

Targeted Guidance: UNDP SES Standard 3 Community Health, Safety and Security

SES Standard 3 requires that projects seek to anticipate, avoid and minimize and mitigate adverse impacts on the health and safety of affected communities during the project life cycle from both routine and non-routine circumstances. The requirements of this Standard 3 apply to projects that may pose significant risks to human health, safety and security.

Community health, safety and security (abbreviated here as 'CHSS') refers to protecting local communities from hazards caused and/or exacerbated by project activities, including from infrastructure development and construction activities, changes in the nature and volume of traffic and transportation, water and sanitation issues, spread of diseases, use and management of hazardous materials and chemicals, impacts on natural resources and ecosystems, natural disasters, the influx of project labour, and potential abuses by security personnel.

Please note that risks and impacts associated with climate change and disasters, including to project-related infrastructure, are primarily addressed by SES Standard 2 and its accompanying guidance note. Further requirements to avoid or minimize impacts on human health and the environment due to pollution are included in Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency. Occupational health and safety issues are addressed in Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions and its guidance note. See the [SES Toolkit](#) for these resources. In addition, provisions of UNDP's [Construction Works Policy](#) may also need to be considered.¹

This targeted guidance² provides a brief overview on addressing Standard 3 during the project screening, assessment and management process (for more on addressing SES requirements through project screening, assessment and management, see the SES Guidance Notes on the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure, SESP, and on Social and Environmental Assessment and Management in the [SES Toolkit](#)).



This guidance also provides links to existing guidance materials on Community, Health, Safety and Security that may be relevant for addressing various aspects of SES Standard 3. UNDP's SES Standard 3 is well aligned with the relevant requirements of other entities; however it is necessary to ensure that the specific requirements of Standard 3 are carefully reviewed and addressed in project assessments, management planning and implementation.

Brief overview: Addressing SES Standard 3 during project screening, assessment and management

Screening	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screen project concept with SESP. The SESP S3 risk checklist questions ask whether the project would potentially involve or lead to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) (Q3.1) • air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation? (Q3.2)
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¹ UNDP's Construction Works Policy applies to the procurement and delivery of construction and civil Works where UNDP directly implements the project, undertakes works on behalf of other UN Agencies, or provides procurement support services to implementing partners or other partners for which UNDP retains procurement responsibility. It also applies to management projects in respect to building and facility Works services.


² UNDP's SES Guidance Notes provide guidance for implementing UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES). Targeted Guidance provides a short overview of relevant issues and references to existing guidance materials. The SES Guidance Notes (whether comprehensive or targeted) help to explain the relevant policy requirements of the SES; they do not set policy. In the case of any inconsistency or conflict between the Guidance Notes and the SES, the provisions of the SES prevail.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)? (Q3.3) • risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health? (Q3.4) • transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)? (Q3.5) • adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)? (Q3.6) • influx of project workers to project areas? (Q3.7) • engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities? (Q3.8) <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Per the SESP, for each question answered with “yes,” rate significance of potential risks and impacts regarding CHSS (and, together with all identified risks, categorize project).</p> <p> See the section of the SESP Guidance Note on rating significance of potential social and environmental risks by estimating both the potential impact (e.g. consequences if the risk occurs) and likelihood (e.g. the chance of the risk occurring) (see Tables 2-4 for definitions and a scoring matrix).</p> <p> UNDP's Construction Works Policy notes that civil or construction works (which often raise a range of CHSS issues) should be categorized not lower than Moderate Risk (para. 15).</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screening contributes to forming a contextual profile of health and safety conditions in project areas and identification of critical issues regarding, as relevant, potential infrastructure safety; disease transmission; health status and services; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); food security and nutritional issues; hazardous materials management; disaster risks; worker influx; etc.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consider the need for health and safety expertise during project design to address potential CHSS risks and impacts (e.g. health impacts, hazardous materials, structural safety, use of security personnel).</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incorporate design measures to avoid and minimize potential risks and impacts to the health and safety of project-affected communities.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Undertake stakeholder analysis and early, meaningful consultations with project stakeholders and communities to further identify concerns regarding health and safety issues. Ensure project Stakeholder Engagement Plan addresses relevant stakeholders.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update SESP and PRODOC for project appraisal.</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assess potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on the health and safety of communities from hazards caused and/or exacerbated by project activities throughout the project cycle. Consider potential exposure to risks from project-supported infrastructure and structural elements, exposure to health risks (e.g. from pollution, hazardous materials, injuries) and diseases (e.g. water-related, communicable and noncommunicable, nutritional, mental health). Consider both accidental and natural hazards (including from seismic activity, geophysical hazards, risk of extreme weather, slow onset events).</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Take into account differences in risk exposure and sensitivity of women and men, as well as marginalized and disadvantaged groups, including children, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities and indigenous people.</p>


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assessments may include, for example, a hazard assessment, health impact assessment, hazardous materials risk assessment, ecosystems impact assessment, assessment of risks associated with security personnel, etc.) These may be stand-alone assessments or, as is often the case with Substantial and High Risk projects, integrated into a project Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). ✓ Engage qualified and experienced health and safety experts and ensure health and safety assessments are based on good international practice, tailored to the specific sector or activities. ✓ Data collection for health assessments should be conducted according to clear ethical and data privacy protocols, based on consent and respect for local culture. Note that vulnerable and disadvantaged groups may be underrepresented in national health surveys and reports. ✓ For Moderate Risk projects: where potential health and safety risks are limited and well understood, incorporate straightforward mitigation measures into SESP, ProDoc and relevant project contracts. Where potential Moderate Risks regarding health and safety are more complex and less well understood, undertake relevant targeted assessment(s) of potential health and safety issues (e.g. targeted hazard assessment, safety audit, targeted studies on pollution, noise, etc.). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Note that complex Moderate Risk projects may require more than one type of targeted assessment. Also, Moderate Risk projects may need to address more than one SES standard and the various assessment and management planning measures should be coordinated.</i> ✓ For Substantial or High Risk projects, undertake a scoped ESIA (Substantial Risk) or full ESIA (High Risk). ESIA should include appropriate health and safety assessments based on the scoping study of project risks and impacts. ✓ Where an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF, see SES Guidance Note on Social and Environmental Assessment and Management) is being prepared and potential CHSS risks and impacts have been identified, ensure ESMF includes measures for screening, assessment and management for health and safety risks and impacts in subprojects/forthcoming projects once project details and sites are further elaborated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☞ <i>Note that required social and environmental assessments and adoption of appropriate mitigation and management measures must be completed, disclosed, and discussed with stakeholders and in place prior to implementation of any activities that may cause adverse social and environmental impacts.</i> ✓ Ensure meaningful, effective stakeholder consultations are undertaken, including with relevant local and national health and safety regulatory authorities and project-affected communities and individuals. Ensure that relevant information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed and disseminated.
<p>Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure requirements of Standard 3 are reflected in project mitigation and management measures/plans and follow the mitigation hierarchy. S3 requirements include but are not limited to the following (see the referenced S3 paragraph for full details on applicable requirements; key topic highlighted; references to relevant existing guidance are listed in subsequent section): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt measures to avoid and minimize community exposure to health risks (e.g. pollution, contaminated areas/resources) and diseases that could result from or be

exacerbated by programming activities, including water-related³ and vector-borne diseases, and communicable and noncommunicable diseases, injuries, nutritional disorders, mental health and well-being that could result from project activities, taking into consideration the differentiated exposure to and higher sensitivity of marginalized groups, including communities living in voluntary isolation (S3, 6).

- Where **endemic diseases** exist in project areas (e.g. malaria), explore ways to improve environmental conditions that could minimize the incidence of such diseases (S3, 6).
- Where projects involve the provision of health services and/or use of antibiotics, incorporate **antimicrobial stewardship** (S3, 6).
- **Infrastructure design and safety:** Ensure structural elements and services are designed, constructed, operated and decommissioned in accordance with national legal requirements, good international practice, and any relevant international obligations and standards by competent professionals and certified or approved by competent authorities or professionals (i.e. by qualified engineers and professionals; independent certification and approval; appropriate plans for supervision, quality assurance, operation and maintenance, and emergency preparedness; periodic safety inspections and monitoring⁴ (S3, 7).
- Ensure **construction site safety**, including appropriate control of access (e.g. fencing, security), use of appropriate personal protective equipment, safely designed work platforms, appropriate engineering and administrative controls (e.g. detours, traffic calming, signs), and safety barriers (S3, 7).
- Where relevant, potential **traffic and road safety** risks associated with project activities will be identified, evaluated and monitored (S3, 8).

 *Note that the implementing partner needs to promptly notify UNDP and stakeholders of any **incident or accident** related to the project activities that has had (or is likely to have) significant adverse impacts on people or the environment. Immediate measures are to be undertaken by the responsible partner to address and remedy the incident or accident, and to prevent any recurrence. See [SES Guidance Note on E&S Assessment and Management](#) (Section 5.3) and UNDP [Construction Works Policy](#) (paras. 85-86).*

- Wherever feasible, ensure that the concept of **universal access** is applied in the design and construction of facilities and services open to or provided to the public on an equal basis with others (see guidance below) (S3, 9).

 *Note that UNDP's [Construction Works Policy](#) further requires that newly constructed Works, structural additions, or major renovations must be planned, designed and constructed so as to be accessible to persons with disabilities, including incorporating building codes that meet international and local standards for universal access, wherever possible (para. 31). In addition, necessary supporting provisions are to be incorporated in the design and procurement of Works (para. 32) and newly constructed Works must be planned, designed and constructed to be gender responsive to the different needs and constraints of women and men. The design must remove barriers to access and the use of Works and related services by women, as well as enhance women's safe access and use (para. 33).*

- Where avoidance is not possible, minimize potential community exposure to **hazardous materials and substances** that may be utilized in or released by project
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³ See for example the UNECE/WHO [Protocol on Water and Health](#).

⁴ If structural elements must be situated in a high-risk location (e.g. seismic activity, risk of extreme weather or slow onset events), then independent experts with relevant experience are engaged to review the relevant project activities as early as possible prior to construction and throughout the project cycle (S3, 7).

activities (including use, storage, handling, transport, disposal). Consider the need for Hazardous Materials Management Plan (S3, 10).

- Ensure that the implementing partner, in collaboration with appropriate and relevant authorities and third parties, is prepared to respond to accidental and **emergency situations** in a manner appropriate to prevent and mitigate any harm to people and/or the environment in the context of project activities and areas. Consider the need for Emergency Response Plans (S3, 11).
- Ensure that appropriate measures are taken, including by project contractors, to avoid, mitigate and manage the risks and potential adverse impacts on health and safety of communities arising from the **influx of project-related workers** into project areas (e.g. transmission of communicable diseases, sexual violence and harassment, crime and public safety, environmental impacts and pressure on limited resources. Consider need for labour influx management plan and codes of conduct (S3, 12).
- Where project activities may adversely impact **ecosystem services** despite avoidance and minimization measures, adopt appropriate mitigation measures that aim to maintain the value and functionality of ecosystem services of relevance to local communities, paying special attention to avoid causing or exacerbating potential adverse impacts on marginalized and disadvantaged groups (S3,13).
- Ensure that potential risks posed by **security arrangements** to those within and outside the project area have been assessed and that those providing security are appropriately vetted, trained and supervised, and that security arrangements are appropriately monitored and reported (S3, 14).

Ensure CHSS management measures/plans are integrated into project's overall monitoring plan, proportionate to the nature of the project, the project's social and environmental risks and impacts, and requirements to comply with Standard 3.

Revise SESP during project implementation where (a) new information becomes available, (b) there are substantive changes to the project, or (c) changes in project context might alter the project's risk profile. If re-screening results in a higher risk profile, revised SESP needs to be reviewed by the Project Board or a subsequent PAC and the project Risk register updated. Additional assessment and/or management measures regarding CHSS risks and impacts may need to be developed and implemented.

Existing guidance materials on addressing project-related Community Health, Safety and Security risks and impacts

Topic	Issues/concerns	Resources
General Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased community exposure to risks and impacts from project activities, equipment, infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank, Guidance Note for Borrowers on ESS4 Community Health and Safety (2018) IFC, Guidance Note on IFC PS4 Community Health, Safety, and Security (2012, private sector focus)
Community exposure to health risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disease transmission Exposure to pollution, contamination Hazards and injuries Anti-microbial resistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHO, Guidance on Health Impact Assessments. See also ADB, Health Impacts Assessments: A Good Practice Sourcebook (2018) and IAIA, Health Impact Assessment: International Best Practice Principles (2006). UNDP, Guidelines on Integrating Health and Gender into Environmental and Social Impact Assessments in Sub-Saharan Africa (2017) shows how to strengthen the integration of health into ESIA so that, meaningful cost-effective management and mitigation plans can be developed. World Bank Group, Environmental, Health, Safety Guidelines (EHS). EHSs are technical reference documents with general and industry-specific examples of Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) which contain pollution prevention, performance levels and measures across a range of sectors. See EHS Guideline 3.0 on Community Health and Safety that addresses range of relevant issues (e.g. water quality, structural safety, life and fire safety, disease prevention) FAO, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). See materials on risks of antimicrobial resistance and good practices in food safety, plant production, animal health, fisheries and aquaculture, environment. See also SES Guidance Note on Standard 1 on Biodiversity and Sustainable NR Management regarding animal welfare and AMR (sec. 5.1.12) UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health.
Infrastructure design and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structural integrity and safety Construction site access and safety Traffic and road safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank, Guidance Note for Borrowers on ESS4 Community Health and Safety (2018), see section on infrastructure and equipment design and safety. EBRD, Briefing Note BN05 Setting Up a Safe Site (2021) outlines key considerations on setting up safe construction sites. ILO Code of Practice Safety and Health in Construction (1992). World Bank, Good Practice Note on Road Safety (2019). See materials on road safety assessments and examples of mitigation measures.

<p>Universal access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of access to facilities and services by persons with disabilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN DESA, Disability and Accessibility Resources. See range of guidance materials on accessibility, mainstreaming disability in development, urban development, information services and other categories. World Bank, Design for All: Implications for Bank Operations (2008) discusses universal design, costs and sector-specific approaches.
<p>Hazardous materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure to hazardous materials and substances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WBG, EHS Guideline 1.5 Hazardous Materials Management sets out guidelines for projects that use, store, handle, or transport any quantity of hazardous materials, including Hazardous Materials Management Plans.
<p>Emergency preparedness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepared to respond to accidental and emergency situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank, Guidance Note on ESS4: Community Health, Safety and Security (2018). See discussion of Risk Hazard Assessments and Emergency Response Plans.
<p>Influx of project workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicable diseases Sexual violence and harassment Crime and public safety Environmental impacts and pressure on limited resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank, Good Practice Note on Managing the Risks of Adverse Impacts on Communities from Temporary Project Induced Labor Influx (2021). See detailed screening questions, discussion of labor influx management plans, examples of mitigation measures, contractor responsibilities.
<p>Impacts on ecosystem services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss/degradation of ecosystem services that affect health and safety (e.g. water purification, natural flooding buffers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP, SES 1 Guidance Note on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management, including section 4.1.2 regarding impacts on ecosystem services.
<p>Security-related issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abuse by project-related security personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Bank, Good Practice Note on Assessing and Managing the Risks and Impacts of the Use of Security Personnel (2018). See sample questions for security risk assessments, annex on security management plans, site visit protocols. IFC, Use of Security Forces: Assessing and Managing Risks and Impacts: Guidance for the Private Sector in Emerging Markets (2017). See templates for ToR for security risk assessment and security management plans, contract provisions. UN, Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and Guidance Note on UN Support for non-UN Security Forces and Guidance Note (2015). Policy applies to support for state security forces (not private security companies), sets out risk assessment and mitigatory measures.