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## **GAP ANALYSIS OF GEF POLICIES AND KEY SOCIAL INCLUSION ISSUES**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. In the lead up to GEF-7, the GEF made extensive revisions and updates to its Policies and approaches related to Stakeholder Engagement,<sup>1</sup> Gender Equality,<sup>2</sup> and Environmental and Social Safeguards<sup>3</sup>. The extensive revisions and updates to these policies embed important principles relating to the promotion of social inclusion and implicitly also respond to important human rights principles including, non-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability.

2. The GEF-8 replenishment participants reiterated the importance of social inclusion.<sup>4</sup> Specifically, participants requested the Secretariat to undertake a gap analysis of relevant GEF Policies and Guidelines to identify areas that GEF may need to strengthen its approach and guidance, to include (a) attention to people marginalized by virtue of their sexual orientation or gender identity and provisions to protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ persons; (b) attention to youth as effective change-makers; and (c) disability inclusion. This gap analysis responds to request set forth in these GEF-8 Revised Policy Recommendations and timetable related to social inclusion<sup>5</sup> to complete an analysis of existing policies and guidelines to identify potential for areas of further work.

3. At the 63<sup>rd</sup> GEF Council Meeting, the Secretariat noted that Council members have requested that the topic of child protection also be considered, and the Secretariat has therefore included the issue of child protection in the gap analysis of GEF Policies.<sup>6</sup>

4. The GEF IEO Evaluation “GEF Institutional Policies and Engagement” (2022)<sup>7</sup> broadly concluded that the GEF policies are contemporary in formulation and align with relevant inclusion-oriented global strategies, including the SDGs and Agenda 2030 and policies of peer institutions.

5. The Secretariat’s gap analysis reconfirmed that GEF Policies on Environmental and Social Safeguards, Gender Equality, and Stakeholder Engagement (GEF Policies) already include many provisions that promote social inclusion and consideration of a range of social risks and impacts, including on sexual orientation or gender identity, disability inclusion and child protection. The

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<sup>1</sup> [GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement Policy](#) (SD/PL/01, 2017) and [GEF Guidelines on the Implementation of the Policy on Stakeholder Engagement](#) (SD/GN/01, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> [GEF Policy on Gender Equality](#) (SD/PL/02, 2017) and [GEF Guidelines on Gender Equality](#) (SD/GN/02, 2017) and [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> [GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards](#) (SD/PL/03, 2019), and [GEF Guidelines on GEF’s Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards](#) (SD/GN/03, 2019).

<sup>4</sup> GEF, [GEF-8 Policy Directions: The Enabling Environment for Transformation](#) (GEF/R.08/31, 2022), para.12 and Chapter 4.

<sup>5</sup> GEF, [Revised Policy Recommendations](#) (GEF/R.08/32, 2022), p. 6 and Annex 1 Timeline for Implementation.

<sup>6</sup> GEF, [Highlights of the Council’s Discussions, 63<sup>rd</sup> GEF Council Meeting, November 28-December 02, 2022, Virtual Meeting](#), February 28, 2023, paras. 110-111.

<sup>7</sup> GEF Independent Evaluation Office, [GEF Institutional Policies and Engagement](#), Evaluation Report 150, 2022.

evolution and broadening of categories for social inclusion is largely reflected in GEF Policies, which are deliberately succinct to facilitate adherence and a level playing field across the Partnership.

6. Our analysis also identifies some potential areas for further consideration in the context of the forthcoming GEF reform and streamlining effort, including: i) review opportunities to use non-discrimination consistently across the three GEF Policies, to better capture sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI); ii) explore options to better communicate, visualize and reflect GEF Policy requirements on issues related to persons with disabilities and child protection; and iii) continue work and activities to expand engagement with youth groups and constituencies of the MEA Conventions, among others.

7. The GEF is undergoing a reform process early in GEF-8 that will have several dimensions. One dimension will be a review of GEF policy and guidelines, in consultation with Agencies to identify areas for further streamlining and simplification, expected to be presented to Council in December 2023, consistent with the GEF-8 Policy Recommendations. Findings of this analysis will be taken into consideration as part of this review.

8. The following sections elaborate on the findings of our desk review, which includes emerging practices of Agencies and other organizations. The annexes include the detailed mapping of social inclusion areas covered in the GEF Policies as well as good practices in Agencies and other organizations.

## **METHODOLOGY AND OVERVIEW**

9. Responding to the GEF-8 revised policy recommendations, our analysis maps possible material gaps in GEF Policies in addressing the identified key social inclusion topics: (a) sexual orientation and gender identity; (b) disability inclusion; (c) child protection; and (d) youth as effective change-makers. It also seeks to identify emerging good practices regarding the social inclusion topics that have been incorporated into the policies and guidelines of Agencies and peer institutions. The Secretariat engaged an experienced technical expert/consultant to support the analysis of GEF Policy coverage relevant to social inclusion issues and to identify emerging good practices across Agencies and peer organizations.<sup>8</sup>

10. Some limitations regarding our analysis should be noted:

- The analysis concentrates on policy language of GEF Agencies and peer organizations for projects/programs and relevant implementation guidelines. The review has taken a selective approach with an emphasis on the most recently adopted environmental and social policy frameworks. Except for the “youth as effective changemakers”

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<sup>8</sup> The consultant has also been engaged in reviewing past Agency adherence to GEF ESS, Gender Equality and Stakeholder Engagement Policies

section, the review does not cover broader organizational strategies, thematic studies, or targeted programming.

- The “youth as effective changemakers” section differs from other topics. The focus on ‘effective change-making’ is primarily one of targeted engagement which reflects GEF’s plans for expanded programming and engagement with youth groups among other constituencies.<sup>9</sup>
- Agencies have a range of personnel policies for employees and contractors regarding nondiscrimination, sexual abuse and harassment that pertain to issues covered in the paper (i.e., sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment, nondiscrimination of persons with disabilities and persons of various sexual orientations and gender identities). GEF Secretariat staff are also covered by such policies insofar as they are World Bank Staff. Those policies are not included in the current analysis.
- The paper is a desk review of available policies and guidelines and has not involved interviews with staff of GEF Agencies or peer organizations.

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

11. The GEF IEO evaluation and the Secretariat’s Management response (see introduction) recognized the benefits of providing an overarching framework of “inclusion” to emphasize the complementarities across the GEF Policies on Environmental and Social Safeguards, Gender Equality, and Stakeholder Engagement. During the GEF-8 Replenishment negotiations, the Secretariat reiterated the importance of enhancing engagement (and inclusion) of non-state actors and strategically engaging new organizations and partners at the global and local levels to deliver on the GEF-8 Strategy. As such, the GEF-8 Strategy, policy agenda, and recent Council decisions have included several targeted efforts to increase financing to civil society.<sup>10</sup>

12. In recent years, development finance institutions (DFIs) have broadened categories for social inclusion in environmental and social safeguards and other policies largely by expanding categories of groups and individuals that may be considered “vulnerable” or “disadvantaged.” Emerging good practices indicate a broadening of the social inclusion lens from one of “vulnerability” (with a focus on risks and needs) to one of “nondiscrimination” (with a focus on rights).

13. The UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has commented on these trends:

Almost all DFI [Development Finance Institutions] Safeguards include attention to marginalized or vulnerable groups ... with requirements for differentiated engagement,

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<sup>9</sup> See GEF, [The Evolving Context of Civil Society Engagement in Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Comparable Organizations](#), GEF/C.63/Inf.15, November 23, 2022.

<sup>10</sup> GEF/C.63/Inf.15, p. 20.

analysis, and prevention and mitigation measures, in order to minimize negative impacts and encourage equitable access to development benefits.

The increasing attention to vulnerability is timely and welcome, however the term “vulnerable groups” may sometimes be used uncritically, as if vulnerability were a characteristic inherent in particular population groups. This may unwittingly deflect attention from the structural conditions of discrimination and marginalization which may cause or exacerbate vulnerability.

OHCHR also notes that there is a strong need for broader approaches to non-discrimination across the board, with specific acknowledgment that non-discrimination involves more than addressing vulnerability. The prohibition on discrimination runs across every major human rights convention and almost all human rights instruments.

A failure to adequately address discrimination issues can fuel inequalities and impede the achievement of the SDGs and DFIs' development mandates. Some Safeguards address non-discrimination only with respect to specific circumstances, such as hiring and job promotion and accessing project benefits, which are important, but there are many other contexts in which people experience discrimination.<sup>11</sup>

14. The OHCHR study recommends that:

Safeguards should explicitly aim to address discrimination on grounds including gender, race, age, ethnicity, migrant status, disability, political opinion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, in line with international human rights standards, and should avoid the implication that "vulnerability" is inherent to any population group.<sup>12</sup>

15. As the GEF moves forward in exploring a “framework of inclusion” for the GEF Policies, “nondiscrimination” could be considered as a potentially broad and integrative framework that aligns with established human rights obligations of national governments. Such a nondiscrimination framing could serve as a unifying principle and support streamlining and consolidation of the GEF Policies.

16. The World Bank’s Vision for Sustainable Development (in its Environmental and Social Framework), sketches out key elements for defining social inclusion that also may prove helpful, building upon the principles of nondiscrimination, participation and access:

Equally, **social development and inclusion** are critical for all World Bank’s development interventions and for achieving sustainable development. For the Bank, inclusion means empowering all people to participate in, and benefit from, the development process. **Inclusion encompasses policies to promote equality and nondiscrimination by**

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<sup>11</sup> UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), [Benchmarking Study of Development Finance Institutions’ Safeguard Policies](#), February 2023, pp. 32-33.

<sup>12</sup> OHCHR, Benchmarking, p. 37.

**improving the access of all people**, including the poor and disadvantaged, to services and benefits such as education, health, social protection, infrastructure, affordable energy, employment, financial services and productive assets. It also embraces action to **remove barriers against those who are often excluded** from the development process, such as women, children, persons with disabilities, youth and minorities, and to ensure that the voice of all can be heard. In this regard, the World Bank’s activities **support the realization of human rights** expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights [emphasis added].<sup>13</sup>

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION ISSUE AREAS**

17. The following sections provide a review of emerging good practices across different areas of social inclusion, and identifies GEF requirements relevant to each area, potential gaps, and issues for further elaboration. Appendix A excerpts relevant provisions from the GEF Policies and Annexes B-E provide relevant policy language (and supporting guidance where relevant) used by Agencies and selected peer organizations for each issue area.

### **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

“Over the last 20 years, in countries across the world, governments and courts have introduced non-discrimination protection ... of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sexual characteristics (SOGIESC). ... International law and its supervision, as well as regional instruments and their supervision and promotion, have also played an important role in promoting greater protection against SOGIESC discrimination. The UN supervisory bodies of human rights conventions have determined that discrimination against LGBTI+ persons violates” a number of conventions. “At the same time, ... political views on the protection and recognition of LGBTI+ rights ... continue to divide” some UN member States.<sup>14</sup>

18. Violence and discrimination against LGBTI+ people are rooted in negative gender stereotypes and perceptions that LGBTI+ people defy gender norms. LGBTI+ persons face specific criminal sanctions, targeted violence, discrimination and patterns of exclusion that institutions have historically been reluctant to address, driven by stigma and negative stereotypes. The World Bank has reported that LGBTI+ people suffer lower education outcomes and higher unemployment rates due to discrimination, bullying and violence, in addition to a lack of access to adequate housing and health services and financial services.<sup>15</sup>

19. Agency safeguard policies that have been updated in recent years include more explicit acknowledgement of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) in requirements regarding

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<sup>13</sup> World Bank, [Environmental and Social Framework, A Vision for Sustainable Development](#), 2016, para. 3.

<sup>14</sup> ILO, [Information paper on protection against sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sexual characteristics \(SOGIESC\) discrimination](#), Constance Thomas with Catherine Weber, 2019, Executive Summary and para. 10.

<sup>15</sup> As noted in OHCHR, [Benchmarking](#), p. 35.

nondiscrimination, gender equality and empowerment, gender-based violence and stakeholder engagement. Annex B provides links and examples of relevant policy language among various Agencies and peer institutions. It should be noted that some selected peer institutions have different governance models than the GEF which may influence the scope and level of detail of prescribed policies.

### ***Coverage of SOGI in GEF Policies/Guidelines***

20. GEF Policies address sexual orientation and gender identity primarily through requirements to address potential risks and impacts to, and special needs of, Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups and Individuals. Prohibitions on gender discrimination partially address SOGI. Relevant policy provisions are summarized below (see Annex A for the full policy language):

#### *Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)*

- Address potential SOGI-related risks and impacts through requirements regarding Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals (MS1). ESS glossary includes SOGI in definition of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals
- Incorporates measures to identify risks or potential adverse impacts on women, men, girls and boys; prevention of gender-based discrimination; and measures to address incidences of gender-based violence (GBV). Definition of gender is not provided and SOGI is not specifically covered in ESS definitions on GBV and Gender Equality (MS1)
- Require non-discrimination, equal opportunity and fair treatment in employment relationships, including but not limited to women, children of working age, migrants and persons with disabilities.
- Requires measures to prevent harassment, intimidation, and exploitation, and to protect vulnerable Workers, including but not limited to women, children of working age, migrants and persons with disabilities.

#### *Policy on Gender Equality*

- Includes sexual orientation in the definition of “gender” in the glossary, but does not elaborate on gender identity and LGBTQI+
- Does not cross reference Policy on ESS related to Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups that includes both sexual orientation and gender identity
- Requirements regarding Gender Analysis, promotion of Gender Equality and inclusive, gender-responsive approaches/measures could be interpreted to encompass SOGI
- Requirements regarding inclusive stakeholder engagement, aligned with the Policy on Stakeholder Engagement, could encompass SOGI-related issues
- Gender sensitive monitoring indicators could include SOGI-related issues

## *Policy on Stakeholder Engagement*

- Requires meaningful consultations to be gender responsive; free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation; and responsive to the needs and interests of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals
- Requires that consultations are “responsive” to needs of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals
- Does not cross reference Policy on ESS Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals (which includes SOGI) or explicit measures to address obstacles to participation

### ***Recent Good Practice Examples***

21. The IDB’s Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF, 2020) has comprehensively incorporated attention to sexual orientation and gender identity across most of its environmental and social standards, with extensive treatment in Standard 9 on Gender Equality – encompassing SOGI inclusion in provisions on risk assessment, nondiscrimination, gender-based violence, participation. The ESPF utilizes a relatively broad SOGI definition (e.g., people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, although gender expression is not noted). The ESPF utilizes both a nondiscrimination and vulnerability framing for inclusion of SOGI-related requirements.

22. The forthcoming revised Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) also demonstrates extensive integration of SOGI-related requirements throughout various standards (Stage 3 draft, 2022). GCF’s framework also incorporates the concept of intersectionality – how different identity categories interact with each other in society, such that one category (e.g. race, ethnicity, disability) cannot be understood in isolation from others (e.g. gender identity and gender expression). (As noted above, the GCF’s governance model and number of implementing entities differs significantly from that of the GEF which may affect the scope of its policies.)

23. SOGI inclusion in more recently adopted safeguard frameworks include (a) embedding SOGI as an issue of equality and prohibited grounds for discrimination, and (b) explicit and repeated integration of SOGI across various safeguard standards/issue areas. This contrasts with the practice of indirectly invoking the need to address SOGI-related issues as one of many definitional criteria of vulnerable or disadvantaged groups/individuals.

24. Below is a listing of emerging good practices regarding attention to persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in the environmental and social frameworks for programs and projects of various Agencies and peer institutions (Annex B includes excerpts of relevant policy requirements and guidance):

- *Nondiscrimination:* Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) included among prohibited grounds of discrimination regarding all activities, linked to respect for human rights

- *Definitions:* defining SOGI broadly (e.g., people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities). (Note: rights of intersex and discrimination on the grounds of gender expression and sex characteristics are often less well addressed; OHCHR utilizes “SOGIESC” – sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics)
- *Gender Equality:* Explicit references to SOGI in gender equality and empowerment requirements
- *SEA/SH/GBV:* Explicit inclusion of SOGI in risk factors regarding sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and gender-based violence (GBV)
- *Participation:* explicit and differentiated measures for inclusion of persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, including:
  - Ensuring consultation processes reflect the concerns of people of all genders, gender identities, and sexual orientations
  - Identify and address obstacles faced by women and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities to participate in consultations
  - Facilitate measures to ensure meaningful participation of women and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in consultations, including appropriate times of meetings, transportation, childcare support, convening separate meetings if necessary
- *Labor:* All GEF Agencies require nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and fair treatment in employment relationships although SOGI not always referenced. Examples of good practice:
  - SOGI listed as prohibited grounds for employment discrimination
  - Require protection and assistance to address vulnerabilities of project workers, including people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities
  - Require measures to prevent and address in the work context any form of violence and harassment, bullying, intimidation, and/or exploitation, especially in regard to women, people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities
- *Recent targeted guidance and support (not policy requirements):*
  - The World Bank has recently issued an [ESF Good Practice Note: Non-Discrimination, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity \(SOGI\)](#) (2019) which *inter alia* indicates how to address SOGI issues in the environmental and social assessment process. The Bank has also hired a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Advisor to provide leadership and technical guidance to teams and enhance coordination with CSOs, UN Agencies, and other partners and stakeholders.

- IDB, [Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Policy Framework](#) (2021) include extensive guidance on integrating SOGI issues in risk assessment, gender equality requirements, participation.

**Summary Findings and Areas for Further Consideration**

25. GEF Policies include broad coverage of sexual orientation and gender identity primarily through a focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups/individuals. GEF Policy on Gender Equality partially incorporates SOGI-related issues. Our analysis suggests that the definitions that undergird GEF’s Policies inconsistently define SOGI. It points to opportunities for the Secretariat to engage in further discussion with Agencies and peer organizations to learn from those Agencies and peer institutions that have put in place additional measures to promote inclusion of persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

26. The table below lists the specific findings of the analysis and identify suggested actions to strengthen inclusion of persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. . Further consideration of SOGI, LGBTQI+ and other non-binary references should be cognizant of the fact that these are politically sensitive issue and continue to divide Members of the United Nations.<sup>16</sup> In addition, suggested considerations, require further consultations with Agencies, gender experts and the GEF Gender Partnership

<b>Emerging Good Practices</b>	<b>Current Coverage and Potential Gaps in GEF Policies</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
Include SOGI in prohibited grounds of discrimination	Policy on ESS addresses potential SOGI-related risks and impacts through requirements regarding Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals. MS1 requires prevention of gender-based discrimination (however only partial SOGI inclusion in gender definitions)	A broad nondiscrimination definition could further strengthen the approach to SOGI inclusion.  The current focus on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals is essential to target risk assessments and avoidance/mitigation measures, nondiscrimination involves more than addressing vulnerability and would strengthen the

<sup>16</sup> ILO, [Information paper on protection against sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sexual characteristics \(SOGI/ESC\) discrimination](#), Constance Thomas with Catherine Weber, 2019, Executive Summary and para. 10.

Emerging Good Practices	Current Coverage and Potential Gaps in GEF Policies	Suggestions
		inclusion framework across ESS, gender, and stakeholder engagement
Reference SOGI in gender equality requirements	Policy on Gender Equality includes sexual orientation in “gender” definition but not gender identity and does not explicitly refer to nondiscrimination or to Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals. Requirements regarding Gender Analysis, promotion of Gender Equality and inclusive, gender-responsive approaches/measures could be interpreted to encompass SOGI inclusion	Specific reference to SOGI in definitions for gender and gender equality could further strengthen the approach to SOGI inclusion.
Include SOGI in risk considerations for gender-based violence (GBV) , , sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH)	Policy on ESS requires measures to avoid and address incidences of GBV. SOGI not specifically covered in ESS definitions on GBV and Gender Equality, and as noted above, not fully covered in Gender Policy definitions. Gender Policy does not specifically address GBV risks	GBV risks to persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities could be elaborated in definitions of GBV and Gender Equality
Include SOGI in prohibited grounds for employment discrimination	Policy on ESS (MS 8) requires non-discrimination in employment relationships	SOGI-inclusion is inferred in GEF policies

<b>Emerging Good Practices</b>	<b>Current Coverage and Potential Gaps in GEF Policies</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
Require protection and assistance to address vulnerabilities of project workers, including people of diverse SOGI	Policy on ESS (MS8) requires measures to protect vulnerable workers, incl. but not limited to women, children of working age, migrants and persons with disabilities	While listing of vulnerable groups not exclusive, specific listing of SOGI could strengthen attention on need for protection and assistance
Ensure inclusion of persons with diverse SOGI in participation and consultation processes	Policy on Stakeholder Engagement requires that meaningful consultations are gender responsive; free of discrimination and intimidation; and responsive to the needs and interests of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals, which includes SOGI in definition	Policy requires non-discrimination and SOGI is included in definition for Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals.

## Disability Inclusion

27. Recently adopted environmental and social frameworks of GEF Agencies and peer organizations stress the inclusion of persons with disabilities by applying key principles of nondiscrimination, equality and participation across a range of specific safeguard standards. Accessibility has also received increasing attention, as the World Bank has noted:

accessibility is a prerequisite for fostering social inclusion [of persons with disabilities]. Without access to buildings, transportation, communication, and information, a person's participation and full inclusion cannot be ensured, and persons with disabilities will remain unable to fully benefit from development investments.<sup>17</sup>

28. Persons with disabilities are typically covered by nondiscrimination provisions (both general as well as in the context of employment relationships) as well as requirements to address potential risks and impacts to marginalized and vulnerable groups (most Agencies include disability as a potential factor contributing to vulnerability or marginalization). Emerging good practices also specifically emphasize the importance of accessible stakeholder engagement and the deployment of accessible formats for different physical, sensory, and/or cognitive needs.

29. Two important rights have also received greater attention in updated frameworks: the need for "reasonable accommodations" as well as "universal access," both of which are critical to strengthening inclusion of persons with disabilities:

- Article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities defines reasonable accommodations as "[n]ecessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms."
- "Universal access" has been defined as unimpeded access for people of all ages and abilities in different situations and under various circumstances.

### ***Coverage of Persons with Disabilities in GEF Policies and Guidelines***

30. The rights and interests of persons with disabilities are addressed primarily through the "disability inclusion" provision of the Policy on ESS. Persons with disabilities are also included in requirements to address potential risks and impacts to, and special needs of, Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups and Individuals. Relevant policy provisions are summarized below (see Annex A for the full policy language):

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<sup>17</sup> World Bank, [Technical Note on Accessibility](#) (webpage).

### *Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards*

- Disability inclusion requires that differentiated risks and potential impacts of projects and programs on persons with disabilities be addressed systematically in such a way that ensures non-discrimination and equality, and aims to provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in and benefit from projects and programs on an equal basis with others (MS1)
- Disability included as a potential factor in definition for Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals and requirements pertaining to such groups/individuals
- Requires nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and fair treatment in employment without specifying persons with disabilities. MS8 specifically calls for measures to protect Vulnerable workers including persons with disabilities
- MS8 does not call for provision of reasonable accommodations in working conditions
- Requires consideration of the special needs and exposure of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals in risk assessments, however it does not call for incorporation of universal access (MS9)

### *Policy on Gender Equality*

- Requires provision of equal opportunities for women and men, including participation, but does not address persons with disabilities

### *Policy on Stakeholder Engagement*

- Requires consultations to be gender responsive; free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation; and responsive to the needs and interests of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups and Individuals (glossary does not include definition but presumably ESS definition applies which includes persons with disabilities)
- Policy requires consultations to be “responsive” to needs of such groups but is not specific regarding measures to overcome obstacles and to facilitate participation of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals, including persons with disabilities
- Requirement for “access to timely, relevant and understandable information” touches upon information needs of persons with disabilities but is not specific

### ***Recent Good Practice Examples***

31. Below is a listing of some emerging good practices regarding attention to persons with disabilities in the environmental and social frameworks for programs and projects of various Agencies and peer institutions (Annex C provides details of relevant policy language and supporting guidance and measures):

- *Nondiscrimination*: disability recognized as a prohibited grounds of discrimination (broadly, not just in employment)
- *Differentiated risks/impacts*: Agencies require the identification and mitigation of potentially differentiated risks and impacts of projects on persons with disabilities
- *Labor and working conditions*:
  - Agencies include disability as a prohibited grounds for discrimination in employment relationships
  - Require that measures to protect the workforce specifically include needs of persons with disabilities
  - Require that reasonable accommodation be provided
- *Community safety and health*: Require the application of the principles of universal access in design and construction of new buildings, structures and services
- *Stakeholder participation and information disclosure*: Require differentiated measures to facilitate meaningful participation of stakeholders with disabilities, including accessible consultations and addressing specific information needs
- *Resettlement, Indigenous Peoples*: Frameworks require attention to needs of persons with disabilities in resettlement planning and among indigenous communities
- *Recent targeted guidance and supporting measures (not policy requirements)*
  - The World Bank has issued targeted guidance and undertaken measures to promote disability inclusion and to address relevant ESF requirements:
    - [ESF Good Practice Note Nondiscrimination and Disability](#) (2018)
    - [Technical Note on Accessibility](#) (2022) that describes various accessibility barriers, recommendations, methodologies, and strategies in various sectors
    - WB Appointed a Disability Advisor to ensure that Bank policies, programs and projects take people with disabilities into consideration
    - WB developed a [Disability Inclusion and Accountability Framework](#) (updated 2022) that lays out a road map for (i) including disability in the World Bank’s policies, operations, and analytical work; and (ii) building internal capacity for supporting clients in implementing disability-inclusive development programs

### **Summary Findings and Areas for Further Consideration**

32. The Policy on ESS incorporates a broad “disability inclusion” provision that establishes key principles for inclusion of persons with disabilities (nondiscrimination and equality; differentiated risk assessment and mitigation, and equal participation in opportunities and benefits). Persons with disabilities are also included in requirements regarding potential risks and impacts on

Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals. GEF's Policies on Gender Equality and Stakeholder engagement are not specific regarding inclusion of persons with disabilities. In comparison, some more recently adopted frameworks (and guidance) of GEF Agencies and peer organizations include more comprehensive treatment of persons with disabilities.

33. Below lists the specific findings of the analysis and potential issues for further consideration to strengthen disability inclusion.

<b>Emerging Good Practices</b>	<b>Current Coverage and Potential Gaps in GEF Policies</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
Disability recognized as a prohibited grounds of discrimination.	Policy on ESS provides for nondiscrimination of persons with disabilities when addressing risks and impacts. Policy on Stakeholder Engagement requires consultations to be free of discrimination.	Nondiscrimination of persons with disabilities is generally well covered in the GEF Policies.  A broad nondiscrimination definition could help strengthen attention to the rights of persons with disabilities.
Require the identification and mitigation of potentially differentiated risks and impacts of projects on persons with disabilities.	Policy on ESS requires differentiated measures to address risks/impacts on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals, including persons with disabilities.	No additional measures.
Include disability as a prohibited ground for discrimination in employment relationships.	Policy on ESS (MS8) requires nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and fair treatment in employment without specifying persons with disabilities.	While employment nondiscrimination is broadly addressed, it could be strengthened by reference to prohibited grounds of discrimination that included persons with disabilities.
Require that measures to protect the workforce (health and safety as well as harassment and intimidation)	Policy on ESS (MS8) specifically calls for measures to protect Vulnerable	No additional measures.

<b>Emerging Good Practices</b>	<b>Current Coverage and Potential Gaps in GEF Policies</b>	<b>Suggestions</b>
specifically include needs of persons with disabilities.	workers including persons with disabilities.	
Require that reasonable accommodation be provided in workplaces.	Policy on ESS (MS8) does not call for reasonable accommodations.	While good practice, relevance of accommodations for persons with disabilities to GEF-financed projects/programs could be further considered related to MS8.
Require the application of the principles of universal access in design and construction of new buildings, structures and services.	Policy on ESS (MS9) calls for consideration of the special needs and exposure of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals in risk assessments, it does not explicitly reference universal access, however this may not be relevant to GEF-financed projects and programs.	No further actions.
Require differentiated measures to facilitate the meaningful participation of stakeholders with disabilities, including accessible consultations and specific information needs	Policy on Stakeholder Engagement calls for consultation processes to be free of discrimination and responsive to the needs and interests of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals, which includes persons with disabilities in definition (to ESS Policy, not included in SE Policy). Policy also calls for accessibility of information, without specifying further measures.	Policy already includes nondiscrimination provisions. Additional references to removing obstacles to participation and to promoting participation of persons with disabilities would have implications for Agencies policies which would require careful consultations.

## Child Protection

34. At the 63<sup>rd</sup> GEF Council Meeting, the Secretariat noted that Council members have requested that the topic of child protection be considered, and the Secretariat offered to include work on child protection in the gap analysis of GEF Policies.<sup>18</sup> This section provides additional analysis related to child protection issues for reference and further consideration.

35. According to UNICEF, “Child Protection is the prevention of, and response to, exploitation, abuse, neglect, harmful practices and violence against children. It is embedded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Sustainable Development Goals.”<sup>19</sup>

36. Child protection includes (but is not limited to) efforts to address a range of potential harms, including child labor, sexual exploitation and abuse, child marriage, violence against children, trafficking, unsafe child migration, family separation. Child protection has been a major consideration for agencies working in humanitarian action, with a range of specific standards and guidance.<sup>20</sup>

37. For many international organizations and agencies, key aspects of child protection are addressed through policies and guidelines regarding the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA),<sup>21</sup> Gender-Based Violence (GBV),<sup>22</sup> prohibitions on child labor, as well as non-discrimination of marginalized and vulnerable groups. Some bilateral aid agencies have also developed child protection and child safeguarding policies.<sup>23</sup>

### ***Coverage of Child Protection Issues in GEF’s Policies***

38. GEF Policies include requirements concerning child protection, including preventing child labor, sexual exploitation and abuse as well as on addressing the special needs and risk exposure of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals. The degree of specificity varies across the requirements. Important provisions are summarized below (see Annex A for the full policy provisions):

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<sup>18</sup> GEF, [Highlights of the Council’s Discussions, 63<sup>rd</sup> GEF Council Meeting, November 28-December 02, 2022, Virtual Meeting](#), February 28, 2023, paras. 110-111.

<sup>19</sup> UNICEF, [Child Protection Strategy: 2021 - 2030](#). UNICEF leads the Child Protection Area of Responsibility for the UN Global Protection Cluster. For more, see UNICEF, [Child Protection](#).

<sup>20</sup> For example, the [2019 Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#) were developed by members of the [Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action](#). They were originally developed in 2012 and were updated in 2019.

<sup>21</sup> For example, the UN-system wide [Secretary-General’s Bulletin: Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse](#) (ST/SGB/2003/13) includes provision 3.2(b): “Sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defence.”

<sup>22</sup> See Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) [Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based-Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Thematic Area Guide for Child Protection](#), (2015).

<sup>23</sup> For example, see Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), [Child Protection Policy](#) (2017); and USAID, [Policy/Guidance on Implementation of USAID Child Safeguarding Standards](#) (2015).

- Address risks to Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals so as to prevent disproportionate adverse impacts or discrimination in accessing benefits; definition includes “age” as a factor contributing to disadvantaged or vulnerable status (MS1).
- Address project-related risks and potential adverse impacts on “women, men, girls and boys, including adverse impacts on Gender Equality, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (MS1).
- Prevent discrimination against women or girls, or gender-based discrimination (MS1)
- Prohibit the use of child labor (MS8).
- Address the special needs and exposure of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals, including in particular women and children, when addressing potential impacts to the health, safety and security of project- or program-affected communities (MS9).
- Policy on Stakeholder Engagement refers to “women, men, girls and boys” as comprising groups and entities to be engaged (in definition of “Stakeholder”).

39. GEF Policies are formulated broadly. Aside from the prohibition on child labor, risks to children are often not specifically targeted but rather are included together with other potential groups and/or are covered through broad definitions with multiple criteria (e.g. Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups and Individuals, Stakeholders).

### **Recent Good Practice Examples**

40. Regarding risks of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, the GEF Policy on ESS is generally consistent with the formulation of SEA/GBV provisions of most GEF Agencies which broadly address such risks to “women, men, girls and boys.”<sup>24</sup>

41. As noted below, one GEF Agency has recently included a targeted requirement regarding child sexual exploitation and abuse in its environmental and social framework. Additionally, specific guidance and screening tools are also being utilized. As noted earlier, agencies focused on humanitarian action (and some bilateral agencies) have developed targeted child protection policies and guidance; however, these are not included in the current review. Annex D provides details of relevant policy language and supporting guidance.

42. Differentiated measures are required for addressing risks of child sexual exploitation and abuse:

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<sup>24</sup> All GEF Agencies include requirements and measures to prevent and address incidences of GBV and SEA, (as well as child labor), as confirmed by previous compliance assessments (and progress reports on Agency action plans) with GEF’s Policies. See GEF, [Report on the Assessment of Agencies’ Compliance with Minimum Standards in the GEF Policies on: Environmental and Social Safeguards; Gender Equality; and Stakeholder Engagement](#), GEF/C.57/05, November 20, 2019, at; and GEF, [Third Party Review of Agency Compliance with GEF Minimum Standards](#), GEF/C.63/09/Rev.1, November 25, 2022.

“Children are more vulnerable than other groups to certain types of GBV, especially sexual exploitation and abuse. There is a high co-occurrence of SGBV [Sexual and Gender-Based Violence] against adults and sexual exploitation and abuse of children, and risk factors are shared among them. However, treating children who have experienced violence necessitates specific measures that differ from the response to SGBV against adults.”<sup>25</sup>

43. IDB’s Environmental and Social Policy Framework (2020) includes a specific provision (additional to general GBV prevention requirements) calling on Borrowers to “also assess the risk of child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA). If the assessment indicates a risk of CSEA, the Borrower will define and implement differentiated measures to prevent and address it” (234). IDB has also included guidelines for addressing this mandatory requirement, including the need for child-sensitive reporting, engagement, grievance, and referral (see Annex D).

44. At the level of guidance, the World Bank has issued two comprehensive good practice notes on addressing SEA/SH in infrastructure and human development operations, both of which include specific guidance on addressing SEA risks to children.<sup>26</sup> In addition, the World Bank has developed a SEA/SH Risk Screening Tool to assess potential project-related SEA/SH risks, including specifically to children.<sup>27</sup>

45. **Engagement with children:** Engagement with children in the context of projects and programs is a broader stakeholder engagement issue and beyond the scope of this analysis. However, the issue of safe engagement practices with children relates to child protection in that children may need appropriate, secure engagement processes and pathways to share information on potential violence and abuse.

46. The Policy on Stakeholder Engagement includes children in its definition of stakeholders and emphasizes “inclusive participation” as a core principle for stakeholder engagement.

47. Further information on child-specific engagement processes is often not articulated in Agency policies and guidance materials. The GCF, in its forthcoming Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy, however includes the following requirement:

[w]here children are stakeholders, child-friendly consultation process should apply the nine basic requirements for effective and ethical participation. If Entities have already engaged in such a process, they will provide adequate documented evidence of such engagement) (ESS9, 28).

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<sup>25</sup> IDB, [Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Policy Framework](#), 2021, para. GL50.

<sup>26</sup> World Bank, ESF Good Practice Notes on [Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment \(SEA/SH\) in Investment Project Financing involving Major Civil Works](#) (3rd ed, Oct. 2022) and [Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment \(SEA/SH\) in Human Development Operations](#) (Sep. 2022).

<sup>27</sup> See the above ESF Good Practice Note on Addressing SEA/SH in Human Development Operations, paras. 34-41 and Annexes.

48. Save the Children produced a guidance note on “The Nine Basic Requirements for Meaningful and Ethical Children’s Participation” (2021).<sup>28</sup>

### **Summary Findings and Areas for Further Consideration**

49. The broad formulation of GEF Policies encompasses key child protection issues such as the prohibition on child labor, addressing SEA/GBV, and differentiated risks and adverse impacts. As noted above, GEF Policies provide this coverage in a relatively non-targeted manner, by inclusion of children among several potentially project/program-affected groups or individuals (with the exception of child labor).

50. GEF’s approach is generally consistent with those of many GEF Agencies that include children in requirements focused on risks to vulnerable or marginalized groups as well as those focused on risks of SEA/GBV.

51. The IDB has recently adopted a specific child sexual exploitation and abuse requirement and has issued specific guidance on such risks, as has the World Bank. As noted earlier, humanitarian agencies and some bilateral agencies have long adopted specific child protection policies and guidance.

### **Youth as Effective Change-Makers**

52. Youth play a critical role in advancing global environmental and climate policies and issues. Influential youth constituencies are advocating for environmental and climate justice from the local to the global level, driven by an urgent need to protect biological diversity and to accelerate climate action to avoid disastrous and lasting climate change impacts. Issues of intergenerational justice and equity are increasingly being pushed to the center of global and state action.<sup>29</sup>

53. “Youth as effective change makers” as a social inclusion topic in the analysis requires very different treatment than the other inclusion areas on sexual orientation and gender identity, persons with disabilities, and child protection. The focus on “change makers” places an emphasis on targeted youth engagement strategies and initiatives rather than a review of provisions set forth in GEF Policies.

54. GEF Policies are broad enough to encompass “youth” as beneficiaries and potentially affected groups in GEF-supported projects/programs, which is briefly discussed below. GEF has initiated a range of initiatives to strengthen youth engagement and support in the work of the Partnership. These efforts are discussed below.

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<sup>28</sup> Save the Children, [The Nine Basic Requirements for Meaningful and Ethical Children’s Participation](#) (2021).

<sup>29</sup> See UNFCCC, [Climate Action Demands Intergenerational Solidarity](#), 12 August 2022; IUCN, [Courts Step up Intergenerational Justice](#), August 4, 2021.

55. As an input to consideration of further planned GEF youth initiatives, the analysis also provides a brief overview of targeted efforts by relevant organizations to give more voice and standing to youth in global environmental and climate initiatives. This includes initiatives of the international conventions that GEF serves. Annex E provides more detail on these efforts.

### ***Youth and GEF Policies***

56. GEF Policies and approaches encompass youth in various ways, as noted below:

- **Policy on Stakeholder Engagement** calls for “fair, balanced, and inclusive participation in GEF governance and operations” (Core Principle 6b). It requires Agencies to identify all stakeholders, involving them in planning and implementation of projects and programmes and to share timely, relevant and understandable information about activities implemented by the Agency. The Policy defines “stakeholder” as including “civil society” comprised of non-stake actors, including “youth and children.” In addition, the Policy calls on the Secretariat to involve stakeholders in all GEF-Financed Activities, such as national and regional outreach activities executed by the Secretariat, and to provide for appropriate Stakeholder Engagement in the development of GEF policies, guidelines and strategy.
- **Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards** requires identification and management of environmental and social risks and impacts associated with supported projects and programs, including to Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups, which lists “age” as a potential contributing factor. In addition, MS 2 on Labor and Working Conditions includes provisions on the prevention of child labor that apply to youth.
- **Policy on Gender Equality** encompasses youth in its definition of Gender Equality as meaning “the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and of girls and boys.” The Policy calls for GEF-Financed Activities to be conducted, designed and implemented in an inclusive manner so that women’s participation and voice are, regardless of their background, “age,” race, ethnicity or religion, reflected in decision-making ....” In practice, the Policy requires special consideration for women and girls during project/program development and implementation.

57. GEF Policies provide for inclusion of youth in GEF’s operations as stakeholders, beneficiaries, and project/program-affected groups/individuals. Regarding youth inclusion, these policies are consistent with those of most GEF Agencies and other entities.

### ***GEF Youth Engagement and Initiatives***

58. The GEF has long emphasized the importance of ensuring meaningful stakeholder consultations and engagement with civil society in its operations and through projects and

programs. In recent years, the Secretariat has strengthened its engagement of civil society, in particular women, youth and indigenous peoples and local communities.<sup>30</sup>

59. During the GEF-8 Replenishment negotiations, the Secretariat reiterated the need for a renewed effort to enhance engagement of non-state actors, with a focus on youth, among other constituencies. The Secretariat has articulated its longer-term ambition to enhance engagement with non-state actors, civil society and youth that includes:

- Increasing financing to civil society organizations and actors
- Developing partnerships with civil society engaged with the Conventions, including youth constituencies
- Enhancing civil society engagement in project design, implementation, and monitoring
- Strengthening broad society engagement in the GEF Council, Assembly, and relevant events through both the CSO Network and a broader engagement with other civil society actors and youth networks.<sup>31</sup>

60. Since the onset of GEF- 8, the Secretariat has put into action a series of targeted efforts and initiatives to consult and engage youth led networks and organizations, create opportunities to finance initiatives led by young people and to offer training and capacity building for young professionals and youth groups working with the Multilateral Environmental Conventions the GEF serves.

*Targeted outreach and engagement:* The Secretariat has undertaken focused consultations with youth constituencies of the MEA Conventions that GEF serves<sup>32</sup>. It has supported youth participation and engagement in GEF meetings and events, including the Expanded Constituency Workshops<sup>33</sup> as well as participation of youth and other groups in COP events.

*Learning initiatives and fellowships.* The Secretariat has initiated partnerships with new organizations to support training and capacity building opportunities for young professionals and youth groups, including the Fletcher School and Climate Reality. It has also launched the Gustavo Fonseca Youth Conservation Leadership Program to provide opportunities for youth to participate in conservation fellowships, grants for biodiversity field work, awards for participation in international conservation events, and a recurrent global conservation symposium bringing together young environmental leaders.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> See GEF, [The Evolving Context of Civil Society Engagement in Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Comparable Organizations](#), GEF/C.63/Inf.15, November 23, 2022.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid, pp. 1-2; 20-22

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/events/gef-consultations-civil-society-youth-led-advocacy-and-solutions>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/feature-stories/young-leaders-share-hopes-and-lessons-gef-southern-africa-workshop>

<sup>34</sup> [GEF Council supports next generation of conservation scientists](#), December 2, 2022.

*Support initiatives led by youth:* SGP 2.0 incorporates a strong focus to invest in the capacity of youth, particularly the skills necessary for participation and youth led initiatives at national and local level. In addition, SGP 2.0 includes a CSO Challenge Program, to be launched later in GEF-8, that is designed to provide competitive opportunities for youth and other civil society organizations to access financial and technical resources to scale up innovative environmental solutions.

### **The Seventh GEF Assembly and Beyond**

61. For the 7th GEF Assembly, the Secretariat has invited a record number of representatives from youth led organizations, including from youth networks of the conventions that GEF serves including the CBD supported Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), YOUNGO recognized as UNFCCC constituency and the UNCCD youth caucus. Events and opportunities throughout the GEF Assembly have been designed to provide opportunity for youth to learn, influence and network with Agencies, Ministers and other GEF partners. It is anticipated that these targeted Assembly events will contribute ideas and concrete recommendations and proposals, from youth participants, to advance GEF's inclusion agenda and future strategy to expand the GEF's engagement and support to youth.

#### ***Youth Engagement/Empowerment Strategies and Initiatives***

62. Below is a schematic overview of key features of youth engagement and empowerment initiatives among relevant international organizations, conventions, funds, Agencies and other environmental organizations. The mapping suggests, among other things, opportunities for the Secretariat to expand engagement with Agencies, such as IFAD, IUCN and FAO, that have recently adopted youth strategies and specific targeting of youth in their programming for greater collaboration to design and support youth initiatives moving forward. Annex E provides further details.

Youth Engagement Strategies/Outreach	
System-/Organization-wide Youth Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UN adopted its system-wide <b>Youth2030: The UN Strategy on Youth</b> in 2018 to scale up global, regional and national actions to meet young people’s needs, realize their rights and tap their possibilities as agents of change. The strategy seeks to guide the UN system in stepping up support for the empowerment of young people, while ensuring that the Organization’s work fully benefits from their insights and ideas.</li> <li>• In 2021 the <b>Climate Investment Funds (CIF)</b> circulated a consultation note to offer recommendations for the development of a comprehensive <b>Youth Engagement Strategy (YES)</b> which would inform CIF’s broader stakeholder engagement program.</li> <li>• <b>IUCN Youth Strategy 2022-2030:</b> In 2020 commissioned a review of IUCN’s history of youth engagement which fed into the development of the Youth Strategy that “aims to embed young people’s perspectives, inclusion and empowerment in all parts and at all levels of the Union.”</li> <li>• <b>FAO’s Strategic Framework 2022–2031</b> has identified <b>youth</b> as an important group whose needs must be addressed across all of FAO’s programmatic work areas</li> <li>• The <b>Global Water Partnership’s (GWP) Youth Engagement Strategy (2014-2019)</b> (elements incorporated in GWP main 2020-2025 strategy) outlined key priority areas: youth engagement in programming; leverage GWP’s knowledge chain to empower young water professionals; youth capacity support; and integrate youth participation within GWP’s own organisation and governance structure and seek to enhance youth participation across GWP’s global Network.</li> <li>• <b>UNDP Youth Strategy (2014-2017)</b> focused on three key outcomes: enhanced economic empowerment of youth, enhanced youth civic engagement and participation, and strengthened resilience building.</li> </ul>
Youth summits and forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IUCN</b> convenes <b>youth summits</b>. In April 2021, a virtual IUCN One Nature, One Future Global Youth Summit took place, bringing together 15,000 participants from 170 countries. This was followed by a hybrid Global Youth Summit at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2021 in Marseille, France.</li> <li>• For the past 10 years the <b>World Bank</b> has hosted an <b>annual Youth Summit</b> that aims to engage youth on pressing topics facing their generation. The theme of the February 2023 Summit, From the Ground Up: Local Solutions to Drive Global Impact, highlighted development solutions that are generated locally, scaled up regionally, and elevated globally. As part of the launch of the 2023 Pitch Competition – a flagship component of the Youth Summit – the hybrid live event showcased how young people are addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges through local and grassroots solutions with the potential to make a global impact.</li> </ul>
Targeted consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adaptation Fund:</b> In 2022, the AF secretariat invited youth representatives to share in developing the next MTS (2022-2026).</li> <li>• An online <b>consultation on Youth &amp; the SDGs</b> (14 March-6 April 2023), led by young people and youth constituencies, was hosted by the UNDP SparkBlue collaboration platform and <b>co-facilitated by UNDP, UNFPA, DESA, the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, the Major Group for Children and Youth, and the UN Foundation.</b></li> </ul>

		<p>This consultation was a key milestone in the preparation for the ECOSOC Youth Forum and sought to identify and consolidate inputs from youth and bring those insights to the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2023, the HLPF and the SDG Summit consultation process.</p>
	Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Adaptation Fund (AF)</b> undertook a study of youth participation in adaptation projects and interventions supported by the fund: <b>Youth Engagement in Climate Change Adaptation: Lessons from the Adaptation Fund Portfolio of Projects and Programmes</b> (July 2022). The study aimed to understand the enabling factors, drivers and barriers to youth engagement in the AF portfolio. Below are key points from the study.</li> </ul>
	Youth digital spaces/communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>UNDP</b> maintains a <b>Youth Global Space website</b> and a <b>web newsletter The Loop: UNDP Youth Empowerment Update</b> as well as an <b>@UNDP4Youth twitter account</b></li> <li><b>UNDP partnered with Samsung</b> in 2019 to create the Samsung Global Goals App, a platform for Galaxy smartphone users to gain a deeper understanding of the Global Goals and work together. In 2020, UNDP and Samsung Mobile created <b>Generation17</b> – an initiative to elevate the voices of young leaders while providing the resources that they need to overcome barriers to progress. In 2023 the initiative opened an <b>application process for youth leaders</b> of a Global Goals-focused initiative. Once selected, leaders have the opportunity to network and engage with a group of inspiring young leaders and UNDP experts.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Representation</b>		
	Youth constituencies/caucuses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CBD</b> supports the <b>Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)</b>. GBYN is an <b>international network of youth organizations and individuals</b> to prevent the loss of biodiversity. Recognized and supported by the CBD Secretariat, the GYBN represents the voice of global youth in the negotiations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), raises awareness among young people of the values of biodiversity, and connects individuals and youth organizations in order to build a global coalition to halt the loss of biodiversity. The network is coordinated by an international steering committee and is entirely run by young people for young people</li> <li><b>UNFCCC</b> recognizes <b>Youth (YOUNGO)</b> as <b>one of nine recognized constituencies</b>. YOUNGO has two recognized focal points who (as with focal points for other constituencies) facilitate the exchange of information between the Secretariat and the admitted observer organizations</li> <li><b>UNCCD Youth Caucus</b> is a formal mechanism for youth engagement, set up under the Convention to facilitate the active involvement of children and young people in the UNCCD activities and processes that address desertification, land degradation, drought, sustainable development and climate change.</li> <li><b>UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)</b> is a General Assembly-mandated official, formal and self-organised space for young people to contribute to and engage in certain intergovernmental and allied policy processes at the UN.</li> <li><b>ECOSOC Youth Forum</b> provides a platform for young people to engage in a dialogue with Member States and other actors to voice their views, concerns and galvanize actions on how to transform</li> </ul>

		the world into a fairer, greener and more sustainable place guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
	Youth advisors, committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>UN Secretary-General</b> designated an <b>Envoy on Youth</b> who seeks to (1) increase youth participation in the Inter-Governmental space, (2) realize the potential of young people in the UN system, and (3) engage and mobilize young people.</li> <li><b>UN Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change</b>, convened under the auspices of the Youth2030 Strategy, serves as a mechanism for the Secretary-General to hear directly from young people, as the organization works to accelerate global climate action</li> <li><b>IUCN</b> constituted an <b>IUCN Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)</b> to support the implementation of the new Youth strategy.</li> <li><b>Global Center for Adaptation (GCA) Youth Advisory Panel</b> is a 12-member gender-balanced group from Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, North America, Europe, and Oceania that provides strategic advice to the GCA CEO on youth engagement to drive the adaptation agenda.</li> </ul>
<b>Youth Collaboration and Capacity Building</b>		
	Internships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CIF</b> began its <b>Youth Internship Program</b> in 2020 as an effort to increase its outreach and involvement with youth worldwide around climate change.</li> </ul>
	Fellowships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To give young climate leaders the opportunity to work with projects co-financed by CIF in their country of residence, CIF has created the <b>CIF Youth Fellowship</b> in partnership with CIF's six MDBs partners</li> </ul>
<b>Youth-targeted Support</b>		
	Targeted programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 2016-2020, <b>UNDP</b> undertook its first <b>Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace – Youth-GPS</b>, a 5-year global programmatic offer on youth empowerment, designed to sharpen the organization's response to the challenges young people face worldwide.</li> <li>Initiated in 2013, <b>ADB Youth for Asia (YfA)</b> seeks to support young people in contributing effectively to development. Under the initiative, young people join cross-generational project teams bringing innovative perspectives to develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive solutions. It involves young people in leading project design and implementation, components in evaluation and research, campaigns and influencing youth-led development.</li> <li><b>Global Center for Adaptation Youth Leadership &amp; Education Program</b> seeks to mobilize the next generation of adaptation leaders around the world, empowering young people to make the case for adaptation on the global stage and make their communities more climate resilient. It includes a range of initiatives: capacity building, dialogues, network support, adaptation challenges.</li> </ul>
	Challenges and competitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>CIF Youth Adapt Challenge</b>, a partnership with the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), and African Development Bank (AfDB), has demonstrated how climate finance can help young African entrepreneurs scale up solutions to local climate-related problems.</li> <li><b>UNDP Youth Co:Lab</b> established in 2017 and co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation – seeks to empower young people in 25 countries across Asia-Pacific to develop startup solutions to social and environmental challenges.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted by <b>FAO</b> since its foundation in 2009, the <b>Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA)</b> acts as a gateway to allow children and youth to participate in the activities and initiatives of the United Nations. YUNGA partners collaborate to produce the <b>YUNGA Challenge Badges</b> and <b>Youth Guide series</b>, which aim to raise awareness, educate and, most of all, motivate young people to change their behaviour and become active agents of change in their local communities.</li> </ul>
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## CONCLUSION

63. To summarize, our analysis finds that GEF Policies broadly cover key areas of social inclusion and identify the following specific findings:

- GEF Policies include numerous provisions that promote social inclusion and consideration of a range of social risks and impacts. The findings of this analysis reconfirm the GEF IEO Evaluation “GEF Institutional Policies and Engagement” (2022)<sup>35</sup> that broadly found the GEF policies to be contemporary in formulation and aligned with relevant inclusion-oriented global strategies, notably the SDGs and Agenda 2030 as well as policies of peer institutions.
- *Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)*: GEF Policies include broad coverage of sexual orientation and gender identity primarily through a focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups/individuals. The definitions that undergird GEF Policies do however present some inconsistencies related to SOGI. The findings suggest opportunities to facilitate additional knowledge sharing and consultation with Agencies and potentially peer institutions that have introduced additional measures to promote inclusion of persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.
- *Persons with disabilities*: The Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards incorporates a broad “disability inclusion” that establishes key principles for inclusion of persons with disabilities (nondiscrimination and equality; differentiated risk assessment and mitigation, and equal participation in opportunities and benefits). Persons with disabilities are also included in requirements regarding potential risks and impacts on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups/Individuals. Nondiscrimination of persons with disabilities is generally well covered in the GEF Policies. As with the SOGI-related considerations, a broad nondiscrimination principle could be considered to help strengthen attention to the rights of persons with disabilities further. Similarly to SOGI, findings suggest opportunities to facilitate knowledge sharing and consultation with Agencies and potentially peer institutions that have introduced more explicit nondiscrimination measures.

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<sup>35</sup> GEF Independent Evaluation Office, [GEF Institutional Policies and Engagement](#), Evaluation Report 150, 2022.

- *Child protection:* The broad formulation of GEF Policies encompasses key child protection issues such as the prohibition on child labor, addressing SEA/GBV, and differentiated risks and adverse impacts. Except for child labor, GEF Policies provide this coverage in a relatively non-targeted manner, by inclusion of children among several potentially project or program-affected groups or individuals. The GEF's approach is generally consistent with those of most Agencies and peer organizations that include children in requirements focused on risks to vulnerable or marginalized groups as well as those addressing risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and gender-based violence (GBV). One GEF Agency has adopted a targeted requirement on child sexual exploitation and abuse (in addition to general SEA/GBV requirements). Some Agencies have issued guidance and risk screening measures that address child SEA. Similarly, to SOGI and nondiscrimination issues there is room for the GEF to better communicate, visualize and reflect GEF Policy requirements on issues related child protection.
- *Youth as effective change-makers:* The GEF has long emphasized the importance of ensuring engagement with civil society in its operations and through its projects and programs. GEF has strengthened this engagement, in particular with women, youth and indigenous peoples and local communities. At the onset of GEF-8, the Secretariat has initiated several efforts to expand engagement with civil society, including youth groups and constituencies of the MEA Conventions, among others. It is expected that the GEF Assembly will provide additional opportunity to seek proposals and recommendations on strengthening the GEF partnership's engagement and support.

## **ANNEXES**

- Annex A: Key social inclusion provisions in GEF Policies and Guidelines
- Annex B Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Annex C Disability inclusion
- Annex D Child Protection
- Annex E Youth as Effective Change-makers

## Annex A: Key Social Inclusion Provisions in GEF Policies and Guidelines

Note emphasis added in “bold.”

	<b>Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards</b>
	<i>Minimum Standard 1: Environmental and Social Assessment, Management and Monitoring</i>
4	4. Agencies demonstrate that they have in place the necessary policies, procedures, systems and capabilities to ensure that:
4.a	(a) Projects and programs are screened as early as possible to identify Environmental and <b>Social Risks</b> and potential Impacts, including all risks referred to in Minimum Standards 3–9 below. This screening informs the overall process of managing relevant Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts, and related Stakeholder Engagement, including decisions on the appropriate Environmental and Social Risk and Impact Assessments that will be carried out;
4.b	(b) Projects and programs are classified based on the level and magnitude of potential risks and impacts, including considerations of: (i) Direct, indirect, cumulative, and transboundary Environmental and Social Risks and potential Impacts, and the risks and impacts of Associated Facilities; (ii) Physical, biological, <b>socio-economic (including livelihoods), other social (including on social organization, health and human safety)</b> , and cultural resources; and (iii) Applicable national and local laws as well as directly relevant provisions of international treaties and agreements;
4.j	<b><i>Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups</i></b> (j) Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals that are or may be affected by a project or program are identified as early as possible[4], and associated risks and potential impacts are assessed to ensure that:(i) Differentiated mitigation measures are incorporated so that risks and impacts do not fall disproportionately on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups; and(ii) Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups do not face discrimination or prejudice in accessing benefits and resources;
	<i>ESS Guidelines, Definitions</i> <b><i>Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals</i></b> means those individuals or groups who, by virtue of, for example, their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, physical, mental or other disability, social, civic or health status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic disadvantages or indigenous status, and/or dependence on unique natural resources, may be more likely to be adversely affected by the impacts of a project or program and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of its benefits.
4.k	<b>(k) The special needs and circumstances of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals are addressed in any Environmental and Social Management Plan, or equivalent;</b>
4.l	<b><i>Disability Inclusion</i></b> <b>(l) The differentiated risks and potential impacts of projects and programs on persons with disabilities are addressed systematically in the screening, assessment and planning processes described in paragraphs 4.a.–g. above in such a way that ensures non-discrimination and equality, and aims to provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in and benefit from projects and programs on an equal basis with others;</b>
4.m	<b><i>Adverse Gender-Related Impacts, Including Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse</i></b> <b>(m) Any risks or potential adverse impacts on women, men, girls and boys are identified as early as possible as part of project or program screening and reflected in relevant safeguards instruments, and differentiated by gender where relevant, including adverse impacts on Gender Equality, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse;</b>

4.n	<b>(n) Discrimination against women or girls, or gender-based discrimination are prevented; and</b>
4.o	<b>(o) In case incidences of Gender-Based Violence and/or Sexual Exploitation and Abuse occur, there are: (i) Established reporting and response protocols in place, with specific procedures for GBV including confidential reporting with safe and ethical documenting of GBV cases, that indicate when and where to report incidents, and what follow-up actions will be undertaken; and (ii) Modalities to provide services and redress to survivors.</b>
	ESS Guidelines, Definitions <b>Gender-Based Violence</b> means any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed differences between male and female individuals, including acts that inflict physical, mental, or sexual harm or suffering; threats of such acts; and coercion and other deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. <b>Sexual Exploitation and Abuse</b> means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another; and, specifically in the case of Sexual Abuse, the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.
	<i>Minimum Standard 2: Accountability, Grievance and Conflict Resolution</i>
6	6. Agencies demonstrate that they have in place <b>grievance and conflict resolution systems</b> at the appropriate level that:
6.a	<b>(a) Receive and address complaints</b> related to the implementation of projects and programs in a timely and culturally appropriate manner;
6.b	<b>(b) Include contact information</b> made available on the Agency’s website and on a project- or program-specific website, when such a website exists, including in local languages;
6.c	<b>(c) Work proactively</b> with Complainants and other parties to resolve the complaints or disputes determined to have standing;
6.d	<b>(d) Are independent</b> of teams preparing and supervising projects and programs, transparent, and effective as neutral third parties able to assist in resolving disputes between Complainants and project implementers;
6.e	<b>(e) Keeps Complainants</b> abreast of progress with cases brought forward;
6.f	<b>(f) Maintain records on all cases and issues brought forward, with due regard for the confidentiality of Complainants’ identity and of information;</b>
6.g	<b>(g) Take appropriate measures to minimize the risk of retaliation to Complainants;</b>
6.h	<b>(h) Are readily accessible and broadly advertised to Stakeholders; and</b>
6.i	<b>(i) Includes a locally-available option at the project or program level that is established early, proportionate to the potential risks and impacts of the project or program, readily accessible, culturally appropriate, and with appropriate confidentiality protections.</b>
	<i>Minimum Standard 8: Labor and Working Conditions</i>
15	15. Agencies demonstrate that they have in place the necessary policies, procedures, systems and capabilities to ensure that:

15.a	(a) Where the screening or assessment processes described under Minimum Standard 1 identify risks or potential adverse impacts to Workers, further assessments are undertaken, and plans are developed, implemented and monitored to manage the risks and potential adverse impacts in such a way that is consistent with this Minimum Standard and respects and protects the fundamental rights of workers, consistent with the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, including: (i) Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; <b>(ii) The elimination of discrimination, in respect of employment and occupation;</b> <b>(iii) The prevention of child labor; and</b> <b>(iv) The elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor.</b>
15.e	(e) Decisions relating to any aspect of the employment relationship, including recruitment, hiring and treatment of workers, are made based on the <b>principles of non-discrimination, equal opportunity and fair treatment, and not on the basis of personal characteristics unrelated to inherent job requirements;</b>
15.f	(f) Appropriate measures are in place to <b>prevent harassment, intimidation, and exploitation, and to protect vulnerable Workers, including but not limited to women, children of working age, migrants and persons with disabilities;</b>
15.h	<b>(h) Forced labor and child labor are not used in connection with a project or program. Child labor includes both (i) labor below the minimum age of employment and (ii) any other work that may be hazardous, may interfere with the child’s education, or may be harmful to the child’s health or to the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development;</b>
15.j	(j) Workers are informed of <b>applicable grievance and conflict resolution systems</b> provided at the workplace level, which conform to the requirements of Minimum Standard 2; and
15.k	(k) Workers may <b>use these mechanisms without retribution</b> , and the grievance and conflict resolution systems does not impede access to other judicial or administrative remedies available under the law or through existing arbitration procedures, or substitute for grievance systems provided through collective agreements.
	<i>Minimum Standard 9: Community Health, Safety and Security</i>
17	17. Agencies demonstrate that they have in place the necessary policies, procedures, systems and capabilities to ensure that:
17.a	(a) Where the screening or assessment processes described under Minimum Standard 1 identify risks or potential <b>impacts to the health, safety and security of project- or program-affected communities</b> , further assessments are carried out, considering: (i) The potential exposure of communities to both accidental and natural hazards, particularly where the structural elements of the project or program are accessible to members of the affected community, or where their failure could result in injury to the community; <b>(ii) The special needs and exposure of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals, including in particular women and children;</b> <b>(iii) The particular risks that may be present in a conflict or post-conflict context;</b> (iv) The impacts of the project on provisioning and regulating ecosystem services, as they are directly relevant to community health and safety; and (v) The current or projected effects of climate change and other natural hazards;
17.b	(b) Appropriate measures are designed, implemented and monitored to <b>prevent or avoid any adverse impacts on community health, safety and security, where feasible, or minimized or mitigated</b> , where avoidance or prevention are not feasible;
17.e	(e) Projects and programs avoid, where feasible, or minimize the <b>risk of community exposure to disease and other relevant health risks, taking into account differentiated levels of exposure, and the needs and exposure of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals;</b> and

	<b>Policy on Gender Equality</b>
GE19	19. Agencies demonstrate that they have in place the necessary policies, procedures and capabilities required to ensure that:
GE19.a	(a) Gender Analyses, socio-economic assessments or the equivalent are applied to inform <b>Gender-responsive design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation</b> , including budgeting and staffing, of Agency activities;
GE19.b	(b) Activities implemented by the Agency <b>do not exacerbate existing gender-related inequalities</b> and, where relevant, address Gender Gaps;
GE19.c	(c) Activities implemented by the Agency strive to <b>provide equal opportunities for women and men</b> to benefit;
GE19.d	(d) Women and men are provided <b>equal opportunities in terms of participation and decision-making</b> throughout the identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities implemented by the Agency;
GE19.e	(e) Collection of <b>sex disaggregated data</b> and information on gender, and the use of Gender-Sensitive Indicators, sex-disaggregated targets and results, as relevant, are regularly incorporated in monitoring, evaluation and reporting of Agency activities.
	<p>Definitions</p> <p><b>Gender Equality</b> means the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of <b>women and men and of girls and boys</b>. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women’s and men’s rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female.</p>

	<b>Policy on Stakeholder Engagement</b>
	<b>Policy Requirements</b>
	<i>A. Stakeholder Engagement Throughout the GEF Project and Programme Cycles</i>
SE8	8. In Program Framework Documents and Project Identification Forms submitted for Work Program entry or CEO Approval, Agencies provide a description of any consultations conducted during project development, as well as information on how Stakeholders will be engaged in the proposed activity, and means of engagement throughout the project/ program cycle.
SE9	9. At CEO Endorsement/ Approval, Agencies present Stakeholder Engagement Plans or equivalent documentation, with information regarding Stakeholders who have been and will be engaged, means of engagement, dissemination of information, roles and responsibilities in ensuring effective Stakeholder Engagement, resource requirements, and timing of engagement throughout the project/ program cycle.
SE10	10. The Secretariat, in its review of Requests for CEO Endorsement/ Approval, assesses whether adequate measures have been proposed, supported by an adequate allocation of resources, to ensure effective Stakeholder Engagement throughout the life-cycle of the activity, and whether such measures have been adequately documented as per paragraphs 8–9 above(2).
SE11	11. Agencies oversee the implementation of Stakeholder Engagement as set out in the documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/ Approval, and include information on progress, challenges and outcomes in their annual project implementation reports as well as mid-term reviews and terminal evaluations.

SE12	12. Agencies propose and allocate adequate resources in their respective program and project budgets to promote effective Stakeholder Engagement throughout the program and project cycles.
SE13	13. The Secretariat updates and maintains publicly available and easily accessible project and program templates to support the implementation of this Policy.
	<i>B. Stakeholder Engagement in Activities Led by the Secretariat</i>
	14. The Secretariat engages with Stakeholders in all other GEF-Financed Activities, such as national and regional outreach activities executed by the Secretariat, following the principles set out in Paragraph 6.
	15. The Secretariat <b>provides for appropriate Stakeholder Engagement in the development of GEF policies, guidelines and strategy.</b>
	<i>C. Agency Policies, Procedures and Capabilities</i>
SE16	16. Agencies demonstrate that they have in place the necessary policies, procedures and capabilities to ensure that:
SE16.a	(a) <b>Stakeholders are identified and involved as early as possible</b> in the identification and development of activities implemented by the Agency and that Stakeholder Engagement is sustained throughout the life-cycle of the activity.
SE16.b	(b) Stakeholders are engaged in <b>meaningful consultations</b> where they are able to express their views on project plans, benefits, risks, impacts, and mitigation measures that may affect them.
SE16.c	<b>(c) Such consultations are gender responsive; free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation; and responsive to the needs and interests of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.</b>
SE16.d	(d) A public record of Stakeholder Engagement throughout the project cycle is maintained and disclosed. In cases where <b>confidentiality</b> is necessary to protect stakeholders from harm, statistical information is recorded and made publicly available.
SE16.e	(e) Stakeholders have access to <b>timely, relevant and understandable information</b> about activities implemented by the Agency, and clear procedures to request information.
	<i>Definitions</i> <b>Stakeholder</b> means an individual or group that has an interest in the outcome of a GEF project or program or is likely to be affected by it, such as local communities, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, and private sector entities, comprising <b>women, men, girls and boys.</b>

## Annex B: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Provisions regarding inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity. Note emphasis added in “bold”

<p>GEF</p>	<p><b>Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards:</b>  Screen for all E&amp;S risks, including all in MS 3-9 (4.a)</p> <p>(j) <b>Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals</b> that are or may be affected by a project or program are identified as early as possible[4], and associated risks and potential impacts are assessed to ensure that:(i) Differentiated mitigation measures are incorporated so that risks and impacts do not fall disproportionately on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups; and(ii) Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups do not face discrimination or prejudice in accessing benefits and resources; the special needs and circumstances of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals are addressed in any Environmental and Social Management Plan, or equivalent (4.j-k)</p> <p><b>Guidelines on Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards, Definitions:</b>  <b>Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals</b> means those individuals or groups who, by virtue of, for example, their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, physical, mental or other disability, social, civic or health status, <b>sexual orientation, gender identity</b>, economic disadvantages or indigenous status, and/or dependence on unique natural resources, may be more likely to be adversely affected by the impacts of a project or program and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of its benefits.</p> <p><i>Adverse Gender-Related Impacts, Including Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse</i>  4(m) Any risks or potential adverse <b>impacts on women, men, girls and boys</b> are identified as early as possible as part of project or program screening and reflected in relevant safeguards instruments, and differentiated by gender where relevant, including adverse impacts on Gender Equality, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; Discrimination against women or girls, or gender-based discrimination are prevented; and in case incidences of Gender-Based Violence and/or Sexual Exploitation and Abuse occur, there are:  (i) Established reporting and response protocols in place, with specific procedures for GBV including confidential reporting with safe and ethical documenting of GBV cases, that indicate when and where to report incidents, and what follow-up actions will be undertaken; and  (ii) Modalities to provide services and redress to survivors (4.m-o)</p> <p><i>MS 8 Labor and Working Conditions</i>  15.f-h. Decisions relating to any aspect of the employment relationship, including recruitment, hiring and treatment of workers, are made based on the principles of <b>non-discrimination, equal opportunity and fair treatment, and not on the basis of personal characteristics unrelated to inherent job requirements</b>; Appropriate measures are in place to prevent harassment, intimidation, and exploitation, and to protect vulnerable Workers, including but not limited to women, children of working age, migrants and persons with disabilities</p> <p><b>Policy on Gender Equality:</b></p>
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	<p>19. Agencies demonstrate that they have in place the necessary policies, procedures and capabilities to ensure that: (a) Gender Analyses, socio-economic assessments or the equivalent are applied to inform Gender-responsive design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, including budgeting and staffing, of Agency activities; (b) Activities implemented by the Agency do not exacerbate existing gender-related inequalities and, where relevant, address Gender Gaps; (c) Activities implemented by the Agency strive to provide equal opportunities for women and men to benefit; (d) Women and men are provided equal opportunities in terms of participation and decision-making throughout the identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities implemented by the Agency; Collection of sex disaggregated data and information on gender, and the use of Gender-Sensitive Indicators, sex-disaggregated targets and results, as relevant, are regularly incorporated in monitoring, evaluation and reporting of Agency activities</p> <p><b>Glossary:</b></p> <p><b>Gender</b> refers to the roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society at a given time considers appropriate for men and women. In addition to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, gender also refers to the relations between women and those between men. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context, including class, race, poverty level, ethnic group, <b>sexual orientation</b>, and age. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities.</p> <p><b>Gender Analysis</b> means a critical examination of how differences in gender norms, roles, power structures, activities, needs, opportunities and rights affect men, women, girls and boys in a certain situation or context. It includes collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and gender information to understand gender differences and gaps, determine gender differentiated impacts and risks, to identify measures to avoid adverse gender impacts, and to uncover and act on opportunities to address gender gaps and inequalities relevant to the activity.</p> <p><b>Gender Equality</b> means the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men and girls and boys. Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women’s and men’s rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female.</p> <p><b>Guidelines on Gender Equality</b> do not elaborate on SOGI-related issues</p> <p><b>Policy on Stakeholder Engagement</b></p> <p>16. Agencies demonstrate that they have in place the necessary policies, procedures and capabilities to ensure that: [(a) stakeholders identified; (b) engaged in meaningful consultations;] (c) Such consultations are <b>gender responsive</b>; free of manipulation, interference, coercion, <b>discrimination</b> and intimidation; and responsive to the needs and interests of <b>disadvantaged and vulnerable groups</b>; [...] (e) Stakeholders have access to timely, relevant and understandable information about activities implemented by the Agency, and clear procedures to request information.</p> <p><b>Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement</b> do not elaborate on SOGI-related issues</p>
WB Environmental and Social Framework, 2016	<p><b>WB Environmental and Social Framework:</b></p> <p>28.b Social risks and impacts, including: (i) threats to human security through the escalation of personal, communal or inter-state conflict, crime or violence; (ii) risks that project impacts fall disproportionately on individuals and groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable;28 (iii) <b>any prejudice or discrimination toward individuals or groups in providing access to development resources and project benefits, particularly in the case of those who may be disadvantaged or vulnerable</b>; (iv) negative economic and social impacts relating to the involuntary taking of land or restrictions on land use; (v) risks or</p>

	<p>impacts associated with land and natural resource tenure and use<sup>29</sup>, including (as relevant) potential project impacts on local land use patterns and tenorial arrangements, land access and availability, food security and land values, and any corresponding risks related to conflict or contestation over land and natural resources; (vi) impacts on the health, safety and well-being of workers and project-affected communities; and (vii) risks to cultural heritage.</p> <p>29. Where the environmental and social assessment of the project identifies specific individuals or groups as disadvantaged or vulnerable, the Borrower will propose and implement differentiated measures so that adverse impacts do not fall disproportionately on the disadvantaged or vulnerable, and they are not disadvantaged in sharing any development benefits and opportunities resulting from the project.</p> <p><b>ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement</b></p> <p>11. The Borrower will identify those project-affected parties (individuals or groups) who, because of their particular circumstances, may be <b>disadvantaged or vulnerable</b><sup>2</sup>. Based on this identification, the Borrower will further identify individuals or groups who may have different concerns and priorities about project impacts, mitigation mechanisms and benefits, and who may require different, or separate, forms of engagement. An adequate level of detail will be included in the stakeholder identification and analysis so as to determine the level of communication that is appropriate for the project.</p> <p>Ftnt 2: Disadvantaged or vulnerable refers to those who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project’s benefits. Such an individual/group is also more likely to be excluded from/unable to participate fully in the mainstream consultation process and as such may require specific measures and/or assistance to do so. This will take into account considerations relating to age, including the elderly and minors, and including in circumstances where they may be separated from their family, the community or other individuals upon which they depend.</p> <p>16. The SEP will describe the measures that will be used to <b>remove obstacles</b> to participation, and how the views of differently affected groups will be captured. Where applicable, the SEP will include differentiated measures to allow the effective participation of those identified as <b>disadvantaged or vulnerable</b>. Dedicated approaches and an increased level of resources may be needed for communication with such differently affected groups so that they can obtain the information they need regarding the issues that will potentially affect them.</p> <p><i>Information Disclosure</i></p> <p>20. The information will be disclosed in relevant local languages and in a manner that is <b>accessible</b> and culturally appropriate, taking into account <b>any specific needs</b> of groups that may be differentially or disproportionately affected by the project or groups of the population with specific information needs (such as, <b>disability, literacy, gender, mobility, differences in language or accessibility</b>).</p>
<p>World Bank, <a href="#">Bank Directive: Addressing Risks and Impacts on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups</a> (August 4, 2016)</p>	<p>Bank Directive includes broad definition of “<b>disadvantaged and vulnerable</b>” (refers to those individuals or groups who, by virtue of, for example, their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, physical, mental or other disability, social, civic or health status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic disadvantages or indigenous status, and/or dependence on unique natural resources, may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project’s benefits (Sec. II).</p> <p>[Summary: Requires task teams to ensure E/S assessment and Stakeholder Engagement Plans identify disadvantaged and vulnerable and includes differentiated measures for mitigation and allow for effective participation. Ensure impacts do not fall disproportionately on disadvantaged or vulnerable. Ensure ESCP addresses issues. Identify if disadvantaged or vulnerable may be subject to risk of harm due to these requirements, seek advice from OESRC. (Sec. III).]</p>

<p>WB Guidance and supporting measures</p>	<p><a href="#">ESF Good Practice Note: Non-Discrimination, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)</a> (2019) which <i>inter alia</i> indicate how to address SOGI issues in the environmental and social assessment and management process.</p> <p>Good Practice Notes regarding SEA/SH: Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) in Investment Project Financing involving Major Civil Works (3rd ed, Oct. 2022) and Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) in Human Development Operations (Sep. 2022) address SEA/SH against LGBTI+.</p> <p>WB has hired a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Advisor who provides leadership and technical guidance to Bank teams and enhance coordination with CSOs, UN Agencies, and other partners and stakeholders.</p>
<p>EBRD Environmental and Social Policy (ESP, 2019)</p>	<p>ESP, Sec. II, Definitions: Defines “vulnerable” as people or groups of people who may be more adversely affected by project impacts than others by virtue of characteristics such as their gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, indigenous status, age (including children, youths and the elderly), physical or mental disability, literacy, political views, or social status.</p> <p>PR2 Labour and Working Conditions, 14: Client will not make employment decisions on the basis of personal characteristics unrelated to inherent job requirements, such as gender, race, nationality, political opinion, affiliation to a union, ethnic, social or indigenous origin, religion or belief, marital or family status, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity.</p>
<p>IDB <a href="#">Environmental and Social Policy Framework</a> (2020)</p> <p>IDB <a href="#">Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Policy Framework</a> (2021)</p>	<p>ESPF 1, 14: ... Borrower will identify individuals, groups, and communities that may be directly and differentially or disproportionately affected by the project because of their disadvantaged or vulnerable status. Fnt 58: This disadvantaged or vulnerable status may stem from ... gender identity, sexual orientation.</p> <p>ESPF Annex II Glossary: Disadvantaged or vulnerable</p> <p>Disadvantaged or vulnerable refers to people or groups who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project’s benefits. Such people and groups are more likely to be excluded from/unable to participate fully in the consultation process and as such may require specific measures and/or assistance to do so. This disadvantaged or vulnerable status may stem by virtue of disability, state of health, indigenous status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race, color, ethnicity, age, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, economic disadvantage, or social condition. Other vulnerable individuals and/or groups may include people or groups in vulnerable situations, including the poor, the landless, the elderly, single-headed households, refugees, internally displaced persons, natural resource dependent communities or other displaced persons who may not be protected through national legislation and/or international law.</p> <p>ESPF 1, 9: The risks and impacts identification process will consider, among others: ... <b>prejudice or discrimination</b> against individuals or groups in providing access to development resources and project benefits, particularly in the case of those who may be disadvantaged or vulnerable ... <b>gender-related risks, including gender-based exclusion, gender-based violence (sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases), and potential discrimination risks based on gender and sexual orientation</b>, among others.</p> <p>ESPS 2 Labor, 19: The Borrower will provide special measures<sup>81</sup> of protection and assistance to address the vulnerabilities of project workers, such as women, people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, persons with disabilities, children (of working age, in accordance with this ESPS), and migrant workers. Such measures may be necessary only for specific periods of time, depending on the circumstances of the project worker and the nature of the vulnerability.</p> <p>ESPS9 Gender Equality Objectives: This ESPS recognizes that diverse sexual orientations and gender identities may have the effect of excluding people making them more vulnerable to negative project impacts, which often bars them from taking advantage of the opportunities available to other members of the community.</p>

ESPF Guidance ESPS 9, GL3: Similarly, discrimination and exclusion of people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities manifests in every society. For the purpose of ESPS 9, the term “people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities” refers to individuals whose sex, gender, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity differs from those of the majority. In many cases these individuals identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, but it is important to note that other terms such as “sexual and gender minorities” and “LGBTQI+ individuals” are frequently used in some regions and countries.

**Gender-based Risks and Impacts**

ESPS9, Gender Equality, para. 11: The Borrower will screen the project for potential gender-based risks and impacts that may disproportionately affect women, girls, and sexual and gender minorities. If potential gender-based risks and impacts are identified, the Borrower will conduct a gender analysis (GA) as part of environmental and social due diligence.

Para. 13: The GA examines the risk of disproportionate impacts of the project on women, girls, and sexual and gender minorities as a result of their different livelihoods, ownership status, community activities, household loads, and others. Areas of risk include, but are not limited to, the following: [...] Introducing conditions that restrict participation in project activities based on gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation or that limit participation based on pregnancy, parental leave, or marital status.

Para. 15. Where the GA has identified negative gender-based risks and impacts that have the potential to disproportionately affect people due to their gender, the Borrower will incorporate measures in the project design to (i) avoid, minimize, mitigate, and/or compensate the identified negative impacts with mechanisms that promote gender equity and (ii) ensure that people of different genders, including women and sexual and gender minorities, that may be impacted by the project receive social and economic benefits equal to those received by other members of the community, thereby avoiding the reinforcement of gender inequalities.

**SGBV**

ESPS 9 Gender Equality, para. 18: The Borrower will assess and prevent risks of project-related SGBV and respond promptly and appropriately to incidents of SGBV,[187] including, as appropriate ....

Footnote 187: SOGI: Sexual minorities, and especially transgender women, might be subjected to specific forms of SGBV and hate crimes and as a result may require additional protections.

ESPF Guidance, ESPF 9, GL40: GL40. SGBV is any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will because of their sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual, mental, and economic harm, threats of such acts, coercion, and manipulation, whether occurring in public or in private. SGBV is rooted in unequal gender-based power relations, which means that it disproportionately affects women and girls, and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. It is estimated that one in three women worldwide will experience sexual or physical violence in their lifetime. Although being recognized as a human rights violation, SGBV is widespread and occurs in all countries in the world.

**Participation**

ESPS 9 Gender Equality, para. 20: In addition to considering the requirements related to stakeholder engagement and information disclosure in accordance with ESPS 10, the Borrower will ensure the effective engagement and participation of people of all genders in the following ways:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ensure that the consultation process reflects the concerns of people of all genders, gender identities, and sexual orientations.</b> Different genders may have different views and interests even within the same stakeholder group. Differences may arise regarding how risks should be assessed, how different things are valued, or how harm can be avoided or remedied.</li> <li>• Ensure there is no discrimination based on gender that may hinder one group’s ability to influence decision making in the consultation process.</li> <li>• Identify and address obstacles faced by women and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities to participate in consultations (e.g., lower education, time and mobility restrictions, lower access to information, language barriers, less decision-making power and participation experience, safety problems, etc.). Women and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities may be less able to speak in public settings, or mobility constraints, such as caring for children or the elderly in the case of women, may prevent them from attending consultation events held in locations that are some distance away from their homes.</li> <li>• Facilitate measures to ensure meaningful participation of women and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in consultations, including appropriate times of meetings, transportation, and childcare support, and convene separate meetings when necessary.</li> </ul>
<p>UNDP Social and Environmental Standards</p>	<p><b>SES Programming Principles</b></p> <p>SES, Human Rights-Based Approach, para. 14: In its programmes and projects, UNDP upholds the principles of accountability and the rule of law, participation and inclusion, and equality and non-discrimination, noting that prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, <b>sexual orientation, gender identity</b>, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth, health status or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. UNDP also ensures the meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and projects.</p> <p>SES, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, para. 18: UNDP programmes and projects are informed by gender analysis in their design and implementation. UNDP seeks to identify and integrate the different needs, constraints, contributions and priorities of women, men, girls and boys into its programming [20]. Footnote 20: References in SES to “women and men” or similar is understood to include “girls and boys” and other groups discriminated against based on their <b>gender identities</b>, such as transgender or transsexual people.</p>
<p>EIB <a href="#">Environmental and Social Standards</a> (2022)</p>	<p>Standard 7 and throughout. Para. 2, and Glossary:</p> <p>BROAD definition of vulnerable, w/ focus on marginalization and discrimination leading to vulnerability. Includes broad list : This Standard recognises that in some cases, certain individuals or groups are vulnerable, marginalised, systematically discriminated against or excluded on the basis of their socioeconomic characteristics. Such characteristics include, but are not limited to, <b>sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity</b>, caste, racial, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, genetic features, age, birth, disability, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, activism, membership of a national minority, affiliation to a union or any other form of workers’ organisation, property, nationality, language, marital or family status, health status, or migrant or economic status.</p>
<p>GPE <a href="#">Glossary</a></p>	<p>GLOSSARY:</p> <p><b>Definition:</b> “Gender equality and social inclusion” are fundamental aspects of human rights and social justice. They are the foundations upon which development processes and interventions should be built. Gender Equality and Social inclusion is about removing barriers of discrimination and ensuring equal access and opportunities for everyone regardless of their gender and how this intersects with</p>

	<p>other drivers of disadvantage such as poverty, disability, ethnicity and refugee status. <a href="https://www.cverreferenceguide.org/en/gender-equality-and-social-inclusion-gesi">https://www.cverreferenceguide.org/en/gender-equality-and-social-inclusion-gesi</a></p>
<p>GCF  <a href="#">Revised Environmental and Social Policy</a> (2021)   <a href="#">GCF Environmental and Social Safeguards</a> (Stage 3 draft, 2022)</p>	<p><a href="#">Revised Environmental and Social Policy</a> (2021)</p> <p><b>Guiding Principles</b></p> <p><b>Equality and non-discrimination.</b> In meeting the ESS standards, all activities financed by GCF will require that, where they are unavoidable, adverse impacts do not fall disproportionately on women and girls, persons in vulnerable positions and situations and marginalised groups, and individuals that are affected or potentially affected by GCF-financed activities, and avoid prejudice and discrimination in providing access to development resources and benefits;</p> <p><b>Human rights.</b> All activities supported by GCF will be designed and implemented in a manner that will promote, protect and fulfil universal respect for, and observance of, human rights for all recognized by the United Nations. GCF will require the application of robust environmental and social due diligence so that the supported activities do not cause, promote, contribute to, perpetuate, or exacerbate adverse human rights impacts;</p> <p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p>“<b>Disadvantaged or vulnerable</b>” refers to those who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project’s benefits. Such an individual/group is also more likely to be excluded from/unable to participate fully in the mainstream consultation process and as such may require specific measures and/or assistance to do so.</p> <p><b>Environmental and Social Safeguards (Stage 3 draft, 2022)</b></p> <p>Para. 3: GCF respects <b>human rights</b> in connection with the projects it finances. Accredited entities will be required to respect human rights, avoid infringement on the human rights of others, and address adverse human rights risks and impacts caused by their business activities. All activities will be designed and implemented in a manner that will promote, protect and fulfil universal respect for, and observance of, human rights for all recognized by the United Nations. The application of robust environmental and social due diligence will be required, so that the supported activities do not cause, promote, contribute to, perpetuate, or exacerbate adverse human rights impacts.</p> <p>4. GCF views <b>equality</b> as an intrinsic value, meaning that individuals and collectives enjoy the same conditions and opportunities to exercise their rights and achieve their social, economic, political and cultural potential. Equality includes promoting access to equal opportunities and full participation in society for people who face barriers due to their identity. These Standards recognize, regardless of the cultural or ethnic context, the right to equality among genders as established in applicable international agreements. Conversely, <b>gender inequality</b> limits the ability of project-affected people to participate in and benefit from project-derived co-benefits, as well as to resist, cope with, and recover from the adverse impacts that projects may generate. The pursuit of equality requires actions aimed at equity, which implies providing and distributing benefits and/or resources in a way that narrows existing gaps, recognizing that the existence of these gaps can harm people of all genders.</p> <p>para. 5: GCF is committed to promoting <b>gender equality and gender empowerment</b> [4], for all people regardless of <b>sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics, recognizing that gender equality contributes to poverty reduction and results in higher levels of human capital.</b> Entities will be required to pay close attention to how gender inequalities interact with other</p>

inequalities, such as socioeconomic, ethnic, racial, disability and other factors, and how this intersectionality may exacerbate barriers to accessing project benefits and create other vulnerabilities. **Intersectionality** refers to how different identity categories interact with each other in society, such that one category (e.g. race, ethnicity, disability) cannot be understood in isolation from others (e.g., gender identity and gender expression). While some identities may be a source of exclusion, others may bring privilege. Considering intersectionality is important because certain individuals stand on the path of multiple forms of exclusion.

Footnote 4: **Gender empowerment** means expanding the rights, resources, and capacity of people of all genders to make decisions and act independently in social, economic, and political spheres. The term includes the empowerment of women, and the consideration of aspects of human rights and development of people of all genders, through the elimination of social, economic, and political barriers for people of marginalized genders, diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

## Annex C: Disability Inclusion

Provisions regarding inclusion of persons with disabilities. Note emphasis added in “bold.”

<p>GEF</p>	<p><b>Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards</b></p> <p><b>MS 1 Environmental and Social Assessment, Management and Monitoring</b></p> <p><i>Disability Inclusion 4(I)</i> The differentiated risks and potential impacts of projects and programs on persons with disabilities are addressed systematically in the screening, assessment and planning processes described in paragraphs 4.a.–g. above in such a way that ensures non-discrimination and equality, and aims to provide opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in and benefit from projects and programs on an equal basis with others (4.I)</p> <p><b>MS 8: Labor and Working Conditions</b></p> <p>15(e) Decisions relating to any aspect of the employment relationship, including recruitment, hiring and treatment of workers, are made based on the principles of <b>non-discrimination, equal opportunity and fair treatment, and not on the basis of personal characteristics unrelated to inherent job requirements;</b></p> <p>15(f) Appropriate measures are in place to prevent harassment, intimidation, and exploitation, and to protect vulnerable Workers, including but not limited to women, children of working age, migrants and persons with <b>disabilities;</b></p> <p><b>MS 9: Community Health, Safety and Security</b></p> <p>17(a) Where the screening or assessment processes described under Minimum Standard 1 identify risks or potential impacts to the health, safety and security of project- or program-affected communities, further assessments are carried out, considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The potential exposure of communities to both accidental and natural hazards, particularly where the structural elements of the project or program are accessible to members of the affected community, or where their failure could result in injury to the community;</li> <li>(ii) The special needs and exposure of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals, including in particular women and children;</li> <li>(iii) The particular risks that may be present in a conflict or post-conflict context;</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy on Gender Equality:</b></p> <p>19. Agencies demonstrate that they have in place the necessary policies, procedures and capabilities required to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(c ) Activities implemented by the Agency strive to provide equal opportunities for women and men to benefit</li> <li>(d) Women and men are provided equal opportunities in terms of participation and decision-making throughout the identification, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities implemented by the Agency</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy on Stakeholder Engagement:</b></p> <p>16. Agencies demonstrate that they have in place the necessary policies, procedures and capabilities to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(c ) Such consultations are gender responsive; free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation; and responsive to the needs and interests of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups</li> </ul>
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<p><b>World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (2016)</b></p>	<p><b>ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions:</b> Objectives: protect project workers, including vulnerable such as women, persons with disabilities, .... Borrower will provide appropriate measures of protection and assistance to address the vulnerabilities of project workers, including specific groups of workers, such as women, people with disabilities, migrant workers and children (15) Borrower will consider, to the extent technically and financially feasible, reasonable measures to adapt the workplace in relation to project workers with disabilities (ft nt 11)</p> <p><b>ESS4, Community Health and Safety,</b> para. 7: <b>Where technically and financially feasible, the Borrower will also apply the concept of universal access</b> to the design and construction of such new buildings and structures (ft. nt 2: universal access means unimpeded access for people of all ages and abilities in different situations and under various circumstances, as set out in GIIP)</p> <p><b>ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement:</b> Describe measures to remove obstacles to participation and how views of differently affected groups will be captured. Where applicable, include differentiated measures to allow effective participation of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups (16). Disclose information in relevant local languages in accessible and culturally appropriate manner, <b>considering any special needs of groups that may be disproportionately affected or groups with specific information needs (such as due to disability, literacy, gender, mobility, language, accessibility)</b> (20)</p> <p>WB has a <a href="#">Good Practice Note on Non-Discrimination and Disability</a></p>
<p><b>IFC Policy on E/S Sustainability and Performance Standards (2012)</b></p>	<p>PS1 Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• para. 12 and ft nt 18: Client will identify individuals and groups that may be directly and differentially or disproportionately affected by the project because of their disadvantaged or vulnerable status (disadvantaged or vulnerable status may stem from an individual's or group's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status. The client should also consider factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, culture, literacy, sickness, <b>physical or mental disability</b>, poverty or economic disadvantage, and dependence on unique natural resources).</li> <li>• para. 27: regarding stakeholder engagement, include differentiated measures to allow effective participation of disadvantaged or vulnerable, where applicable</li> </ul>
<p><b>EBRD Environmental and Social Policy (ESP, 2019)</b></p>	<p>Sec. II, Definitions: Disability included in definition of vulnerable people: people or groups of people who may be more adversely affected by project impacts than others by virtue of characteristics such as their gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, indigenous status, age (including children, youths and the elderly), physical or mental disability, literacy, political views, or social status.</p> <p>PR2 Labour and Working Conditions, Objectives: protect women and men at work, including vulnerable workers such as young workers, persons with disabilities, migrant workers and refugees, workers engaged by third parties, and workers in the client's supply chain.</p> <p>PR2 Labour and Working Conditions, 14: client will not make employment decisions on the basis of personal characteristics unrelated to inherent job requirements, such as ... disability.</p> <p>PR2 Labour and Working Conditions, 14: base the employment relationship on the principle of equal opportunity and fair treatment, and will not discriminate with respect to any aspect of the employment relationship, including recruitment and hiring, job assignment, compensation (including</p>

	<p>wages and benefits), working conditions and terms of employment, including reasonable adaptation of the workplace related to disabilities, access to training, promotion, termination of employment or retirement, and discipline;</p> <p>PR4 Health, Safety and Security, 11: OHS: Where there are specific risks associated with certain work activities that could result in adverse effects on the health, safety and wellbeing of workers with sensitivities such as age, gender, <b>disability</b> or short or long term health conditions, the client will carry out more detailed risk assessment and make adjustments to prevent injury and ill-health.</p> <p>PR4 Health, Safety and Security, 20: The construction and major refurbishments of buildings used for communal purposes <b>will be designed in accordance with the concept of universal access</b> (fnrt 41: Universal access refers to safe and inclusive access for people of all ages and abilities in different situations and under various circumstances.)</p> <p>PR4 Health, Safety and Security, 28: Where the project involves the provision of public services, to the extent possible, the client will incorporate the principles of <b>universal access</b>.</p> <p>PR10 Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement, 18: This information will be disclosed in the local language(s) and in a manner that is accessible and culturally appropriate, taking into account any specific needs of groups that may be differentially or disproportionately affected by the project or groups of the population with specific information needs (including <b>disability</b>, literacy, gender, mobility, differences in language or accessibility). Where necessary and culturally appropriate, a third-party may be hired to disclose the information to avoid intimidation, coercion or any form of manipulation.</p>
<p><b>IDB Environmental and Social Policy Framework (2020)</b></p>	<p><b>ESS1, Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts, 14:</b> Where the project involves specifically identified activities, aspects, and facilities that are likely to generate impacts, and as part of the process of identifying risks and impacts, the Borrower will <b>identify individuals, groups, and communities</b> that may be directly and differentially or disproportionately affected by the project because of their disadvantaged or vulnerable status.[58] The Borrower will consider diverse cross-sectional groups historically disadvantaged in Latin America and the Caribbean, such as women, people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, <b>persons with disabilities</b>, African descendants, and Indigenous and other traditional peoples. Where individuals, groups, or communities are identified <b>as disadvantaged or vulnerable, the Borrower will propose and implement differentiated measures so that adverse impacts do not fall disproportionately on them and they are not disadvantaged in sharing development benefits and opportunities resulting from the project.</b></p> <p>Footnote 58: This disadvantaged or vulnerable status may stem from <b>disability</b>, state of health, indigenous status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race, color, ethnicity, age, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, economic disadvantage, or social condition. Other vulnerable individuals and/ or groups may include people or groups in vulnerable situations, including the poor, the landless, the elderly, single-headed households, refugees, internally displaced persons, natural resource-dependent communities, or other displaced persons who may not be protected through national legislation and /or international law.</p> <p><b>ESPS 2 Labor and Working Conditions: 16.</b> The Borrower will not make employment decisions on the basis of personal characteristics<sup>79</sup> unrelated to inherent job requirements. The Borrower will base the employment relationship on the principle of equal opportunity and fair treatment and will not discriminate with respect to any aspects of the employment relationship, such as recruitment and hiring, compensation (including wages and benefits), working conditions and terms of employment, access to training, job assignment, promotion, termination of employment or</p>

retirement, and disciplinary practices. The Borrower will take measures to prevent and address violence, harassment, intimidation, and/or exploitation, especially in regard to women, people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, **persons with disabilities**, children (of working age in accordance with this ESPS), and migrant workers.<sup>80</sup> The principles of non-discrimination apply to migrant workers.

19. The Borrower will provide special measures [81] of protection and assistance to address the vulnerabilities of project workers, such as women, people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, persons with **disabilities**, children (of working age, in accordance with this ESPS), and migrant workers. Such measures may be necessary only for specific periods of time, depending on the circumstances of the project worker and the nature of the vulnerability.

Footnote 81: They may include **adaptation or accommodation measures such as work environment adjustments to provide access to the place of work and flexible schedules to address specific vulnerabilities**. Distinction or preferences that may result from the application of special measures of protection and assistance taken to meet the particular requirements of workers in a vulnerable position are not considered discriminatory.

25. The Borrower will provide a safe and healthy work environment, taking into account inherent risks related to the project and specific classes of hazards, including physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards, and specific threats to women, people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, **persons with disabilities**, children (of working age, in accordance with this ESPS), and migrant workers.

**ESPS 4 Community Health, Safety and Security, 6.** Where there are specific risks that could result in adverse effects on the health, safety, and well-being of people with sensitivities such as age, gender, **disability**, or short- or long-term health conditions, the Borrower will carry out a more detailed risk assessment and make adjustments to prevent injury and ill health.

7. The Borrower will design, construct, operate, monitor, and decommission the structural elements or components of the project in accordance with GIIP, taking into consideration safety risks to third parties and the project-affected people, including traffic and road safety, and transferred risks.<sup>110</sup> When new buildings and structures are accessed by members of the public, the Borrower will consider incremental risks of the public's potential exposure to operational accidents and/or natural hazards, and will be consistent with the principles of **universal access**.

**ESPS 10, Stakeholder Engagement, 11:** The Borrower will identify and document those project-affected people who, because of their circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable.<sup>[189]</sup> Based on this identification, the Borrower will further identify individuals or groups who may have different concerns and priorities about project impacts, mitigation mechanisms, and benefits and **who may require different or separate forms of engagement**. Sufficient detail will be included in the stakeholder identification and analysis to determine the level of communication that is appropriate for the project.

Footnote 189: Disadvantaged or vulnerable refers to those people who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or less able to take advantage of a project's benefits. Such an individual/group is also more likely to be excluded from or unable to participate fully in the mainstream consultation process and may require specific measures or assistance to do so.

ESPS 10, Stakeholder Engagement, 16: Where applicable, the [stakeholder engagement plan] will include **differentiated measures to allow the effective participation of those identified as disadvantaged or vulnerable**. Dedicated approaches and additional resources may be needed for

	<p>communication with such differently affected groups so that they can obtain the information they need regarding the issues that will potentially affect them, and share their views and concerns</p> <p>ESPS 10, Stakeholder Engagement, 20: The information will be disclosed in relevant local languages and in an accessible and culturally appropriate manner, <b>taking into account the needs of groups that may be differentially or disproportionately affected by the project or groups with specific information needs (such as disability, literacy, gender, mobility, differences in language, or accessibility).</b></p>
<p><b>UNDP Social and Environmental Standards</b></p>	<p><b>SES, Human Rights, para. 15:</b> UNDP programmes and projects are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities, with reasonable accommodations provided to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others.</p> <p><b>SES, Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security, para. 9: Universal access:</b> Wherever feasible, UNDP ensures the concept of <b>universal access</b> is applied in the design and construction of facilities and services open to or provided to the public on an equal basis with others.[66] Footnote 66: Universal access means unimpeded access for people of all ages and abilities in different situations and under various circumstances. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities requires adoption of “appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas” (Article 9).</p> <p><b>SES, Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions, para. 11:</b> Appropriate measures of protection and assistance are provided to address the vulnerabilities of project workers, including specific groups of workers, such as women, persons with disabilities, migrant workers and young workers.</p> <p><b>SES, Part C: Assessment and Management, para. 16:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The needs of particular individuals and groups are assessed that may be differentially or disproportionately affected by the project’s potential adverse impacts because of their disadvantaged or marginalized status, due to such factors as race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, <b>disability</b>, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth, health status or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. Where such individuals or groups are identified, recommend targeted and differentiated measures are applied to ensure that the adverse impacts do not fall disproportionately on them and they are not disadvantaged in sharing project benefits and opportunities.</li> <li>• Where potential project-related adverse risks and impacts to <b>persons with disabilities</b> are identified, differentiated measures are adopted that ensure non-discrimination and equality, access, and opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in and benefit from supported activities on an equal basis with others.</li> </ul> <p><b>SES, Part C: Stakeholder Engagement and Response Mechanisms, para. 20:</b> Meaningful, effective and informed consultation processes will be free of charge and possess the following characteristics: [...] Culturally appropriate and tailored to the language and accessibility preferences and decision-making processes of each identified stakeholder group, including disadvantaged or marginalized groups. Where applicable, includes differentiated measures to allow effective participation of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, including <b>persons with disabilities</b>.</p>

	<p><b>SES, Part C: Access to Information</b>, para. 28: UNDP ensures that information on a programmes and/or project’s purpose, nature and scale, and duration, and its risks and potential impacts, is made available in a timely manner, in an accessible place, and in a form and language understandable to affected persons and other stakeholders, including the general public, so they can provide meaningful input into programme and/or project design and implementation. <b>Such disclosure considers any special needs of groups that may be disproportionately affected, disadvantaged or groups with specific information needs, such as due to disability, literacy, gender, mobility, language, and accessibility.</b> Such disclosure occurs early in the programme and/or project development process in a timeframe that allows for meaningful effective consultation and on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p><b>GCF</b> <b>ESS 3<sup>rd</sup> draft</b></p>	<p><b>Introductory text to all ESS</b></p> <p>3. <b>GCF respects human rights</b> in connection with the projects it finances. Accredited entities will be required to respect human rights, avoid infringement on the human rights of others, and address adverse human rights risks and impacts caused by their business activities. All activities will be designed and implemented in a manner that will promote, protect and fulfil universal respect for, and observance of, human rights<sup>1</sup> for all recognized by the United Nations. The application of robust environmental and social due diligence will be required, so that the supported activities do not cause, promote, contribute to, perpetuate, or exacerbate adverse human rights impacts.</p> <p>4. GCF views equality as an intrinsic value, meaning that individuals and collectives enjoy the same conditions and opportunities to exercise their rights and achieve their social, economic, political and cultural potential. Equality includes promoting access to equal opportunities and full participation in society for people who face barriers due to their identity.</p> <p>5. GCF is committed to promoting gender equality and gender empowerment<sup>4</sup>, for all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics, recognizing that gender equality contributes to poverty reduction and results in higher levels of human capital. <b>Entities will be required to pay close attention to how gender inequalities interact with other inequalities, such as socioeconomic, ethnic, racial, disability and other factors, and how this intersectionality may exacerbate barriers to accessing project benefits and create other vulnerabilities. Intersectionality</b> refers to how different identity categories interact with each other in society, such that one category (e.g. race, ethnicity, disability) cannot be understood in isolation from others (e.g., gender identity and gender expression). While some identities may be a source of exclusion, others may bring privilege. Considering intersectionality is important because certain individuals stand on the path of multiple forms of exclusion.</p> <p><b>ESS1 Assessment and Management, 11. Accredited entities will consider diverse cross-sectional groups historically disadvantaged, such as women, people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, persons with disabilities, people of colour, and indigenous and other traditional peoples. Where individuals, groups, or communities are identified as disadvantaged or vulnerable [10], Entities will propose and implement differentiated measures so that adverse impacts do not fall disproportionately on them and they are not disadvantaged in sharing development benefits and co-benefits resulting from the project.</b></p> <p>Footnote 10: Vulnerable people are people or groups of people who may be more adversely affected by project impacts than others by virtue of characteristics such as their gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, indigenous status, age (including children, youths and the elderly), <b>physical or mental disability</b>, literacy, political views, or social status. Vulnerable individuals and/or groups may also include, but are not limited to, people in vulnerable situations, such as people living below the poverty line, the landless, single-headed households, natural resource dependent communities, migrant workers, refugees, internally displaced people, or other displaced persons who may not be protected through national legislation and/or public international law. Vulnerable is used interchangeably with marginalized and disadvantaged. These people can be one or several subgroups of the affected community or affected people. Affected communities and affected people should not be assumed to be vulnerable.</p>

	<p>25. Where the activity involves specifically identified aspects and facilities that are likely to generate impacts, and as part of the process of identifying risks and impacts, the Entity will identify individuals, groups, and communities that may be <b>directly and differentially or disproportionately affected by the project because of their disadvantaged or vulnerable status [25]</b>.</p> <p>Footnote 25: This disadvantaged or vulnerable status may stem from <b>disability</b>, state of health, indigenous status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race, color, ethnicity, age, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, economic disadvantage, or social condition, human rights or environmental defender status, or other status. Other disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals and/or groups may include people or groups in vulnerable situations, including the poor, the landless, older persons, single-headed households, refugees, internally displaced persons, natural resource- dependent communities, or other displaced persons who may not be protected through national legislation and /or international law.</p> <p><b>ESS2 Labour and Working Conditions, 22.</b> Entities will not make employment decisions on the basis of personal characteristics unrelated to inherent job requirements such as gender, race, nationality, political opinion, affiliation to a unions, ethnic, social or indigenous origin, religion or belief, marital or family status, <b>disability</b>, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.</p> <p><b>ESS4 Community Health, Safety and Security, 13.</b> Infrastructural and building elements of all GCF-financed activity will be designed and operated in an inclusive manner, considering the needs of all people regardless of physical ability, age and other factors which could influence access. Hence, <b>universal access principles will be implemented</b> to make sure services and activities will include effective information delivery, flexibility in use, making sure enough space is considered for people with musculoskeletal needs and wheelchair users.</p> <p>22. Where there are specific risks that could result in adverse effects on the health, safety, and well-being of people with sensitivities such as age, gender, <b>disability</b>, or short- or long-term health conditions, Entities will carry out a more detailed risk assessment and make adjustments to prevent injury and ill health.</p> <p><b>ESS 10 Stakeholder Engagement</b></p> <p>21. This information will be disclosed to local stakeholders in relevant local language(s) and in a manner that is accessible, understandable and culturally appropriate. For general public disclosure of project information on websites, English and relevant local language text and documents will be used. <b>Information disclosure will take into account any specific needs of groups that may be differentially or disproportionately affected by the project or groups of the population with specific information needs (including disability, literacy, gender, children and young people, mobility, differences in language or accessibility)</b>. Where necessary and culturally appropriate, a third-party may be hired to disclose the information to avoid intimidation, coercion or any form of manipulation.</p>
<b>EIB</b>	[EIB, Standard 2 – Stakeholder Engagement, para. 36(d)].

## Annex D: Child Protection

### Provisions regarding addressing child protection, with focus on sexual exploitation and abuse of children

<p>GEF Policies and GUIDELINES???</p>	<p><b>Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards:</b></p> <p><i>Minimum Standard 1: Environmental and Social Assessment, Management and Monitoring</i></p> <p><i>4.m-o. Adverse Gender-Related Impacts, Including Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse</i></p> <p>(m) Any <b>risks or potential adverse impacts on women, men, girls and boys</b> are identified as early as possible as part of project or program screening and reflected in relevant safeguards instruments, and differentiated by gender where relevant, including <b>adverse impacts on Gender Equality, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse;</b></p> <p><b>4.n. Discrimination against women or girls, or gender-based discrimination are prevented;</b> and</p> <p><b>4.o. In case incidences of Gender-Based Violence and/or Sexual Exploitation and Abuse occur, there are:</b></p> <p>(i) Established reporting and response protocols in place, with specific procedures for GBV including confidential reporting with safe and ethical documenting of GBV cases, that indicate when and where to report incidents, and what follow-up actions will be undertaken; and</p> <p>(ii) Modalities to provide services and redress to survivors</p> <p><i>Minimum Standard 8: Labor and Working Conditions</i></p> <p>15.f. Appropriate measures are in place to prevent <b>harassment, intimidation, and exploitation, and to protect vulnerable Workers, including but not limited to women, children of working age,</b> migrants and persons with disabilities;</p> <p>15.h. <b>Forced labor and child labor are not used in connection with a project or program. Child labor includes both (i) labor below the minimum age of employment and (ii) any other work that may be hazardous, may interfere with the child’s education, or may be harmful to the child’s health or to the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development (15.f, h)</b></p> <p><i>Minimum Standard 9: Community Health, Safety and Security</i></p> <p>17.a. Identify risks or potential impacts to the health, safety and security of project- or program-affected communities, further assessments are carried out, considering: [...] (ii) <b>The special needs and exposure of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals, including in particular women and children.</b></p> <p>17.e. Projects and programs <b>avoid, where feasible, or minimize the risk of community exposure to disease and other relevant health risks, taking into account differentiated levels of exposure, and the needs and exposure of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals.</b></p> <p><b>Policy on Gender Equality</b></p> <p>10.a Gender Analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment that identifies and describes any gender differences, gender differentiated impacts and risks, and opportunities to address Gender Gaps and promote the Empowerment of Women that may be relevant to the proposed activity;</p> <p>10.b. any corresponding gender-responsive measures to address differences, identified impacts and risks, and opportunities through a gender action plan or equivalent;</p>
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	<p><i>Definitions</i></p> <p><b>Gender Analysis</b> means a critical examination of how differences in gender norms, roles, power structures, activities, needs, opportunities and rights affect men, women, <b>girls and boys</b> in a certain situation or context. It includes collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and gender information to understand gender differences and gaps, determine gender differentiated impacts and risks, to identify measures to avoid adverse gender impacts, and to uncover and act on opportunities to address gender gaps and inequalities relevant to the activity.</p> <p><b>Policy on Stakeholder Engagement</b></p> <p>[Policy requires inclusive participation of stakeholders in GEF governance and operations; multiple provisions]</p> <p>16.c. Such consultations are gender responsive; free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation; and <b>responsive to the needs and interests of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.</b></p> <p><i>Definitions:</i></p> <p><b>Stakeholder</b> means an individual or group that has an interest in the outcome of a GEF- financed activity or is likely to be affected by it, such as local communities, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, and private sector entities, comprising women, men, <b>girls and boys</b></p>
<p>IDB <a href="#">Environmental and Social Policy Framework</a> (2020)</p> <p>IDB <a href="#">Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Policy Framework</a> (2021)</p>	<p>233. The Borrower will <b>assess and prevent risks of project-related SGBV and respond promptly and appropriately to incidents of SGBV</b> including, as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and assess any project risks that exacerbate SGBV in the community, including trafficking, sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse.</li> <li>• If the assessment indicates a risk of SGBV, define and implement measures to prevent and address it (e.g., contractor’s sexual harassment policies and workers’ codes of conduct, sensitization of project workers and local community, among others).</li> <li>• Respond to any indication of or verified SGBV incident, ensuring that survivors have access to multiple forms of support and services.</li> <li>• Ensure the availability of effective grievance mechanisms that minimize the reporting burden on victims, provide services in a gender-sensitive manner, and minimize reprisal risk. These mechanisms should have specific procedures for SGBV, including confidential reporting with safe and ethical documentation.</li> </ul> <p>234. The Borrower will also assess the <b>risk of child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA)</b>. If the assessment indicates a risk of CSEA, the Borrower will define and implement differentiated measures to prevent and address it.</p> <p><b>IDB ESPF Guidelines, Standard 9 Gender Equality [See specific guidance on child sexual exploitation and abuse at end of table]</b></p>
<p>World Bank <a href="#">Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)</a> and Guidance</p>	<p><b>Summary:</b> Issues related to child protection are addressed through ESF provisions relating to protecting individuals or groups that are <b>disadvantaged or vulnerable</b>, and therefore more likely to be adversely affected by the project and less able to take advantage of project benefits. This non-discrimination principle is reflected in many of the standards, including in relation to social risks and community health and safety. Many requirements are also directly relevant to risks of SEA/SH. Specific requirements aimed at preventing child labor are included in ESS2. Both the ES Policy and ESS1 state that considerations relating to age, including the elderly and minors, should be taken into account in assessing disadvantage or vulnerability. With respect to labor, the Framework contains requirements on prohibiting the employment of children under the age of 18 in connection with the project in a manner which is likely to be hazardous or interfere with the child’s education or be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. In addition, the World Bank <b>Directive, Addressing Risks and Impacts on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups</b> requires staff to consider the extent to which a project</p>

	<p>identifies those that may be disadvantaged or vulnerable and identified measures for managing and mitigating such risks and impacts. The Directive provides examples of disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups, and includes considerations <b>relating to age, including minors</b>. Source: <a href="#">WB ESF FAQ</a>, question “How are children protected under the ESF?” October 2018, at</p> <p><b>Guidance:</b> The World Bank has issued two Good Practice Notes regarding SEA/SH: Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) in Investment Project Financing involving Major Civil Works (3rd ed, Oct. 2022) and Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) in Human Development Operations (Sep. 2022). The <b>guidance notes include good practices for combatting child SEA/SH</b>.</p> <p><b>Screening:</b> WB task teams screen projects for SEA/SH risks in consultation with the Borrower. The WB utilizes its SEA/SH Risk Screening Tool to assign potential risk classifications. The task team’s Social Development (SD) Specialist is required to record this risk rating beginning at the Concept stage, in the Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS). Once the SEA/SH risk rating is determined, the task team can assist the Borrower in developing and incorporating the necessary mitigation measures into project design and documentation. <b>Screening tool includes questions regarding risks of SEA/SH and GBV to children</b> (WB, ESF GPN Addressing SEA/SH in Human Development Operations, paras. 34-41 and Annexes).</p>
<p>FAO, <a href="#">Framework for Environmental and Social Management</a> (2022)</p>	<p><b>ESS4 Decent Work</b></p> <p>Child labor</p> <p>P187 [...] In particular, when operating in a sector or area with a high risk of child labor, the project will include some measures to contribute to address the root causes (economic, social, political, institutional, and cultural) of child labor. Special attention will be paid to <b>protect girls who might be exposed to additional risks, such as gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse</b>. Where cases of child labor are identified, immediate steps shall be taken to correct and remedy them. When necessary and appropriate, this will include the rehabilitation and social integration of the child.</p> <p><b>ESS Standard 6 on Gender Equality and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence</b></p> <p>228. Gender-based violence (GBV) is one of the most extreme forms of discrimination. GBV, which is widespread globally, tends to be exacerbated by food insecurity, poverty and humanitarian emergencies. The types of GBV that are of particular concern for FAO include sexual and physical violence; the denial of resources, opportunities or services; harmful practices (e.g. forced and child marriage); sexual exploitation and abuse; and emotional and psychological assault. <b>Evidence shows that women and girls tend to be most vulnerable to GBV, but men and particularly boys are also at risk</b>, depending on the context. GBV has severe consequences not only for survivors, but also for their families and communities. By negatively affecting the health, resilience and productive capacity of survivors, GBV has a devastating impact on agricultural productivity, food security and nutrition.</p> <p>237. The findings of the gender analysis should be used in the design and implementation of the project to avoid or minimize risks related to gender-based discrimination and GBV, including sexual exploitation and abuse, that may occur in connection with any of FAO supported activities. Measures should be adopted to minimize any gender-related risk of creating or reinforcing existing inequalities; and assess, prevent and adequately respond to incidences of sexual harassment and/or sexual exploitation and abuse and/or other types of <b>GBV against women, men, girls and boys</b>.</p>
<p>UNDP, <a href="#">Social and Environmental Standards</a></p>	<p><b>SES Programming Principles: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment</b></p>

	<p>18. UNDP programmes and projects are informed by gender analysis in their design and implementation. UNDP seeks to identify and integrate the different needs, constraints, contributions and priorities of <b>women, men, girls and boys</b> into its programming (20) [Footnote 20: <b>References in SES to “women and men” or similar is understood to include “girls and boys”</b> and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender or transsexual people.].</p> <p>23. UNDP seeks to identify and address any risk of potential exposure of affected people to <b>gender-based violence (GBV) and other abuse</b> that may occur in connection with any of its supported activities. This includes a zero-tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse involving UNDP personnel as well as personnel of the UNDP implementing partner and responsible parties. UNDP requires that appropriate prevention and response measures be adopted to prevent and to respond effectively to GBV, including designing activities to prevent and address potential exposure of project-affected people to GBV risks; screening of personnel; provision of training on prevention and response to GBV; effective reporting and response protocols; referrals for safe and confidential survivor assistance; and prompt investigation of allegations of GBV related to project activities.</p>
<p><b>Additional Issue: Child engagement</b></p>	
<p>GCF</p>	<p><b>ESS9 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure</b></p> <p>28. Entities will tailor its consultation process to the language preferences of the affected communities, their decision-making process, and the <b>needs of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups. Where children are stakeholders, child-friendly consultation process should apply the nine basic requirements for effective and ethical participation.</b> If Entities have already engaged in such a process, they will provide adequate documented evidence of such engagement.</p>
<p><b>Examples of guidance on addressing child SEA</b></p>	
<p>IDB <a href="#">Guidelines for the Environmental and Social Policy Framework</a> (2021)</p>	<p><b>IDB ESPF Guidelines, Standard 9 Gender Equality</b></p> <p>GL50. Children are more vulnerable than other groups to certain types of SGBV, especially sexual exploitation and abuse. There is a high co-occurrence of SGBV against adults and sexual exploitation and abuse of children, and risk factors are shared among them. However, treating children who have experienced violence necessitates specific measures that differ from the response to SGBV against adults.</p> <p>GL51. For the purpose of ESPS 9, and consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is anyone below the age of 18 unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. Child sexual abuse is any form of sexual activity between an adult and a child who, according to the relevant provisions of the national law, has not reached the legal age for sexual activities (this does not apply to consensual sexual activities between minors). Child sexual abuse becomes sexual exploitation when a second party benefits monetarily, through sexual activity involving a child. Mistaken belief regarding the age of the child and/or consent from the child is not a defense in sexual exploitation and abuse of children.</p> <p>GL52. Identification of child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) risks should be integrated into the project’s environmental and social assessment. CSEA is a very sensitive issue unlikely to be raised in general stakeholder engagements. The Borrower might therefore wish to engage with stakeholders specialized in children’s rights such as local child protection authorities, child rights organizations, and women’s rights organizations.</p> <p>GL53. The Borrower must have a zero-tolerance policy on violence, exploitation, and abuse of children, including but not limited to CSEA. The policy should prohibit project workers from engaging with children in a manner that might constitute CSEA and define a range of employment sanctions for violation of the policy. Project workers and local communities should be educated on the policy and how to report misconduct.</p>

	<p>GL54. The Borrower should have in place a grievance mechanism to receive and handle allegations of CSEA submitted by or on behalf of a child. Children’s safety, identity, dignity, and privacy must be protected throughout the reporting procedure to guarantee that they do not experience retaliation from the alleged perpetrator or others. The best interests of the child must be the primary consideration. The persons involved in receiving and investigating CSEA allegations should have child-protection expertise and be trained to communicate with children and young people in a sensitive way and in a language that they can understand.</p> <p>GL55. When a case of CSEA occurs, the Borrower should arrange immediate assistance for the child and referral to the appropriate local child protection authority or, if no government authority is available, refer to a local child rights organization. The Borrower should be aware of and comply with the legal requirements that the country might have about mandatory reporting to the police of allegations of CSEA.</p>
<p>World Bank, <a href="#">ESF Good Practice Notes on Addressing SEA/SH</a></p>	<p><b>World Bank, ESF Good Practice Note, Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) in Investment Project Financing involving Major Civil Works (3rd ed, Oct. 2022)</b></p> <p><b>SEA and Children</b></p> <p>23. Children are considered unable to provide consent because they do not have the ability and/or experience to anticipate the implications of an action, and they may not understand or be empowered to exercise their right to refuse. The World Bank considers children as anyone under the age of 18— even if national law may have a lower age—and, as such, not able to give free and voluntary consent.<sup>16</sup> Even if a child agrees to a sexual relationship, that does not constitute consent.<sup>(17)</sup> As shown in Annex 1, this definition is reflected in the CoC requirements in the World Bank’s Standard Procurement Documents (SPDs). Mistaken belief regarding the age of the child and consent from the child is not a defense in SEA of children. Any sexual activity between an adult and an individual below the age of 18 is therefore considered child sexual abuse, except in cases of pre-existing marriage.<sup>(18)</sup></p> <p>24. As part of conditions of their employment, project staff and personnel must not participate in sexual contact or activity with anyone below the age of 18. Mistaken belief regarding the age of a child is not a defense. The CoC should therefore include provision to prohibit sexual relationship with anyone under the age of 18.</p> <p><sup>(19 sic)</sup> The United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates that 10 percent of girls worldwide under the age of 18 (approximately 120 million) have experienced rape or other unwanted sexual acts.<sup>(20)</sup> Boys also report sexual abuse, although usually at lower levels than girls.<sup>(21)</sup></p> <p>26. There is a high co-occurrence of VAW and Violence against children (VAC) and risk factors are shared amongst them: unequal gender norms and discrimination, lack of responsive institutions, weak legal sanctions and impunity for VAC, cultural and legal acceptance of certain types of VAC, male dominance in the household, marital conflict with violence used for conflict resolution, and the harmful use of alcohol and drugs. Moreover, the link between witnessing violence in childhood and perpetrating or experiencing violence in adulthood is so strong that there is a high likelihood that preventing exposure to violence in childhood will prevent violence in adulthood and future generations.<sup>(22)</sup></p> <p>27. Supporting children who have experienced violence, including sexual violence, necessitates specific measures that differ from the response to GBV among adults. In particular, the provision of assistance/support to children should be guided by the application of best interests of the child principles. This GPN sets out good practices for responding to both adults and children who have experienced SEA/SH.<sup>(23)</sup></p> <p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <p>16 Articles 1 of the UN “Convention on the Rights of the Child” defines children as those under the age of 18. The UN Secretary General’s Bulletin on Special Measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, October 9, 2003 ST/SGB/2003/13 also defines children as</p>

anyone under the age of 18 and explicitly prohibits sexual activity with a child regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally (para 3.2 b).

17 Because a child is not mature enough to understand the consequences and implications of sexual relationships, they may give assent, but this can not and should not be construed as consent.

18 The age of consent has important implications for workers employed on World Bank-financed projects. If a worker is married to someone under the age of 18 and that marriage is recognized by a public, religious or customary authority and consistent with the legal age for marriage in the country, such underage marriage shall not constitute a reason not to employ the worker. Under any circumstances other than these, Codes of Conduct shall prohibit workers from engaging in sexual intercourse with anyone under the age of 18. If a worker engages in sexual intercourse with anyone under the age of 18 while employed under the project, a range of employment sanctions shall apply, as set out in the Code of Conduct, following a full and fair review.

19 According to the report What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children: Evidence Review, all children can be the target of sexual violence, and data suggest that girls are generally at higher risk for it. An analysis of available data for 24 countries (primarily in high- and middle-income countries) showed that sexual violence in childhood ranged from 8% to 31% for girls and 3% to 17% for boys. See, Ligiero, D., Hart, C., Fulu, E., Thomas, A., & Radford, L. (2019) What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children: Evidence Review, p. 13, available at: <https://www.togetherforgirls.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-11-15-What-Works-to-Prevent-Sexual-Violence-Against-Children-Evidence-Review.pdf>

20 UNICEF, Hidden in Plain Sight: A Statistical Analysis of Violence Against Children, p. 167, available at: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/hidden-in-plain-sight-a-statistical-analysis-of-violence-against-children/>.

21 Ligiero et. al., 2019, What Works to Prevent Sexual Violence Against Children: Evidence Review, p. 13, available at <https://www.togetherforgirls.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-11-15-What-Works-to-Prevent-Sexual-Violence-Against-Children-Evidence-Review.pdf>.

22 Alessandra Guedes, Sarah Bolt, Claudia Garcia-Moreno and Manuela Colombini, 2016, “Bridging the gaps: a global review of intersections of violence against women and violence against children,” Global Health Action, 2016: 9: 31516, available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4916258/>.

23 External resources covering responses to VAC include: (i) World Health Organization, 2017, Responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused: WHO Clinical Guidelines, available at: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/259270/9789241550147-eng.pdf>; (ii) IRC and UNICEF, 2012, Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse, available at: <https://www.unicef.org/documents/caring-child-survivors-sexual-abuse> ; and (iii) World Health Organization, 2016, INSPIRE: Seven Strategies for Ending Violence Against Children, available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/inspire-seven-strategies-for-ending-violence-against-children>.

**World Bank, ESF Good Practice Note, Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) in Human Development Operations (Sep. 2022)**

**Para. 25. While risk factors for SEA/SH of children are similar to the underlying causes of SEA/SH, they experience additional vulnerabilities.** Like SEA/SH against adults, risk factors for children include attitudes, beliefs, norms, and structures that promote gender discrimination and gender inequality. Social norms that confer total power and authority over children to household or community heads may also be risk factors. Risk factors that are most relevant to children relate to the child’s family environment, including indications of violence or abuse occurring within the family, the caregiver’s/family’s willingness to protect the child from further abuse, access of the perpetrator/perpetrators to the child and/or caregivers, as well as child’s and caregiver’s perceived sense of safety.(13)

**26. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines identify a number of at-risk groups and describe additional factors that contribute to increased risk of violence.**(14) Girls and adolescents who are forced into child marriage are victims of violence, and at greater risk of IPV than adult females. A 2014 UNICEF report found that globally one in three adolescent girls aged 15–19 years (or 84 million) in formal unions had been the victims of emotional, physical, or sexual violence committed by their partners or husbands.(15) Early pregnancies and motherhood are also factors that increase the risk of violence for adolescent girls.(16) These girls may be exposed to greater rates of sexual assault, sexual exploitation and abuse, and may suffer from lack of access to education.

27. In the case of men and boys, gender-inequitable norms related to expectations of masculinity and femininity can increase their exposure to some forms of sexual violence.(17)

**Footnotes:**

13 UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund)/IRC (International Rescue Committee). 2012. Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse: Guidelines for health and psychosocial service providers in humanitarian settings. New York: IRC. Pg. 126. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/media/73591/file/IRC-CSS-Guide-2012.pdf> ]

14: Other children-at-risk groups include child heads of households; girls who bear children of rape and their children born of rape; separated or unaccompanied girls, boys, and orphans, including children associated with armed forces/groups ; girls and boys in detention; girls and boys living with HIV; girls and boys with disabilities; child victims of sexual exploitation and girls and boys who are survivors of violence. Intersectionality with race, ethnic groups, and sexual orientations also constitutes additional risks. See IASC (Inter-Agency Standing Committee). 2015. Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action. Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery. IASC and Global Protection Cluster. Child Protection Thematic Area, Key considerations for At-Risk Groups, pgs. 10-12. Available at: [https://gbvguidelines.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/TAG-child-protection-08\\_26\\_2015.pdf](https://gbvguidelines.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/TAG-child-protection-08_26_2015.pdf) ]

15: UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund). 2014. Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/reports/hidden-plain-sight>, cited in WHO (World Health Organization). 2020. Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020. Geneva: World Health Organization. Part 1 – Current Global State of Preventing Violence Against Children, pg. 16. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Global-status-report-on-preventing-violence-against-children-2020.pdf>

16 IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, Child Protection Thematic Area, Key considerations for At-Risk Groups, pg. 10.

17 Ibid.

**Box 3. Key Concepts in Relation to Children As Survivors of SEA/SH**

Global efforts to combat child SEA/SH have contributed to developing a body of good practices for mitigating and responding to incidents of SEA/SH against children. This GPN highlights some specific good practices to define which acts constitute SEA/SH against children, to identify risk factors, and to respond to incidents of SEA/SH against children.

**Examples of SEA/SH against children:** Children are not considered able to provide consent to engage in sexual activity, because they do not have the ability and/or experience to anticipate the implications of an action, and they may not understand or be empowered to exercise their right to refuse. The World Bank considers children as anyone under the age of 18—even if national law may have a lower age—and, as such, not able to give free and voluntary consent.(a) Mistaken belief regarding the age of the child and consent from the child is not a defense in SEA of children. Child exploitation involves children being engaged in any sexual activity in exchange for money, gifts, food, accommodation, affection, status, or anything else that they or their families need. The abusive relationship between the victim and perpetrator involves an imbalance of power where the victim’s options are limited. Child sexual exploitation manifests in different ways – it

can involve an older perpetrator exercising financial, emotional, or physical control over a young person, or opportunistic or organized networks of perpetrators who profit financially from trafficking children among different locations to engage in sexual activity.(b)

**Acting in the best interests of a child who has experienced SEA/SH:** Where a child experiences SEA/SH, good practice requires that GBV service providers act in the best interests of the child. Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children have the right to have their best interests assessed and taken into consideration in all actions that concern them, both in the public and private spheres.(c) The best interest of the child is determined by a variety of individual circumstances, such as the age, gender, level of maturity, and experiences of the child. Other factors also determine well-being, such as the presence or absence of parents, the quality of the relationships between the child and their family or caregivers, the physical and psychosocial situation of the child and their protection situation. All of these circumstances and elements should be considered and balanced against each other by any decision-maker having to consider a child’s best interests.

In responding to allegations of SEA/SH, child survivors should be active participants in defining their best interests. This includes being consulted about their needs and concerns, and having their views taken into account in decisions that will affect them. Where possible, an adult caregiver should be present and provide consent for decisions in responding to allegations of SEA/SH.

A best interest assessment (BIA) refers to an assessment of children’s best interests conducted by organizations with required expertise. It can take various forms and may not necessarily be called a “best interest assessment.” A BIA requires consultation with the child and consideration of the child’s wishes, as well as evaluation of the other factors needed to secure the physical and emotional safety of the child. A BIA may ultimately result in a decision to go against the child’s wishes if those wishes would not be in the child’s best interest. This is done with consideration of the child’s age and ability to comprehend their own situation.(d)

In some circumstances, a formal UNHCR process called a best interests determination (BID) is followed when making particularly important decisions affecting a child.(e) This may be needed, for example, when a child survivor comes forward with an allegation of SEA/SH.

**National laws and regulations on child SEA:** Legal requirements for determining how SEA/SH incidents involving children must be reported and addressed may vary depending on the country and institutional context. Certain persons may have the authority to make decisions about the child’s best interests, such as a magistrate or social worker, and specific processes may need to be followed. GBV service provider mapping should assess whether protocols take into consideration child survivors’ needs and should identify the availability of child- friendly services and services that are mandated to determine the best interests of children, including by conducting a BIA or BID.

**Harmful Sexual Behavior – SEA/SH by people under 18:** When a child perpetrates SEA/SH against another child, this may be referred to as “peer-on-peer” abuse or exploitation, or “harmful sexual behavior.” While a range of sexual behaviors in children are developmentally normal, some behavior can indicate or cause harm – for example, if the behavior is coercive, threatening, degrading, or aggressive.(f) In such cases, response to an incident must follow specific protocols to act in the best interests of both the survivor and the perpetrator. As this GPN focuses on SEA/SH perpetrated by project actors, it is important to note that some project actors in Bank-financed projects may be under the age of 18.(g) Prohibitions on sexual activity with people under 18 will also apply to these individuals, just as they would to another project actor. Further, the project GM may receive allegations about SEA/SH that are perpetrated by someone who is not a project actor, but who is under 18, and must be prepared to handle such allegations appropriately.

**Footnotes:**

a Articles 1 of the UN “Convention on the Rights of the Child” defines children as those under the age of 18.  
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

The UN Secretary General’s Bulletin on Special Measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, October 9, 2003 ST/SGB/2003/13 also defines children as anyone under the age of 18 and explicitly prohibits sexual activity with a child regardless of the age of majority or age

	<p>of consent locally (paragraph 3.2(b)). <a href="https://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/405ac6614/secretary-generals-bulletin-special-measures-protection-sexual-exploitation.html">https://www.unhcr.org/protection/operations/405ac6614/secretary-generals-bulletin-special-measures-protection-sexual-exploitation.html</a></p> <p>b Keeping Children Safe. 2019. The International Child Safeguarding Standards. London: KCS. "Definitions of harm," pg. 6. <a href="https://www.keepingchildrensafe.global/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/KCS-CS-Standards-ENG-200218.pdf">https://www.keepingchildrensafe.global/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/KCS-CS-Standards-ENG-200218.pdf</a></p> <p>c See UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) General Comment No. 14 (2013) on the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (art. 3, para. 1), 29 May 2013, CRC/C/GC/14, available at: <a href="https://www.refworld.org/docid/51a84b5e4.html">https://www.refworld.org/docid/51a84b5e4.html</a></p> <p>d UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees). 2021. UNHCR Best Interests Procedure Guidelines: Assessing and Determining the Best Interests of the Child. May 2021. Available at: <a href="https://www.refworld.org/docid/5c18d7254.html">https://www.refworld.org/docid/5c18d7254.html</a></p> <p>e The BIA should be distinguished from a BID, which is a formal UNHCR process that has strict procedural safeguards. For more information on BIA and BID, and when each is appropriate, see UNHCR BIP Toolbox, at: <a href="https://www.unhcr.org/handbooks/biptoolbox/">https://www.unhcr.org/handbooks/biptoolbox/</a></p> <p>f Ey and McInnes. 2020, Harmful Sexual Behaviour in Young Children and Pre-Teens; An Education Issue. London: Routledge. B.</p> <p>g See ESS2, paragraphs 17-19, which specify the circumstances in which a child may be employed or engaged in connection with a Bank-financed project.</p>
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## Annex E: Youth as Effective Change-makers

### Provisions regarding youth beneficiaries and participation

<p>GEF Policies</p>	<p><b>Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards:</b>  <i>Minimum Standard 1: Environmental and Social Assessment, Management and Monitoring</i>  <i>Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups</i>            (4.j-k) <b>Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals</b> that are or may be affected by a project or program are identified as early as possible[4], and associated risks and potential impacts are assessed to ensure that:(i) Differentiated mitigation measures are incorporated so that risks and impacts do not fall disproportionately on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups; and(ii) Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups do not face discrimination or prejudice in accessing benefits and resources; the special needs and circumstances of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals are addressed in any Environmental and Social Management Plan, or equivalent</p> <p><b>Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards Guidelines, Definitions:</b>  <b>Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Groups or Individuals</b> means those individuals or groups who, by virtue of, for example, their <b>age</b>, gender, ethnicity, religion, physical, mental or other disability, social, civic or health status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic disadvantages or indigenous status, and/or dependence on unique natural resources, may be more likely to be adversely affected by the impacts of a project or program and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of its benefits.</p> <p><b>Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards:</b>  <i>Adverse Gender-Related Impacts, Including Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse</i>            (4.m) Any risks or potential <b>adverse impacts on women, men, girls and boys</b> are identified as early as possible as part of project or program screening and reflected in relevant safeguards instruments, and differentiated by gender where relevant, including adverse impacts on Gender Equality, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse;</p> <p><b>Policy on Stakeholder Engagement</b>            16. Agencies demonstrate that they have in place the necessary policies, procedures and capabilities to ensure that: [(a) stakeholders identified; (b) engaged in meaningful consultations;] (c) Such <b>consultations are</b> gender responsive; free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation; and <b>responsive to the needs and interests of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups</b>; [...] (e) Stakeholders have access to timely, relevant and understandable information about activities implemented by the Agency, and clear procedures to request information.</p> <p><b>Definitions</b>  <b>Stakeholder</b> means an individual or group that has an interest in the outcome of a GEF project or program or is likely to be affected by it, such as local communities, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, and private sector entities, comprising <b>women, men, girls and boys</b>.</p>
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GEF Other	<p><a href="#">Gustavo Fonseca Youth Conservation Leadership Program</a></p> <p>Third, the Country Engagement Strategy Implementation Strategy for GEF-8 includes a new financing opportunity for youth as part of the Gustavo Fonseca Youth Conservation Leadership Program will include conservation fellowships, grants for biodiversity field work, awards for participation in international conservation events, and a recurrent global conservation symposium bringing together young environmental leaders.</p> <p><b>Secretariat targeted youth engagement</b></p> <p>Leading up to the GEF Assembly, the GEF Secretariat will continue consultations and engagement and support to youth groups. For example, it will organize a GEF Assembly Challenge Program to support small- scale initiatives that contribute to the GEF’s goals. CSOs, IP Groups, youth, and women and girls will be engaged as stakeholders, and solution providers and implementers.</p> <p>GEF, Evolving Context of Civil Society Engagement in Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Comparable Organizations, GEF/C.63/Inf.15, November 2022, <a href="https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-63-inf-15">https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-63-inf-15</a></p>
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	<p>UNFCCC recognizes <a href="#">Youth (YOUNGO)</a> as one of nine recognized constituencies. YOUNGO has two recognized focal points who (as with focal points for other constituencies) facilitate the exchange of information between the Secretariat and the admitted observer organizations. Participation in a particular constituency is through self-selection and is optional. There are several potential benefits to belonging to one of the constituencies, including the possibility of making an intervention at the Plenary meetings, allocation of secondary badges when a site access limit is imposed, receipt of informal advanced information from the Secretariat, timely information through constituency daily meetings, occasional invitation to Ministerial receptions by host governments, access to bilateral meetings with officials, and an invitation by the Secretariat to limited-access inter-sessional workshops.</p> <p>In 2022, three flagship initiatives – <a href="#">Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) Hub</a>, Youth4Capacity programme and Academy of Global Youth Leadership Empowerment (AGYLE) – were launched or renewed to accelerate capacity-building and participation of youth in the international climate change process. Activities including the <a href="#">ACE Youth Exchange</a>, <a href="#">ACE Hackathon</a>, and multiple in-person and virtual events have been carried out or are planned to take place throughout the year.</p> <p>Countries also dedicated the <a href="#">annual ACE dialogue</a>, held on 7 June 2022 during the Bonn Climate Change Conference to discuss how to engage children and youth in promoting climate action. More than 150 participants from governments and civil society, including youth representatives, joined the dialogue to share good practices and exchange ideas.</p>
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	<p><a href="#">Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)</a></p> <p>The Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) is an <b>international network of youth organizations and individuals</b> from all over the world whose common goal is to prevent the loss of biodiversity. Recognized and supported by the CBD Secretariat, the GYBN represents the voice of global youth in the negotiations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), raises awareness among young people of the values of biodiversity, and connects individuals and youth organizations in order to build a global coalition to halt the loss of biodiversity. The network is coordinated by an international steering committee and is entirely run by young people for young people.</p>
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	<p>The <a href="#">UNCCD Youth Caucus</a> and <a href="#">here</a> is a formal mechanism for youth engagement, set up under the Convention to facilitate the active involvement of children and young people in the UNCCD activities and processes that address desertification, land degradation, drought, sustainable development and climate change. UNCCD Youth Caucus was formally set up in 2019 September during COP 14.</p> <p>The <a href="#">UNCCD Youth Forum</a> is a platform for youth to voice their commitments around COP meetings toward achieving land degradation neutrality, build their capacities and opportunities to work toward combating desertification, land degradation and drought, and share their experiences in combating desertification.</p>

<p>Climate Investment Funds (CIF)</p>	<p><b>Climate Investment Funds</b></p> <p>In 2021 the CIFs circulated a consultation note to offer recommendations <a href="#">Towards a comprehensive Youth Engagement Strategy (YES!)</a> which would inform CIF’s broader stakeholder engagement program. Led by <b>CIF youth team</b> members and developed in consultation with youth groups and youth climate leaders, the note identified focus areas and activities that CIF can undertake to mainstream engagement with young people ages 16–35 in its work—promoting outreach to them, partnerships with and among young people, youth inclusion in CIF governance and operations, and youth capacity building for climate action. The note set out the 4 broad pillars of the CIF’s youth engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth climate innovation and entrepreneurship;</li> <li>• Youth in climate governance;</li> <li>• Communications, knowledge, and outreach with youth; and</li> <li>• Supporting youth networking and cross-collaboration.</li> </ul> <p>As part of the effort, the CIF conducted a “<b>Youth Needs and Capacity Assessment Survey</b>” in October 2021, targeting youth engaged in climate action around the world to understand the gaps that CIF youth engagement seeks to address.</p> <p>The CIF’s work with youth climate leaders and entrepreneurs has emphasized the potential and tangible change young people can bring to their communities. Programs such as the <b>Youth Adapt Challenge</b>, a partnership with the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), and African Development Bank (AfDB), has demonstrated how climate finance can help young African entrepreneurs scale up solutions to local climate-related problems. The CIF’s youth engagement also ensures young voices and views are recognized in global fora and, on a more practical level, that they are able to broaden and acquire skills through the CIF Internship Program.</p> <p>CIF began its <b>Youth Internship Program</b> in 2020 as an effort to increase its outreach and involvement with youth worldwide around climate change. Interns work on promoting youth engagement in CIF’s programs and are supported by CIF’s Stakeholders Engagement (SE) Team.</p> <p><a href="#">CIF Youth Fellowships 2023</a></p> <p>To give young climate leaders the opportunity to work with projects co-financed by CIF in their country of residence, CIF has created the CIF Youth Fellowship <b>in partnership with CIF’s six MDBs partners</b>: the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the InterAmerican Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Finance Corporation. The CIF Youth Fellowship is a one-year program that gives selected candidates the opportunity to work with CIF’s frontier climate finance and with our partner MDBs on climate action programs in areas such as nature-based solutions, clean energy, adaptation and climate resilience, energy access, and gender and social inclusion. The CIF Youth Fellowship allows for cross-learning amongst youth climate leaders working with different MDBs. Fellows work in beneficiary countries with one of the six multilateral development banks partners who will provide mentoring and day-to-day supervision. This will provide professional experience, encourage networking, and forge meaningful partnerships. The program will provide professional development and networking to select youth climate leaders to deepen their engagement in climate action, as they learn from the expertise of our MDB partners. The Fellows, in turn, will help play a key role in providing inputs to CIF and MDBs understand on how climate finance programs can better benefit youth, ensure inclusion of youth needs and voices in projects and develop a wider network of young climate experts to engage in climate action.</p>
<p>Adaptation Fund (AF)</p>	<p>The Adaptation Fund (AF) undertook a study of youth participation in adaptation projects and interventions supported by the fund: <a href="#">Youth Engagement in Climate Change Adaptation: Lessons from the Adaptation Fund Portfolio of Projects and Programmes</a> (July 2022). The study aimed to understand the enabling factors, drivers and barriers to youth engagement in the AF portfolio. Below are key points from the study.</p> <p><b>Benefits of youth participation:</b> AF projects have consistently engaged youth representatives in consultations and project implementation. AF projects have benefited considerably from involving youth on several levels. At the <i>individual level</i>, the participation of youth in adaptation projects enhances personal development and working skills, improves employment opportunities and income, and empowers them within their communities.</p>

At the *community level*, involving youth improves climate resiliency (e.g. spread of newly acquired knowledge and skills; training enhances economic diversification; participation promotes stronger social capital to respond to extreme events; youth inputs increase the number of project beneficiaries). At the *project level*, youth involvement – from consultations to implementation – increases the acceptability, suitability, and efficacy of interventions. Youth promote culturally sensitive actions and innovative solutions. They also take ownership of the project, which can lead to replicating and scaling up the project in their regions.

**AF policies, indicators, secretariat:** AF's **Gender Policy and Environmental and Social Policy** provide for inclusion of youth from both a risk lens (e.g. potential adverse impacts) as well as beneficiaries. In addition:

- **The AF Core Impact Indicators** promote consideration of youth in projects by implementing/executing entities. Projects are required to disaggregate the number of beneficiaries to indicate the percentage of youth. This requirement does not mandate that all projects benefit youth or involve them at all. However, the study found that AF Core Impact Indicators promoted consideration of youth in adaptation projects by implementing entities/executing entities.
- The **AF Innovation Facility is piloting indicators**, one of which requires disaggregation by youth status.
- **Secretariat youth engagement:** The AF secretariat has sought to integrate youth in recent years. It has worked with youth participants of forums and webinars, consulting about their experiences and expectations with climate change adaptation. Its engagement started with a small number of youth representatives, usually already involved with the climate negotiations at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It has evolved into a bigger group from all developing regions that work in climate adaptation in different sectors (e.g., NGOs, government, entrepreneurs). In 2022, the secretariat took another step, inviting youth to share in developing the next MTS (2022-2026). At a meeting, youth representatives had the opportunity to voice their perspectives on how to integrate youth and to reflect on the main pillars of the next strategy.

**Drivers and Barriers:** Main factors influencing youth involvement in climate adaptation are youth's experience with extreme weather events, perceived vulnerability, climate change awareness and concern, and leadership and open-mindedness. Individual-level factors, as well as institutional drivers and barriers, shape engagement of youth in adaptation projects:

- At project level, the main drivers of youth participation are projects' offered trainings, the potential for tangible results, family involvement and community support, engagement strategy (including dedicated finance and knowledge management with youth), and experience of implementing/executing entities of working with youth. Factors facilitating youth participation include "safe spaces" for youth to communicate ideas; "localization" of climate risks; participation of family members in workshops and consultations.
  - "One of the most critical drivers in involving youth in adaptation projects is developing a youth engagement strategy. Successful strategies have identified youth needs, prepared communication material that connects with youth, used social media and online platforms to reach out to youth, worked with youth social networks to organize their sustained participation during project implementation, and organized participatory workshops for youth to empower youth while addressing adaptation planning" (p. 35).
- At the Fund level, the main drivers of youth participation are the AF's stakeholder consultation requirements, results-based management, diverse financing modalities, advancement of intersectional analysis, and support for innovative projects.
- The **main barriers to youth engagement** are related to project needs, design, and implementation processes (e.g. lack of youth time or availability, technical expertise in adaptation), or social, economic, and political context at the local and national level (e.g. youth migration, gender inequality, limited participation in decision-making processes).

**Recommendations:**

**Engage youth in multilevel adaptation**

“The study findings have shown the extensive participation of youth at the local level. This is especially the case in implementing project activities and promoting awareness of climate change. However, youth have much more to offer their communities and countries with respect to adaptation. Their participation brings benefits to their own development and increases ecosystem and communities’ resilience. Thus, youth should be involved thoroughly in adaptation from the local to the national level. Youth are interested in shaping their futures; they should be empowered to participate in adaptation planning. This also generates the benefits of “investing early” and building long-term capacity for a long- term environmental change and potentially long-term societal challenge.”

*How to promote youth engagement in adaptation planning?*

- Encourage youth quotas in community committees.
- Develop and strengthen youth partnerships with governments
  - internships in national and regional governments involved in adaptation projects,
  - mentorship by adaptation and other technical experts.
- Coach programmes for youth in leadership skills and project management.
- Support establishment of youth networks.
- Encourage social entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Capture and share lessons on youth participation in adaptation.

#### **Ensure youth participation is meaningful**

This study found that youth are eager to participate in climate change adaptation, particularly when projects produce tangible results, embrace innovation, and support their empowerment. Some adaptation projects limit youth’s participation to consultations during development or to educational modules about climate change. Youth greatly appreciate the space given to participate in these project activities and directly benefit from them. However, the limited participation can frustrate them and misses an immense opportunity to ensure intergenerational cooperation in the path to adaptive communities and ecosystems. Thus, youth’s participation should be encouraged in a more systematic way right from stakeholder mapping exercises to implementation of project activities. Adaptation projects need to involve youth in a meaningful way that allows them to contribute their ideas, skills, and actions.

*What entails meaningful participation of youth in climate adaptation projects?*

- Encourage systematic engagement of youth – from stakeholder mapping to implementation of project activities.
- Enable youth to articulate their own needs and desires in adaptation to climate change impacts.
- Enable youth to discuss their views on their communities with older adults.
- Enable youth to be part of local and national decision-making processes, including those that reflect changing values and direction of social change.
- Move from consulting with youth to working with youth.

#### **Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator**

<https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/innovation-grants/adaptation-fund-climate-innovation-accelerator-afcia/>

The Adaptation Fund (AF) has funded and established a US\$ 10 million small grant aggregator programme to be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) working in conjunction with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN). The Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator, or AFCIA, aims to foster innovation in climate change adaptation in

	<p>developing countries. The programme targets a broad range of potential finance recipients, including governments, non-governmental organizations, community groups, entrepreneurs, <b>young innovators</b> and other groups. It will award competitive grants of up to US\$ 250,000 each. Through the AFCIA, youth who desire to implement adaptation projects can access climate finance through a global competition.</p>
<p>United Nations</p>	<p><b>Youth2030: The UN Strategy on Youth</b>  <a href="https://www.unyouth2030.com/">https://www.unyouth2030.com/</a></p> <p>The UN adopted its system-wide youth strategy in 2018 to scale up global, regional and national actions to meet young people’s needs, realize their rights and tap their possibilities as agents of change. The strategy seeks to guide the UN system in stepping up support for the empowerment of young people, while ensuring that the Organization’s work fully benefits from their insights and ideas. The strategy’s five thematic priority areas reflect all three pillars of the UN system: sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement, Participation and Advocacy- Amplify youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world</li> <li>• Informed and Healthy Foundations -Support young people’s greater access to quality education and health services</li> <li>• Economic Empowerment through Decent Work - Support young people’s greater access to decent work and productive employment</li> <li>• Youth and Human Rights – Protect and promote the rights of young people and support their civic and political engagement</li> <li>• Peace and Resilience Building – Support young people as catalysts for Peace and Security &amp; Humanitarian Action</li> </ul> <p>The strategy’s implementation plan includes specific measures of progress and issues progress reports and scorecards.</p> <p>The Secretary-General also has designated an <b>Envoy on Youth</b> who seeks to (1) increase youth participation in the Inter-Governmental space, (2) realize the potential of young people in the UN system, and (3) engage and mobilize young people. <a href="https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/workplan/">https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/workplan/</a></p> <p><b>UN Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change</b>, convened under the auspices of the Youth2030 Strategy, serves as a mechanism for the Secretary-General to hear directly from young people, as the organization works to accelerate global climate action, and drive forward all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Members serve two-year terms and are selected and appointed by the Secretary-General from a pool of candidates nominated by youth- and climate-focused non-governmental and civil society organizations around the world.  <a href="https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/youth-in-action/youth-advisory-group">https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/youth-in-action/youth-advisory-group</a></p>
<p>UN General Assembly</p>	<p><b>United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY)</b>  <a href="https://www.unmgcy.org/">https://www.unmgcy.org/</a></p> <p>UN MGCY is a General Assembly-mandated official, formal and self-organised space for young people to contribute to and engage in certain intergovernmental and allied policy processes at the UN. It has been a key player in global policy formulation since its creation in 1992, as part of Agenda 21. It acts as a bridge between children and youth and the UN system in order to ensure that their right to meaningful participation is realised. Its primary purpose is engaging communities of young people (via child- and youth-led entities and movements) in the design, implementation, monitoring, follow-up and review of sustainable development policies at all levels. To achieve this, it facilitates and conducts a number of online and offline activities in the following areas: Policy &amp;</p>

	<p>Advocacy, Capacity Building, Youth Action and Knowledge. UN MGCY developed guidance on Principles and Barriers for Meaningful Youth Engagement (2017)</p> <p><a href="https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b2586e41aef1d89f00c60a9/t/5b2bc1fb2b6a286265e3a850/1529594364048/UN+MGCY-+Principles+and+Barriers+for+Meaningful+Youth+Engagement.pdf">https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b2586e41aef1d89f00c60a9/t/5b2bc1fb2b6a286265e3a850/1529594364048/UN+MGCY-+Principles+and+Barriers+for+Meaningful+Youth+Engagement.pdf</a></p>
<p>UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)</p>	<p><b>ECOSOC Youth Forum</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/2023-ecosoc-youth-forum">https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/2023-ecosoc-youth-forum</a></p> <p>The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum, taking place in April 2023 in a hybrid format, provides a platform for young people to engage in a dialogue with Member States and other actors to voice their views, concerns and galvanize actions on how to transform the world into a fairer, greener and more sustainable place guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>The 2023 ECOSOC Youth Forum is convened by the President of ECOSOC and co-organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, in collaboration with the <b>United Nations Inter Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), and co-convened by the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO)</b>, with technical inputs from youth-led and youth-focused organizations relevant to the theme of the forum.</p>
<p>UNDP</p>	<p>UNDP undertakes a range of programming and initiatives in support of the UN Youth2030 strategy. UNDP youth-related programming can be seen across regions and thematic areas by scanning the <b>@UNDP4Youth</b> twitter account (<a href="https://twitter.com/UNDP4Youth?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw">https://twitter.com/UNDP4Youth?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw</a>).</p> <p>The earlier <b>UNDP Youth Strategy (2014-2017)</b> focused on three key outcomes: enhanced economic empowerment of youth, enhanced youth civic engagement and participation, and strengthened resilience building.</p> <p><a href="https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/arabstates/UNDP_Youth_Strategy_Tunisia_ten_Guiding_Principles.pdf">https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/arabstates/UNDP_Youth_Strategy_Tunisia_ten_Guiding_Principles.pdf</a></p> <p>UNDP also maintains a <b>Youth Global Space website</b> (<a href="https://www.sparkblue.org/youth">https://www.sparkblue.org/youth</a>) and a <b>web newsletter The Loop: UNDP Youth Empowerment Update</b> (<a href="https://www.sparkblue.org/content/loop-undp-youth-empowerment-update">https://www.sparkblue.org/content/loop-undp-youth-empowerment-update</a>)</p> <p>From 2016-2020, UNDP undertook its first <b>Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace – Youth-GPS</b>, a 5-year global programmatic offer on youth empowerment, designed to sharpen the organization’s response to the challenges young people face worldwide, boost the implementation of UNDP’s Youth Strategy 2014-2017, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.</p> <p><b>UNDP–Samsung Generation 17</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.undp.org/generation17">https://www.undp.org/generation17</a></p> <p>UNDP partnered with Samsung in 2019 to create the Samsung Global Goals App, a platform for Galaxy smartphone users to gain a deeper understanding of the Global Goals and work together (<a href="https://www.samsung.com/global/galaxy/apps/samsung-global-goals/">https://www.samsung.com/global/galaxy/apps/samsung-global-goals/</a>).</p> <p>In 2020, UNDP and Samsung Mobile created <b>Generation17</b> – an initiative to elevate the voices of young leaders while providing the resources that they need to overcome barriers to progress. Since 2020, UNDP and Samsung Mobile have gathered 14 young leaders (ages 18 to 32) across six regions who are working on issues that touch all 17 of the Global Goals.</p>

	<p>In 2023 the initiative opened an <b>application process for youth leaders</b> of a Global Goals-focused initiative. Once selected, leaders have the opportunity to network and engage with a group of inspiring young leaders who are advocating for meaningful change as well as UNDP issue experts. UNDP and Samsung Mobile state they will open access to their technology, knowledge and global platforms and connections to enable your success and scale the impact and visibility of selected leaders and organizations.</p> <p><b>UNDP Youth Co:Lab</b>  <a href="https://www.youthcolab.org/">https://www.youthcolab.org/</a>  <a href="https://sdgfinance.undp.org/products-and-country-experiences/youth-colab">https://sdgfinance.undp.org/products-and-country-experiences/youth-colab</a></p> <p>Youth Co:Lab – established in 2017 and co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation – seeks to empower young people in 25 countries across Asia-Pacific to develop startup solutions to social and environmental challenges. Youth Co:Lab aims to establish a common agenda for countries in the Asia-Pacific region to empower and invest in youth, so that they can accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship.</p>
IUCN	<p><b><u><a href="#">IUCN Youth Strategy 2022-2030</a></u></b></p> <p>In 2020 IUCN commissioned a review of IUCN’s history of youth engagement (<a href="#">InterGens Youth Review</a>). The review found that IUCN’s Membership and top leadership, including the IUCN Council, would benefit from enhanced youth representation. Major opportunities were found in IUCN’s networks, convening power and community building. IUCN Regional and Country offices as well as Member Organisations could play a key role in mobilising localised youth action. However, IUCN’s dependence on programme/project funding, its complex structures, lack of a clear framework for intergenerational collaboration and inadequate resource availability for activities for young people created major barriers.</p> <p>The review also emphasised that young people were not a homogenous group that could be represented by one tokenistic youth spokesperson. Instead, the diversity of youth and young professionals needed to be given due consideration, with the experiences and best practices from IUCN’s work on gender mainstreaming providing insights for youth mainstreaming.</p> <p>The strategy “aims to embed young people’s perspectives, inclusion and empowerment in all parts and at all levels of the Union.” The strategy is to be guided by four key principles: (1) Ensure that efforts are Union-wide, involving actions by all parts of IUCN; (2) Mainstream engagement of young people into IUCN’s programme, projects and Governance; (3) Young people must co-design and lead the Youth Strategy and its implementation; and (4) Youth Strategy outcomes must be realistic, measurable and sufficiently resourced.</p> <p>The strategy calls for a range of short term actions to integrate youth across its membership, commissions, and secretariat. IUCN constituted an <b>IUCN Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)</b> to support the implementation of the new strategy. The YAC will comprise representatives from IUCN Member Organizations, the six IUCN Commissions, the IUCN Secretariat and key youth constituencies and youth-led organizations. The YAC will oversee and provide guidance on the effective implementation of the Youth Strategy.</p> <p>IUCN is also convening <b>youth summits</b>. In April 2021, a virtual IUCN One Nature, One Future Global Youth Summit took place, bringing together 15,000 participants from 170 countries. This was followed by a hybrid (i.e. online and in-person) Global Youth Summit at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2021 in Marseille, France. The outcome statements included the “Marseille Manifesto” that commits the IUCN Congress to “<i>respecting and harnessing the perspectives and agency of all citizens, especially youth, the leaders of the future, who constitute almost a fifth of the global population</i>”.</p>
Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)	<p>In its <b>Strategic Framework 2022–2031</b>, FAO has identified <b>youth as an important group whose needs must be addressed across all of FAO’s programmatic work areas</b> (along with the other two cross-cutting themes of gender and inclusion) so to promote a more systematic mainstreaming and operationalization of these issues across all of FAO’s work. FAO has designated a youth Focal Point in each of its regional and country offices,</p>

	<p>responsible for coordinating regional and national actions for and with youth. Mechanisms to incorporate youth concerns and voices in international processes are also provided: for example, since 2010, youth has been recognized as a constituency in the <a href="#">Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)</a> of the intergovernmental <a href="#">Committee on World Food Security (CFS)</a>, hosted by FAO.</p> <p><b>Youth Employment: Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS)</b></p> <p>Of the world’s estimated 211 million unemployed people in 2009, nearly 40% – or about 81 million – were between 15 to 24 years old. Unfortunately, the vast majority of jobs available to youth are low paid, insecure, and with few benefits or prospects for advancement. Especially in the rural regions of developing countries, the situation can be one of extreme hardship. This scarcity of decent work, decent living opportunities and little hope of a better future are the main factors pushing youth to migrate from rural to urban areas or abroad. <a href="https://www.fao.org/sustainable-food-value-chains/training-and-learning-center/details/en/c/394349/">https://www.fao.org/sustainable-food-value-chains/training-and-learning-center/details/en/c/394349/</a></p> <p><b>The Youth and United Nations Global Alliance (YUNGA)</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/049ac143-03cb-4605-af94-909a52d85f6e/">https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/049ac143-03cb-4605-af94-909a52d85f6e/</a></p> <p>Hosted by FAO since its foundation in 2009, YUNGA acts as a gateway to allow children and youth to participate in the activities and initiatives of the United Nations. YUNGA partners collaborate to produce the YUNGA <b>Challenge Badges</b> and Youth Guide series, which aim to raise awareness, educate and, most of all, motivate young people to change their behaviour and become active agents of change in their local communities. Existing or upcoming Challenge Badges include Agriculture, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Energy, Forests, Governance, Hunger, Nutrition, the Ocean, Soils and Water. Challenge Badges include a wide range of activities and ideas appropriate for use with school classes and youth groups, and are endorsed by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM). The <b>Youth Guide series</b> complements the Challenge Badges with further, in-depth background information on topics of environmental and social concern. Existing or upcoming Youth Guides include the topics Biodiversity, Climate Change, Forests and the Ocean.</p>
World Bank	<p><b>Youth Summits</b></p> <p><a href="https://live.worldbank.org/events/2023-wbg-youth-summit-pitch-competition">https://live.worldbank.org/events/2023-wbg-youth-summit-pitch-competition</a></p> <p>For the past 10 years the World Bank has hosted an annual Youth Summit that aims to engage youth on pressing topics facing their generation. The theme of the February 2023 Summit, From the Ground Up: Local Solutions to Drive Global Impact, highlighted development solutions that are generated locally, scaled up regionally, and elevated globally. As part of the launch of the 2023 Pitch Competition – a flagship component of the Youth Summit – the hybrid live event showcased how young people are addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges through local and grassroots solutions with the potential to make a global impact. The Pitch competition and discussions focused on three key pillars of development: (a) fragility, conflict, and violence-affected locations; (b) climate change, including energy security and transition; and (c) financial security through employment and skill development.</p>
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	<p><b>ADB Youth for Asia</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.adb.org/who-we-are/ngos/youth-for-asia">https://www.adb.org/who-we-are/ngos/youth-for-asia</a></p> <p>Initiated in 2013, ADB Youth for Asia (YfA) seeks to support young people in contributing effectively to development. Under the initiative, young people join cross-generational project teams bringing innovative perspectives to develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive solutions. It involves young people in leading project design and implementation, components in evaluation and research, campaigns and influencing youth-led development. YfA also serves as a platform for cooperation and partnerships with ADB departments (e.g. ADB Water Sector Group) other organizations to support youth-focused operations and initiatives. In 2021, YfA launched a case research initiative and called for case proposals of</p>

	<p>original and unpublished project examples that mainstreamed meaningful youth engagement in its design and delivery in Asia and the Pacific. (<a href="https://www.adb.org/news/events/call-case-study-proposals-meaningful-youth-engagement-practice-asia-pacific">https://www.adb.org/news/events/call-case-study-proposals-meaningful-youth-engagement-practice-asia-pacific</a>)</p>
<p>Global Center for Adaptation (GCA)</p>	<p><b>Global Center for Adaptation</b>  GCA’s Youth Leadership &amp; Education Program  <a href="https://gca.org/programs/youth-leadership/#youth-adaptation-network">https://gca.org/programs/youth-leadership/#youth-adaptation-network</a></p> <p>The program seeks to mobilize the next generation of adaptation leaders around the world, empowering young people to make the case for adaptation on the global stage and make their communities more climate resilient.</p> <p>It includes a range of initiatives and structures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capacity-building Project and Toolkit on Leadership</li> <li>▪ Youth Dialogue on Adaptation Action</li> <li>▪ Regional Youth Adaptation Forums</li> <li>▪ Youth Advisory Panel</li> <li>▪ Youth Adaptation Network</li> <li>▪ Youth Adaptation Dialogues</li> <li>▪ Adaptation Education and Jobs Training</li> <li>▪ Youth Adaptation Solutions Challenge</li> <li>▪ Young Women Leadership on Adaptation</li> </ul> <p>GCA <b>Youth Advisory Panel</b> is a 12-member gender-balanced group from Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, North America, Europe, and Oceania that provides strategic advice to the CEO of GCA on youth engagement to drive the adaptation agenda. Additionally, the Panel seeks to ensure that the main goals for Youth Adaptation Network (engage, empower and amplify the role of the youth in the adaptation agenda) are achieved. <a href="https://gca.org/youth-advisory-panel/">https://gca.org/youth-advisory-panel/</a></p>
<p>Global Water Partnership</p>	<p><b>GWP Youth Engagement Strategy</b> (2014-2019), elements incorporated in GWP main 2020-2025 strategy  <a href="https://www.gwp.org/globalassets/global/about-gwp/strategic-documents/gwp_youth-strategy_web.pdf">https://www.gwp.org/globalassets/global/about-gwp/strategic-documents/gwp_youth-strategy_web.pdf</a></p> <p>The strategy outlined the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Engagement in programming</i>: embed youth engagement and intergenerational cooperation within GWP thematic programmes and put operational guidelines in place to facilitate youth engagement. This includes linkages with GP’s gender strategy to strengthen the voice of young women and girls across youth processes in water governance.</li> <li>▪ <i>Knowledge</i>: use GWP’s knowledge chain to provide knowledge for young professionals and to empower them to share their knowledge and experience with others.</li> <li>▪ <i>Capacity</i>: promote initiatives that specifically target and prepare youth and young students to address emerging challenges in the water sector.</li> <li>▪ <i>Governance and Partnerships</i>: integrate youth participation within GWP’s own organisation and governance structure and seek to enhance youth participation across GWP’s global Network. Formalise partnerships with leading youth water organisations, such as the World Youth Parliament for Water, the Water Youth Network, and the International Water Association Young Professionals Network.</li> </ul> <p><b>GWP event example</b>: Engaging and empowering youth in early warning systems for flood and drought resilience (May 3. 2023)</p>

<https://www.gwp.org/en/About/more/Events-and-Calls/2023/engaging-and-empowering-youth-in-early-warning-systems-for-flood-and-drought-resilience/>

**Youth for Water and Climate**

<https://youthwaterclimate.org/>

#YWC is an open partnership initiative, aiming at optimizing existing youth-oriented tools and filling potential gaps. It depends mostly on new and collaborative partnership synergies. The initiative provide tools to improve projects and help youth leaders match and connect their initiatives with partners and resources. YWC is also a platform for submitting project proposals for small grants which, if approved, are tracked and reported on the platform.

Background: In the lead-up to COP 21, youth from more than 20 countries decided to be part of the global water and climate debate. Supported by numerous partners, they issued a White Paper containing more than 50 recommendations based on realities from the field from all continents. The White Paper focused on four key areas where youth felt they could do something to address climate change: water and agriculture, water and health, water related risks, and sharing water resources. This vision was acknowledged by several Government Officials in several countries, including the President of COP 21. This then became a commitment made within the “Paris Pact,” and youth from many countries immediately began implementing actions at their level after COP 21. Youth for Water and Climate Platform (#YWC)’s ambition is to augment this youth-originated momentum.