

Tool 2a. The Simplified Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). Verification Assessment.

INSTRUCTIONS:

How to use this tool:

This tool is **valid for both We Effect and partner organisations.**

- ▮ First, use the Tool 1 (ESIA screening assessment) to define whether use the tool 2a (simplified ESIA) or 2b (full ESIA) in the sub-programme / project.
- ▮ **In any case, it is recommended that a simplified ESIA should be conducted before funding is secured as part of the project development/design stage as part of the context analysis for an application/proposal. Also, because it can happen that the findings in the simplified ESIA informs the need of the development of the full ESIA.**
- ▮ If a full ESIA is required, the simplified ESIA is a starting point for it.
- ▮ **Who needs to be involved in this assessment to determine a simplified or full ESIA for a funded project?**
 1. The We Effect **project leader/Programme Director (i.e. the person responsible for implementing the project/programme)**
 2. The involved partner organisation(s), and
 3. The ECCR focal points or the Global ECCR Advisor.

How to answer the questions:

This tool includes mandatory and optional questions. **The optional questions are specifically marked, and all other questions are mandatory.**

The optional questions consider specific issues such as the rights-based approach, shrinking civic space and conflict sensitive approach. You are strongly encouraged to ask partners to complete the optional questions as well.

Please use the probing questions under each question as a guide.

Impacts of the sub-programme on the area

1. What is the focus of the sub-programme / project (it can be multiple options)?

- ☐ Advocacy activities
- ☐ Farm-led / production activities
- ☒ **Construction activities**
- ☐ Capacity building activities
- ☐ Value chain activities / activities at factory level

2. Is ECCR the principle focus of the programme/project?

Yes / No / Unclear **NO**

3. What is the problem that the sub-programme / project aims at solving?

Based on the field visits and meetings conducted during the month of July 2021, we found that around 2000 individuals reside in Al Zbidat community with no access to waste water treatment or disposal measures. In most cases, the effluent discharged from the houses is channeled through open channels to communal cesspits that would leak directly to the underground polluting the shallow fresh water reservoirs, or overflow to the nearby agriculture land.

On the issue of access to fresh water, there's an increasing competition on the fresh water resources among the residents of the communities in the Jordan valley, and nearby palm plantations. The need for fresh water for human daily needs is ever increasing. In parallel, more palm plantations are being established, resulting in more pressure on already- dwindling fresh water supplies.

4. How will the sub-programme / project solve the problem?

The Jordan Valley in general, and Al Zbidat community in particular, face serious health hazards due to the lack of waste water collection and disposal systems. These communities dispose of their waste water by pumping it directly into cesspits that overflow to the streets and nearby agricultural lands. These cesspits are not pumped continuously, so they're usually full, and leak directly to the underground water polluting the already scarce water resources.

The Pilot Project plans to implement advance technological solutions to treat the waste water effluent coming out from some of the houses in the community. The plan is to install one unit per multiple houses, covering at least 30 houses, with around 150 individuals.

The treated effluent is then to be transported by carrier pipes to be used in the irrigation of nearby palm plantations.

5. Could the sub-programme / project have any negative effects on the environment, including the climate or increase vulnerability to disasters?

No negative effects are anticipated on the environment.

6. Has the sub-programme / project been adjusted to avoid, or reduce, and manage the negative effects on the environment?

☐ **Yes. Please fill in the ESIA management matrix below.**

☐ No. *Please explain why. No more than 100 words.*

7. Could the sub-programme / project offer any positive contributions to an environmentally sustainable environment?

The intervention is anticipated to have a host of positive impacts that would lead to an environmentally sustainable ecosystem. To name a few:

- 1. The intervention will solve a huge environmental problem represented by open waste water cesspits that represents a serious environmental hazard,*
- 2. The intervention will remove a personal safety hazard represented by open waste water cesspits that have claimed the lives of animals, and is considered a serious personal risk to humans, mainly children playing in the area,*
- 3. The intervention is posed to resolve a big health safety hazard resulting from diseases carried out with mosquitoes and flies from the open waste water cesspit to nearby houses,*
- 4. The intervention would have a positive impact on nearby palm plantations as they currently suffer from lack of irrigation water,*

8. Has the sub-programme / project been adjusted to enhance the positive contributions on the environment?

☐ **Yes. Please fill in the ESIA management matrix below**

☐ No. Please explain why. No more than 100 words.

Optional questions: Please note 9, 10 and 11 are optional although you are strongly encouraged to answer the questions.

9. We Effect defines a conflict sensitive approach as: (1) analyzing and understanding the context and the impact of conflict or risk of conflict, (2) ensuring that our intervention or programme at a bare minimum does no harm, but also that the programme is adapted to minimize negative and maximize positive impacts on conflict and peace. We Effect considers conflict-affected countries to range from countries with civil wars to contexts in which conflict amongst communities is less obvious, but communities face threats and insecurity, which might escalate into conflict and violence. We Effect recognizes gender inequality as a driver of conflict and therefore, in adopting a CSA, the organization works to shift harmful social norms that perpetuate gender inequality. This is particularly important in all We Effect projects in recognition of the multiple stigma and exclusion that women can experience. We Effect also tries to ensure that sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) is addressed in programming. **Based on this definition could the sub-programme/project worsen the impact of conflict or increased the vulnerability or risk to any population or group?**

The proposed intervention acts in a way that releases the social pressure, and reduces conflict within the targeted community. Currently, the community faces serious social unrest due to the management of waste water coming out of their homes. Families go through a lot of tension due to payments of monthly pumping waste water out of the cesspits, and who's supposed to pay, and how much per family. According to the community, the whole issue of management of waste water is one of the main causes of social unrest.

10. What has been proposed to ensure a conflict sensitive approach in this sub-programme/project?

The proposed intervention has no impact on conflict at the macro level.

11. To what extent will this project recognize and affirm the linkages between the triple nexus of conflict, environment and human rights?

The targeted community faces severe disenfranchisement due to their location in the JV, where public services are not offered by the Israeli authorities nor the Palestinian authority. Thus, many services are lacking, and this causes social unrest, and a feeling of inequality when compared to other communities outside of the JV. The Proposed intervention recognizes this issue, and thus, worked with the local community and the local CBOs to priorities some of the most important services that are lacking with relation to environmental justice. Based on these discussions and consultations, the issue of management of waste water kept on surfacing as the most pressing matter.

Alongside the waste water problem, access to water, mainly for agriculture was also labeled as a key challenge in the community, and that because their farms are in area C, where no infrastructure is allowed (even simple ones as irrigation networks). Thus, the proposed intervention will address this issue, and work on proposing long-term sustainable, and scalable solutions.

Climate change and environmental degradation impacts on the area

12. What are the current and projected impacts of climate change and environmental degradation in the programme / project area(s) (environmental aspects)?

“Al Zbidat” is facing lots of environmental challenges and environmental-related social challenges. These can be summarized in terms of just access to water for personal use, access to water for irrigation (which is the main source of income for these communities), access to basic sanitation services, access to waste removal, and in general, access to basic human services. They also face serious health concerns related to lack of equipped healthcare facilities, trained healthcare staff, and worsen the situation, the proximity to the open waste water cesspits.

Impacts on the rights-holders

13. What are the current and projected social impacts as a result of the identified climate change impacts and the environmental degradation issues?

“Al Zbidat” community faces serious climate change impacts related mainly to draught, lack of access to fresh water, which results in malnutrition and food insecurity. These issues put a lot of stress on the social fabric of the community, and exuberate existing social violence, and in some cases GBV due to resulting economic stresses. These impacts leave long-lasting social damage to whole the community, but mainly to disfranchised and vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and children.

Question 14 is optional:

14. To what extent will the identified climate change impacts and environment degradation exacerbate or worsen existing conflict?

15. How will the identified negative effects of the intervention on the environment impact the targeted women and men?

Due to socially-mandated gender roles in the targeted community, women would feel the most negative impact of climate change. Women are tasked with household duties, which would need enough access to basic WASH services. Thus, lack of access to such services would impact women harshly in terms of expectations of cleanness, and childcare, which might cause an increase of familial stresses, domestic violence, and even GBV.

16. The identified positive contributions to environmental sustainability of the intervention impact the targeted women and men? Remember – it is not because the intervention contributes to environmental sustainability, that the programme / project necessarily contributes to gender equality and equity!

The proposed intervention will have positive impacts to environmental sustainable in the following manner with relation to women and men, and gender equity and equality:

1. *Will alleviate concerns related to healthcare as the open cesspits will be handled, and will cease to pose a threat to public health, thus, allowing both women and men better life quality,*
2. *Will ease stress on fresh water resources as the treated waste water will be used for irrigation in exchange of fresh water, which would allow the community (women and men) better access to most needed water supplies for their personal needs.*

Addressing the environmental-social impacts on the area

17. Has the sub-programme / project been adjusted to avoid, or reduce, and manage the negative effects on the social and gender dynamics?

☐ Yes.

☐ **No. Please explain why. No more than 100 words.**

There are no anticipated negative effects on the social or gender dynamics

18. What has been proposed to reduce the negative impacts on social and gender dynamics within the community and promote positive contributions?

There are no anticipated negative effects on the social or gender dynamics

19. Could the sub-programme/project have any other positive impact on the social and gender dynamics within the community?

All positive impacts have been mentioned above

20. Has the sub-programme / project been adjusted to enhance the positive contributions on the social and gender dynamics?

☐ Yes.

☐ **No. The design took into consideration all needed interventions to enhance positive contribution to social and gender dynamics.**

21. What are the planned capacity building interventions to address (i) the identified negative and positive effects on the environment and community of the sub-programme / project, and (ii) the climate change impacts?

No capacity building activities are needed.

22. Is there capacity at organizational level to implement the mitigation measures that emanates from the ESIA analysis or will you have to consider bringing in (a) technical partner(s)? To what extent does the technical partner have gender expertise?

The implementing partners have the needed technical capacities.

23. Are the current and projected impacts of climate change and environmental degradation likely to impact the sustainability of the contribution?

☐ Yes. Please fill in the ESIA management matrix below (**Question 14**).

☐ **No. The only issue that might have an impact on the sustainability on the intervention is the need for high maintenance costs, or spare parts. Thus, these issues will be considered as part of the technical evaluation criteria based on which we will select the implementing agency.**

**24. Please fill in the ESIA management matrix and incorporate the mitigation measures into your activity plan. NB:
Below are just examples in the table! Do not copy paste these.**

Nr.	Climate change impact / Environmental issue/Women's rights /Conflict issue	Issues identified by the rights-holders	Identified impacts from the ESIA analysis (technical angle)	Level of importance: Critical; High; Medium*	Mitigation measures / points of action	Timeline	Frequency of monitoring	Budget / action	Source of finance / donor

‡ **Critical:** Implemented < 6 months

Medium: > 12-18 m

Medium: > 12-18 months