



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Partners:  UK Government



Accelerate-to-Demonstrate (A2D) Facility

Webinar Series on Good Quality Demonstration Projects

*Webinar: GESI and ESS for Good Quality
Demonstration Projects*

Webinar Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
13:30 – 13:35	Webinar Series and Webinar Introduction Overview of the A2D Facility
13:35 – 13:40	What are the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) Policies and Procedures of UNIDO? How can ESS be Embedded along the Project Cycle?
13:40 – 13:50	What are the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Institutional Policies of UNIDO and UK? How can GESI be Embedded along the Project Cycle?
13:50 – 13:55	Case Study (A2D Facility-Supported Demonstration Project)
13:55 – 14:00	Further Information

A2D Facility Overview

Objectives

The **A2D Facility** aims to **accelerate the commercialization of innovative climate solutions** in developing countries by supporting catalytic and scalable ‘lighthouse’ demonstration projects in:

- Clean hydrogen
- Critical minerals
- Smart energy
- Industrial decarbonization



Initial Funding and Timescales

- **Initial contribution of ~USD 85 million** from the UK Government
- Initially operates from **April 2023 to March 2029**
- Global (**developing country-focused**) Facility
- **Grants of USD 1-5 million** per demonstration project for ~3-year projects
- **First cohort of demonstration projects** supported through first call-for-proposals in 2024 (in Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Nepal and Tanzania)
- **Second cohort of demonstration projects** supported through second call-for-proposals in 2025 (in Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria and South Africa).
- Main Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**)-of-focus:

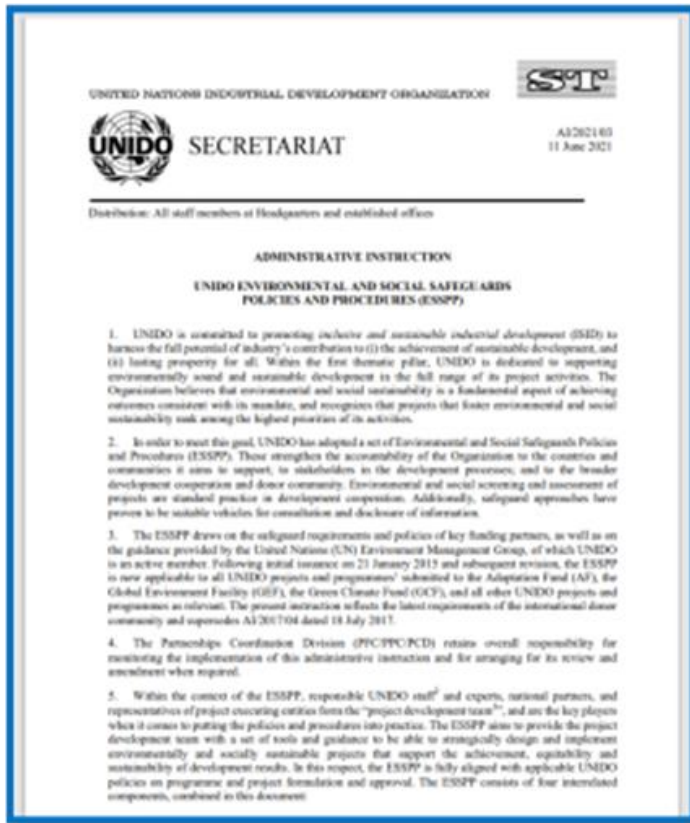


Activities bringing **transformational solutions** to the market at scale.

Providing grant support for implementing transformational demonstration projects with strong scalability potential, and which create and **disseminate knowledge and experiences** to foster collaboration, learning and scalability. Planning-related activities for demonstration projects are out-of-scope.



What are the Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies and Procedures of UNIDO (ESSPP)?



ESS are policies, standards, and operational procedures to identify and mitigate negative environmental and social impacts in development projects to:

- Provide guidance to project teams on managing unintended impacts.
- Help ensure sustainability and accountability in all project phases.
- Identify and manage E&S risks, maximizing positive outcomes and co-benefits for ecosystems and local communities.

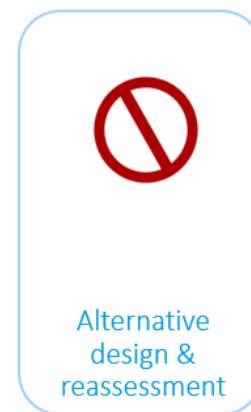
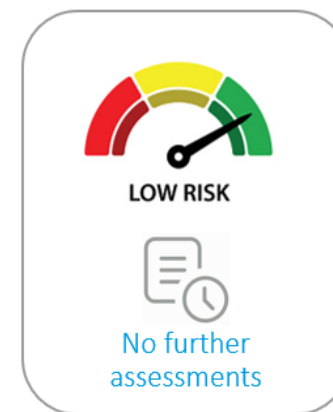
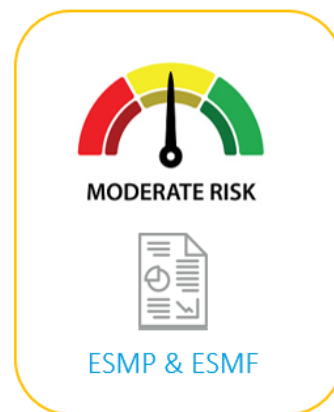
1. **Policies and principles:** UNIDO's commitment to and responsibility for Environmental and social Safeguards.
2. **Procedures and tools:** Safeguard requirements and tools that project teams are expected to apply.



What are the Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies and Procedures of UNIDO (ESSPP)?

Why is project categorization important?

- Determines the level of **environmental and social risk** in a project
- Ensures **appropriate safeguards** are applied.
- Helps project teams plan for potential challenges **early**
- Guides the **required documentation** and approval process





How Can ESS be Embedded Across the Project Cycle?

Grievance Redress Mechanism

- Operational Grievance Redress Mechanism
- Ensure that communities have access to information and effective channels to raise, resolve, and escalate grievances

Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

- Ensure that continuous monitoring of ESIA/ESMP implementation and data collection are reflected in project's output indicator on ESS (quarterly reporting, annual reporting, include verification system)
 - GESI-disaggregated data collection

Stakeholder Engagement Consultations

- Inclusive stakeholder engagement ensures that women, youth, indigenous people and local communities, marginalized groups are meaningfully involved in ESS assessments and Baseline Studies
 - Engage ESS experts and budget allocation
 - Social License to Operate



Project ESS Risk Screening

- Environmental and Social (E&S) Screening

ESS Risk Categorization

- ESS Categorization A, B or C (in accordance with UNIDO ESSPP)

ESS Risk Mitigation Strategy

- E&S Assessments depending on categorization received: either ESIA, ESMP or ESMF (any other relevant ESS assessments: IPs, FPIC)



What are the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policies of UNIDO?

Core UNIDO Documents:

- UNIDO Policy on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women ([2019](#))
- UNIDO Strategy for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women ([2024-2027](#))
- UNIDO Medium-term Programme Framework ([2026-2029](#))
- UNIDO Youth Empowerment Framework ([2026-2029](#))
- UNIDO Policy on Disability Inclusion ([2025](#))
- [UNIDO 21st General Conference Resolutions](#) reaffirms MS commitment to GEEW and proclaims 21 April as International Day of Women in Industry

Other Documents-of-Relevance:

- UK Government's International Women and Girls Strategy ([2023-2030](#))
- UK International Climate Finance Guidance Note for delivery partners: integration of gender equality, disability and social inclusion ([2025](#))

UNIDO-Wide Vision:

- Women and men equally lead, participate in, and benefit from inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID)

UNIDO-Wide Goals:

- Increase women's participation in industrial value chains
- Improve women's access to skills, technology and finance
- Promote gender-responsive policies in industrial sectors
- Ensure gender-balanced leadership in UNIDO projects



What are the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policies and Procedures of UNIDO?

GESI Unaware

- Ignores gender and social inequalities
- Reinforces harmful norms and exclusion
- Risks unintended harm to women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, and other marginalized groups



A2D Facility does not support projects at this level

GESI Sensitive

- Recognizes different roles, needs, and constraints
- Mitigates negative impacts and addresses practical needs
- Uses gender- and socially-disaggregated data
- Supports participation in implementation
- Lacks specific/target actions



Baseline

GESI Empowering

- Goes beyond practical needs to address systemic barriers.
- Promotes: women's leadership and decision-making, inclusive energy and industrial workforces and removal of cultural and institutional constraints



Encouraged - Preferred Direction

GESI Transformative

- Seeks structural and systemic change
- Actively dismantles known power imbalances
- Embeds intersectionality across the full project lifecycle
- Aims for: equal leadership and representation, inclusive policy influence, value-chain-wide equity

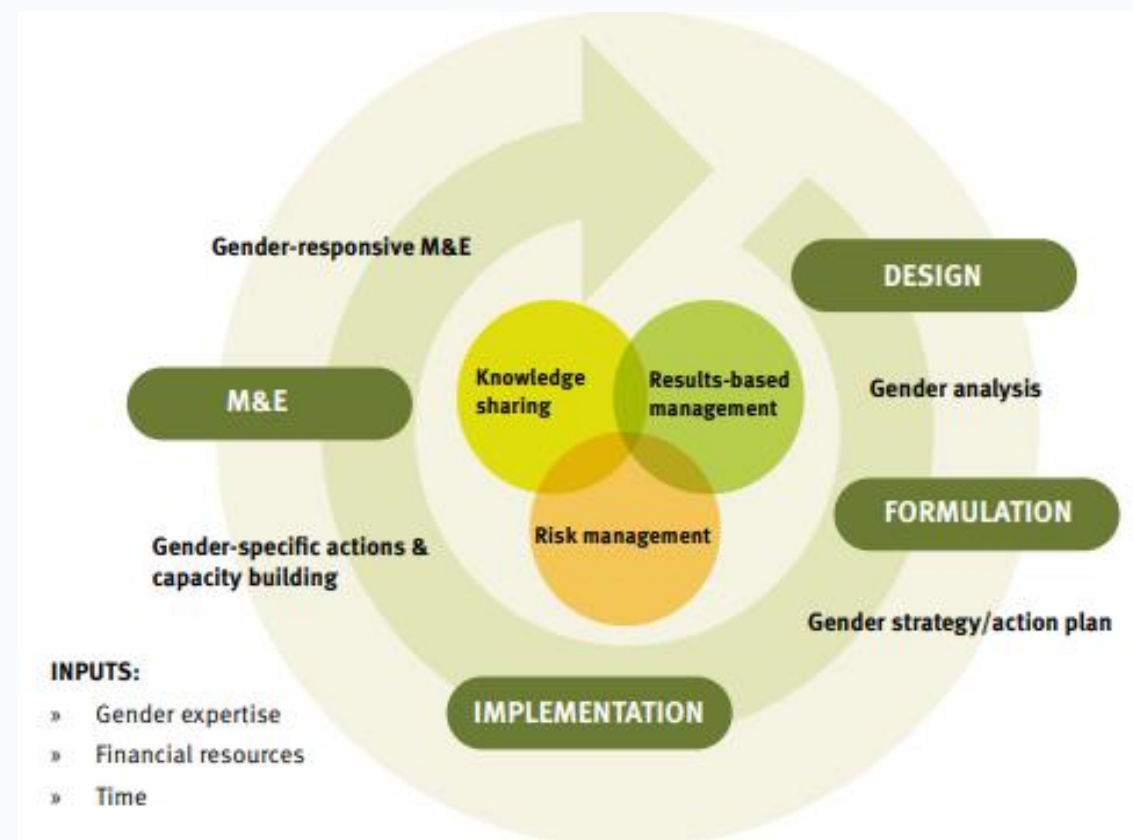


Long-Term Ultimate Ambition

How Can GESI be Embedded Across the Project Cycle?

A good quality demonstration project would include the following:

- **Gender & Social Analysis:** gender and social disparities, inequalities and specific needs within the project context are identified in detail and informed by GESI-sensitive stakeholder consultations. Conducts a detailed GESI impact assessment of the project to estimate the positive/negative/risk impacts.
- **GESI Action Plan:** defines clear objectives, activities, timelines, responsibilities, indicators, milestones, budget allocation for GESI and hires GESI expertise to implement the action plan. Promotes gender & social-empowering capacity building.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** GESI performance indicators to measure progress assessing the impact of GESI interventions: OECD Gender Maker (Scoring 1) and UNIDO Gender Marker (Scoring 2).





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Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Framework



Partners: UK Government



Environmental and Social Management Framework



Case Study: A2D Facility-Supported Demonstration Project



Grid Resilience Through Intelligent Photovoltaics and Storage in Nepal

A scalable “lighthouse” demonstration of solar PV combined with energy storage for steel industry decarbonization with smart energy management at the Laxmi steel plant.

Impacts:

- 2,800 tCO₂ GHG emissions reduction.
- Over USD 1.3 million in savings.
- Strengthened industrial grid reliability and operational continuity.
- Over 500 people trained (50% women and marginalized groups), enhancing skills and jobs.
- ESS measures are applied throughout, reducing environmental and social impacts.



*Integrated Solid Waste Management Training
(Zone of Influence)*

Duration: 3 years

Targeted Interventions:

- A 50% target for women and marginalized groups (Tharu, Dalit, Migrants) in technical training.
- Collaboration with government agencies, industry leaders, and local communities to ensure climate action and social inclusion go hand in hand.
- Building the confidence of women and marginalized groups to co-create solutions and hold decision rights through agency-based empowerment trainings

Intersectionality:

- Moving beyond one-size-fits-all by analyzing how caste, ethnicity, age, and disability intersect to create unique barriers.
- Applying intersectionality lens across baseline studies, capacity needs assessments, and gender audits to update GAP.

Systemic Mainstreaming:

- Embed GESI into the institutional policies of our private sector partner, Steel factory to dismantle barriers.
- Capacity building of local government through trainings and sensitization workshop on GESI planning and GRB.
- Developed project specific GESI code of conduct for inclusive procurement and partnership, training, capacity building and events, communication and knowledge products, GESI in monitoring, evaluation, and learning, safeguarding with PSEAH, GRM and Code of conduct for data collection.
- 10% weightage for GESI-compliant suppliers.
- Establishing inclusive and integrated GRM.
- Launched a Digital Sex-Disaggregated MIS.



Case Study: A2D Facility-Supported Demonstration Project

ESS Activities Undertaken to Date:

- ESS screening, ESS categorization and ESS baseline study completed
- Key findings of ESS baseline study:
 - PM10 and PM2.5 are high within the factory, and gradually decrease toward nearby settlements (remain higher than WHO).
 - Sound levels in production areas (78–82 dB(A)) are near the occupational limit of 85 dB(A).
 - Surface water quality monitoring of the nearby stream (Kajara Khola), shows minor downstream deterioration in suspended solids and oil/grease.
 - Ethnically diverse, including Hill Brahmin, Magar, Tharu and Dalit groups; Chepang and Mushar.

Initial Community Concerns and Expectations:

- **Primary concerns:** identified dust, smoke (especially at night), solid waste management and traffic safety as key environmental concerns.
- **Project expectations:** Stakeholders expressed strong interest in capacity building for women-led cottage industries, agricultural support (soil testing and composting) and tourism development around Devdaha Lake for boosting local economy alongside addressing environment risks.
- **Employment:** there is a high demand for prioritizing local employment opportunities at Laxmi Steels and corporate social responsibility support from industry.



ESMP:

- ESMP has targeted improved performance in the following UNIDO Operational Safeguards:
 - OS 1 (Environmental and Social Assessment)
 - OS 8 (Labour and Working Conditions)
 - OS 9 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention)
 - OS 10 (Community Health, Safety and Security)
 - OS 11 (Information Disclosure)
 - OS 12 (Accountability and Grievance System)
- In addition, OS 2 (Protection of Natural Habitats and Biodiversity), OS 4 (Indigenous People), and OS 6 (Cultural Heritage) will be improved whilst implementing benefit augmentation measures.

Achievements to Date:

- Inclusion of ESMP clause in bid documents (OS 1).
- Conducted IISWMT (OS 9 and OS 10).
- Sensitization for installation of fume extraction plant (OS 9).
- Establishment of Grievance Redress Mechanism (OS 12).
- Meaningful consultation with stakeholders and inclusion of IPLC in ESMP preparatory phase (OS 11 and OS 12).



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Further Information

- **A2D Facility Website:** [Visit the website here](#)
- **A2D Facility LinkedIn Account:** [Follow the LinkedIn page here](#)
- **A2D Facility Mailing List:** [Join the mailing list here](#)
- **A2D Facility Year 1 Annual Report:** [Access the Annual Report here](#)
- **A2D Facility Year 2 Annual Report:** [Access the Annual Report here](#)
- **A2D Facility Market Assessments:** [Access the reports here](#)
- **A2D Facility GESI Framework and Environmental and Social Management Framework:** [Access the documents here](#)