Social Impact Risk Initial Screening and Diagnostic Tools

A Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter 201

Analytical thinking about the social impact[1] of USAID programs should be a part of all Agency strategy, project, and activity design processes. Analytical thinking about the social impact of USAID programs is mandatory for all activity designs (see ADS 201.3.4.4), and Missions must document this through the below Social Impact Risk Initial Screening (SIRS) tool. Design teams should include the SIRS as part of the Activity Approval Memorandum (AAM) (see ADS 201mai). At the strategy level, the Social Impact Risk Diagnostic (SIRD) is optional (see ADS 201.3.2).

When completing the SIRS, the design team should:

- Consider appropriate expertise and information needed to answer the questions;

- As appropriate, design consultations in a manner that supports understanding the potential social impacts of an activity and in answering the questions in the SIRS;

- Identify and document gaps in understanding and information associated with social impacts;

- Identify methods to increase benefits to the entire community; and

- Identify and design a course of action, including mitigation and monitoring, to address the social impacts, if needed.

The initial screening tool will help Missions plan for, mitigate, or monitor potential adverse social impacts and help design teams identify where more systematic Social Impact Assessments (SIAs) may be necessary to adequately understand the social impact and/or unintended consequences of a new design. SIAs should only be as detailed as necessary to adequately understand the social impact and/or unintended consequences of a new design. For additional resources and information, please see USAID's Social Impact Assessment Principles. For additional technical assistance, guidance, and support for a systematic social impact analysis, please email **socialimpacts@usaid.gov**.

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[1] Social Impacts are changes from the baseline condition, as a result of a USAID action, to individuals and communities in the way they live, work, play, relate to one another, organize, and manage as members of their society. Those changes may be in people's way of life, culture, community, political systems, environment, health and well-being, personal and property rights, and fears and aspirations. (https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/USAID-Social-Impact-Assessment-508.pdf)

Question:	Yes/No	Notes (can include decisions, rationale and sources of evidence, follow-on actions)
1. Does your activity design or approach have the potential to **adversely impact or exclude** any underrepresented or marginalized communities?[2]		
2. Are there any **systematic discrimination, physical barriers,** or the **potential for human rights violations** such as labor rights or sexual exploitation, that might hinder access to your activity or its services?		
3. Is there potential that your approach may not **equitably distribute livelihood benefits or risks or may economically disadvantage anyone**?		
4. Is there potential for your approach to negatively affect how people access, use, and benefit from **land, natural resources, or ecosystem services**?		
5. Is there potential for your activity design or approach to negatively affect **cultural heritage** (tangible and/or intangible) **resources**?[3]		
6. Are there **Indigenous Peoples**[4] or **Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities** that use or live nearby any of your planned programming sites?		
7. Does **existing conflict or instability** affect your program planning or the proposed sites where the program will be implemented?		
8. Could your activity contribute to **increased**		

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[2]Communities may include, among others, ethnic/linguistic/racial/religious/caste groups, LGBTQI+ people, persons with disabilities, women and girls, youth and/or children, older persons, or groups identified as underrepresented or marginalized in the country/context where you work.

[3] May include structures, spiritual sites, burial grounds.

[4] USAID OUs and staff should identify Indigenous Peoples as guided by the Policy on Promoting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Optional Toolkit on Identifying Indigenous Peoples.

Question:	Yes/No	Notes (can include decisions, rationale and sources of evidence, follow-on actions)
repression in any area where USAID programming will be implemented?		
9. Will the proposed programming have the potential to impact **worker** and **community wellbeing, health** and **safety**?		
10. Has the activity design considered protection/safety risks (such as sexual exploitation and abuse and child abuse, exploitation, or neglect) to program participants and their communities? Contact safeguarding@usaid.gov for technical assistance.		

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