing meetings and events in a sustainable manner, see the UNDP Green Meeting and the Sustainable Events Guides, available at <https://www.greeningtheblue.org/reports/green-meeting-guide-2009>

<sup>2</sup> All partners are bound to their respective commitments made within the partnership agreement (e.g. Project Document).

supported by partners) to ensure that potential social and environmental risks of those activities do not compromise the outcomes and outputs of UNDP- supported activities. Where partner-related social and environmental risks are identified, UNDP works with the partner to ensure a consistent approach to social and environmental risk mitigation and management.

- Projects may include physical interventions and on-the-ground activities (e.g. buildings, roads, protected areas, climate adaptation, often referred to as “downstream activities”) as well as planning support, policy advice, and capacity building (often referred to as “upstream” activities which may present risks that are predominantly indirect, long-term or difficult to identify).
- It is also important for Project Developers to consider whether project-related procurement of goods and services may pose social and environmental risks. UNDP’s Sustainable Procurement Policy<sup>3</sup> seeks to maximize environmental, social and economic considerations in the procurement process whenever possible and UNDP’s and UNDP’s General Terms and Conditions for Contracts includes compliance with UNDP’s SES as a condition.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See [UNDP Sustainable Procurement Policy](#).

<sup>4</sup> See [UNDP General Terms and Conditions for Contracts](#) (September 2017), para. 31.