

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	UN POPULATION FUND FRONT-LOADING FACILITY
Project Number:	2024-0582
Country:	Regional – Africa
Project Description:	The Project supports the public health intervention programmes of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide maternal, sexual and reproductive health services in low- and middle-income countries.
E&S Risk categorisation:	Low
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No
(Details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”.)	

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project is expected to comply with applicable national environmental legislation and the EIB Environmental and Social Standards 2022 and associated requirements. UNFPA operates within an institutional framework that embeds environmental sustainability into all aspects of programme design and implementation through internal policies and tools that align with international environmental principles and standards. UNFPA uses its Social and Environmental Standards (SES) and SES Checklist to identify potential environmental and social risks and impacts and to ensure mitigation measures are included in programme planning and execution.

UNFPA’s activities under the Project do not typically involve infrastructure construction or other interventions triggering environmental assessment obligations. Nevertheless, environmental risks may arise indirectly through procurement and supply chain operations (e.g. product manufacturing, warehousing, transport or waste management). In line with the EIB Environmental and Social Standards, the Promoter is expected to ensure that suppliers and implementing partners maintain adequate environmental management procedures consistent with national regulations, Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) and relevant EIB standards, including those related to emissions, waste management, resource efficiency and pollution prevention.

Where procurement activities include commodities whose production involves environmental risks—such as emissions, hazardous or biomedical waste, or increased energy and water usage—suppliers are required to comply with applicable national environmental regulations and relevant international frameworks (including UNEP conventions, where relevant). EIB requires adequate environmental assessment and the preparation of management plans to mitigate adverse environmental impacts, consistent with EIB requirements.

In cases where programme activities may rely on storage, handling or distribution facilities managed by national partners, environmental considerations may include appropriate waste handling (including hazardous and biomedical waste), safe storage conditions, avoidance of

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20 000 tonnes CO2e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tonnes CO2e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



20/05/2026

contamination, and alignment with national environmental permitting requirements. Where applicable, the Promoter must ensure that environmental permits or authorisations are obtained and maintained by relevant counterparties.

UNFPA's internal policies emphasise sustainability and responsible management of environmental risks as part of its overarching mandate. The organisation integrates environmental safeguards into programme operations through its SES, Social and Environmental Action Plan (SEAP) and Enterprise Risk Management processes, ensuring identification and mitigation of potential environmental impacts and strengthening sustainability across the programme cycle.

Based on the available information, the Project is not expected to generate significant adverse environmental impacts. Identified risks are considered low and can be addressed through existing UNFPA systems and through compliance with EIB environmental requirements. Overall, the Project is deemed environmentally acceptable, particularly given its non-infrastructure nature.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The Project is expected to comply with applicable national social regulations and the EIB Environmental and Social Standards, in particular Standards related to Labour Rights, Vulnerable Groups, Involuntary Resettlement, Stakeholder Engagement, Gender and Human Rights.

UNFPA operates under a robust institutional framework that integrates human rights, gender equality, disability inclusion and "leave no one behind" principles across its programming. UNFPA applies its Social and Environmental Standards and Checklist to systematically identify and assess potential social risks and impacts arising from programme activities. Identified risks are managed through a structured Social and Environmental Action Plan which defines mitigation measures, responsibilities, timelines and expected results. This internal system provides a disciplined approach to ensuring compliance with relevant standards, including International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Core Labour Standards and the UN human rights framework.

Based on the nature of UNFPA's planned activities, the following **key social risks** may be relevant:

- **Labour Rights:** Risks may arise in supply chains for sexual and reproductive health commodities and related programme delivery. UNFPA's oversight mechanisms and promoter-level obligations under the EIB Standards require adherence to fair working conditions, prohibition of child and forced labour, and compliance with ILO conventions.
- **Vulnerable Groups and Gender:** UNFPA's mandate places strong emphasis on improving outcomes for women, girls and other vulnerable groups. Activities directly support gender equality and the prevention of gender based violence and harmful practices. UNFPA's policies ensure targeted attention to groups at heightened social risk.
- **Involuntary Resettlement:** While UNFPA does not typically finance infrastructure that would trigger land acquisition, any localised programme interventions involving new facilities, warehousing or distribution changes could affect individuals and/or communities where they lack the right to refuse displacement. In such cases, measures consistent with EIB Standard 6 would be required, including avoidance of displacement, livelihood restoration where applicable and inclusive consultations.



20/05/2026

- **Stakeholder Engagement and Grievance Redress:** UNFPA maintains structured stakeholder engagement processes and accessible grievance mechanisms aligned with its SES. These are expected to ensure inclusive participation, transparency and timely resolution of concerns for affected individuals and communities.

Overall, given the nature of activities and UNFPA's established systems, the social risks associated with the Project are + and can be effectively managed. The Project is expected to generate substantial positive social impacts, particularly through increased access to sexual and reproductive health services, improved maternal health outcomes and strengthened gender equality efforts in low- and middle-income countries.

Positive social impacts

- **Gender equality:** the Project directly supports UNFPA's public health interventions to accelerate delivery of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention services across Africa.
- **Social inclusion:** the Project activities prioritise underserved groups via targeted outreach and accessible service design.
- **Resilience building:** the Project strengthens systems and community capacity to anticipate and absorb shocks by ensuring supply chain continuity, adaptable service delivery, conflict sensitive- outreach.

These benefits align strongly with EIB objectives in the health and gender domains and contribute to strengthened public health systems and enhanced social well-being in partner countries.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project benefits from UNFPA's well-established institutional and governance systems, policies and processes that integrate environmental, climate and social considerations throughout programme planning and delivery. UNFPA's Social and Environmental Standards (SES), SES Checklist and the Social and Environmental Action Plan (SEAP) framework provide robust and principled mechanisms for identifying risks, defining mitigation measures, assigning responsibilities and monitoring results. These policies, processes and tools are supported by UNFPA's internal controls, strong institutional capacity across all levels (headquarters, regional and country offices), Policy and Procedures for the Implementation of Social and Environmental Standards in Programming, quality assurance and its Enterprise Risk Management processes.

UNFPA's programme design embeds principles of human rights, gender equality, disability inclusion and "leave no one behind," ensuring that social sustainability considerations are integrated into all operational decisions.

Where relevant, implementing partners involved in procurement, warehousing, distribution or associated programme functions are expected to comply with applicable environmental and social legislation, including requirements relating to waste handling, emissions, safe storage, occupational health and safety, environmental permitting, and stakeholder engagement and grievance mechanisms. Similar EIB operations underline the importance of effective Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS) among implementing entities and supply chain actors to ensure alignment with national regulations and EIB standards.

In addition, UNFPA's strong contribution to gender equality and women's empowerment—aligned with SDG 5—constitutes a significant cross-cutting social benefit, supporting improved

access to sexual and reproductive health services, prevention of gender-based violence and strengthened equitable health systems in low- and middle-income countries.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall, the Project is considered environmentally and socially acceptable for EIB financing. Given its nature of activities and UNFPA's established systems, the Project presents a **low environmental and social risk**. Any risks identified through screening can be adequately mitigated through the continued implementation of UNFPA's established governance, environmental and social management frameworks including SES, SEAP and the EIB Environmental and Social Standards.

The Project is expected to deliver substantial positive social outcomes, including improved access to essential sexual and reproductive health commodities, reductions in maternal and infant mortality and strengthened gender equality.

Recommendations

- The Promoter should continue applying its SES, SES Checklist and SEAP processes to ensure systematically identification, monitoring and mitigation of environmental and social risks.
- Implementing partners and suppliers should maintain compliance with relevant national environmental and social regulations, EIB standards and GIIP, particularly regarding waste management, emissions control, occupational health and safety, and stakeholder engagement and grievance handling.
- Any site specific- activities, if applicable, should be screened early to determine the need for further assessment or corrective measures (e.g., stakeholder engagement, grievance mechanisms, or land-use considerations aligned with EIB Standard 6).
- UNFPA should maintain documentation on environmental and social risk management actions and make such documentation available to the Bank upon request.