

# **Environmental and Social Risk Screening Result**

**“Gaza Health Emergency Response Project (P503036)”**

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Submitted by

**World Health Organization office for oPt**

## A. Procurement of Medical and Non-medical Supplies

### Brief risk description

<b>Activity category</b>	Medical/non-medical/equipment procurement and supplies
<b>Location</b>	Gaza
<b>Implementation stage</b>	In Progress
<b>Risk level</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<b>Brief justification</b>	While the presence of appropriate Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) procedures and the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for workers mitigate some risks, inherent dangers still exist in handling and distributing supplies. Additionally, the volatile environment in Gaza introduces significant security risks to project workers, necessitating robust safety measures. These considerations justify the moderate risk rating to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are in place. Please see the conclusion below for the details.
<b>Date of screening</b>	27/06/2024

### Screening form

Question	Answer		Relevant ESS
	Y	N	
Does the procurement comply with local and international environmental and social regulations?	Y		ESS1
Does the activity involve hiring workers for a directly contracted supply company	Y		ESS2
Has the activity included a review of applicable labour national requirements?	Y		ESS2
Will the activity require a larger contractor workforce?		N	ESS2
Does the activity have appropriate OHS procedures in place, road safety measures and an adequate supply of PPE (where necessary)?	Y		ESS2
Does the activity include a risk of child and/or forced labor?		N	ESS2
Is there any other security risk to project workers triggered by project activities?	Y		ESS2
Does the project area present considerable Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) risk?		N	ESS2/ ESS4
Is the activity associated with any external waste management facilities such as a sanitary landfill, incinerator, or wastewater treatment plant?		N	ESS3

Would the potential outcomes of the project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?		N	ESS3
Can the activity contribute to the spread of disease (e.g., health facilities)?		N	ESS4
Is there any other security risk to the community triggered by project activities, including exposure to road accidents and incidents caused by project workers?		N	ESS4
Does the activity have a GM in place, to which all workers and beneficiaries, and local communities have access, designed to respond quickly and effectively?		N	ESS10
Is there a risk that the activity fails to incorporate measures to allow meaningful, effective and informed consultation of stakeholders, such as community engagement activities?		N	ESS10
Are women likely to participate in decision-making processes in regard to the activity?		N	ESS10
Is there a risk that exclusion of beneficiaries leads to grievances?		N	ESS10

## Conclusions

### 1. Proposed Environmental and Social Risk Ratings and Justifications

Risk Rating: **Moderate**

Justifications:

Based on the provided assessment, the "Medical/non-medical/equipment procurement and supplies" activity under the Gaza Health Emergency Response Project warrants a moderate risk rating. The justifications for this rating are as follows:

- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Procedures: The project has confirmed the presence of appropriate OHS procedures and the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for workers, which mitigates risks related to worker safety (ESS2). However, inherent risks remain due to the handling and distributing medical and non-medical supplies. After confirming with the contracted suppliers, it was verified that no child labor is involved.
- Security Risks: There are identified security risks to project workers due to the volatile environment in Gaza, necessitating robust measures to ensure their safety (ESS2).

While many high-risk factors such as civil works, recruitment of a large contractor workforce, and the use of hazardous waste management facilities are not present, the identified risks justify a moderate rating to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are in place. It should also be noted that there are no Gender-Based Violence (GBV) or Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) risks associated with this procurement. Due to the nature of the procurement, no female workforce is employed, and male personnel involved are primarily responsible for delivery and promptly leaving the Gaza Strip, minimizing any contact with the local community.

The identified risks are primarily related to Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), particularly

the significant security risks. Despite strict adherence to guidance and protocols from local staff in Gaza and UNDSS, the volatile nature of the situation, including unpredictable explosions and missile attacks, presents inherent risks.

## **2. Proposed Environmental and Social Risk Management Requirements**

To manage the identified risks effectively, the following requirements must be integrated into the contracts:

Responsibilities:

- **Contractor Responsibilities:** Contractors must ensure strict adherence to all Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) procedures. This includes providing regular safety training for workers, supplying necessary PPE, and maintaining safe working conditions at all times.
- **Security Measures:** Given the identified security risks, contractors must implement comprehensive security plans to protect workers. This includes coordination with local authorities, establishing secure transportation routes, and providing security escorts as necessary.
- **Grievance Mechanism:** WHO will provide a focal point for the grievance mechanism, and it is recommended that contractors establish their own grievance mechanisms at the contractor level. This system should allow for quick and effective resolution of complaints and issues related to the project.

## B. Installing Portable Toilet Units

### Brief risk description

<b>Activity category</b>	Portable toilet units deployment with minor civil work
<b>Location</b>	Gaza
<b>Implementation stage</b>	In Progress
<b>Risk level</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<b>Brief justification</b>	This rating is due to the installation of prefabricated toilet units, which, while not involving new construction or rehabilitation, still introduces environmental and social risks through minor civil works and excavation for septic tanks at one hospital. The risk of child labor is negligible, and due to limited interaction with the community, the potential for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) is considered very low. Additionally, while waste management systems will be in place, the need to manage both hazardous and non-hazardous waste requires careful oversight. The adherence to WHO and UNDSS security protocols helps mitigate security risks in Gaza. These factors justify the moderate risk rating, ensuring appropriate mitigation measures are in place.
<b>Date of screening</b>	03/07/2024

### Screening form

Question	Answer		Relevant ESS
	Y	N	
Is the site in a flood-prone or environmentally sensitive area?		N	ESS1
Will the installation require any excavation or groundwork?	Y		ESS1
Does the activity involve hiring workers for a directly contracted supply company	Y		ESS2
Has the activity included a review of applicable labour national requirements?	Y		ESS2
Will the activity require a larger contractor workforce?		N	ESS2
Does the activity have appropriate OHS procedures in place, road safety measures and an adequate supply of PPE (where necessary)?	Y		ESS2
Does the activity include a risk of child and/or forced labor?		N	ESS2
Is there any other security risk to project workers triggered by project activities?	Y		ESS2

Will the delivery/installation occur during daylight hours to minimize security risks and to avoid disturbing local residents?	Y		ESS2/ ESS4
Does the project area present considerable Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) risk?		N	ESS2/ ESS4
Is the activity associated with any external waste management facilities such as a sanitary landfill, incinerator, or wastewater treatment plant?		N	ESS3
Would the potential outcomes of the project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?		N	ESS3
Will the portable toilets be accessible to all community members, including vulnerable groups (e.g., women, children, people with disabilities)?	Y		ESS4
Is there any other security risk to the community triggered by project activities, including exposure to road accidents and incidents caused by project workers?		N	ESS4
Does the activity have a GM in place, to which all workers and beneficiaries, and local communities have access, designed to respond quickly and effectively?		N	ESS10
Is there a risk that the activity fails to incorporate measures to allow meaningful, effective and informed consultation of stakeholders, such as community engagement activities?		N	ESS10
Are women likely to participate in decision-making processes in regard to the activity?		N	ESS10
Is there a risk that exclusion of beneficiaries leads to grievances?		N	ESS10

## Conclusions

### 1. Proposed Environmental and Social Risk Ratings and Justifications

Risk Rating: **Moderate**

Justifications:

After conducting an updated environmental and social screening of the "Portable toilet units deployment with minor civil works" subproject, WHO has determined that it warrants a moderate risk rating. The key factors influencing this rating are as follows::

- **Installation of Prefabricated Toilets (Not Construction/Rehabilitation):** The subproject involves the procurement and installation of prefabricated toilet units in Gaza, rather than construction or rehabilitation of infrastructure. While this reduces the scope of environmental and social risks, certain site-specific activities still pose risks (ESS1).
- **Minor Civil Works and Excavation:** Installation will involve minor civil works, including the excavation of septic tanks at a hospital lacking existing sewerage connections. Of the 16 septic tanks, one will require excavation with a depth of 1.5 meters and a capacity of 1 square meter per tank, introducing localized risks related to soil disturbance and safety during excavation (ESS1).
- **OHS and Workforce:** The project will involve 17 workers, including installation staff,

blacksmiths, tilers, plumbers, electricians, and hospital staff. There are no workers under 15 years of age, and all workers are male. The workers will follow strict Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) procedures, with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety protocols. The limited interaction between workers and the community reduces the risk of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) (ESS2).

- **GBV/SEA Risk:** Given that workers will be onsite during daylight hours only, with minimal interaction with the community, and that separate male and female toilet units are planned, the risk of GBV and SEA is assessed as very low (ESS2/ESS4).
- **Waste Management:** The project involves the installation of 16 septic tanks (2 per toilet unit) for waste management. Some hospitals will connect to existing sewerage systems, minimizing the need for additional infrastructure. The management of hazardous and non-hazardous waste during installation, and once the toilets are operational, remains a key consideration (ESS3).
- **Security Risks:** Security protocols, including WHO staff assessments, hospital management participation, and compliance with UNDSS guidelines, significantly reduce the security risks associated with this subproject (ESS4).
- **Grievance Mechanism (GM):** A grievance mechanism is in place, providing all workers, beneficiaries, and local communities access to a system designed to respond quickly and effectively to complaints and issues (ESS10).

Considering these factors, a moderate risk rating ensures that targeted mitigation measures are implemented to address these risks.

## 2. Proposed Environmental and Social Risk Management Requirements

To manage the identified risks effectively, the following requirements must be integrated into the contracts:

Responsibilities:

- Contractor Responsibilities:
  - ✓ Ensure strict adherence to all OHS procedures, including providing regular safety training for workers, supplying necessary PPE, and maintaining safe working conditions.
  - ✓ Follow all described items strictly, and submit samples for approval before commencing any activity.
  - ✓ Implement comprehensive measures to prevent child and forced labor. This includes rigorous worker screening processes and continuous monitoring.
  - ✓ Establish robust systems to address GBV and SEA risks, including awareness training, confidential reporting mechanisms, and support services for survivors.
  - ✓ Manufacture the steel elements (skeleton) inside the workshop and take all necessary precautions during implementation.
- Security Measures:

- ✓ Ensure that WHO security assessments, hospital management involvement, and UNDSS guidelines are followed strictly during all activities to mitigate security risks.
- ✓ Maintain close coordination with local WHO colleagues and adhere to the hospital management protocols for safe project execution in Gaza.
- Waste Management:
  - ✓ Investigate the site: if there are existing sewage manholes, connect directly to them; if not, make the sewage connection to a septic tank.
  - ✓ Ensure water connection to the existing water lines inside the hospital. If there is no water resource, the adjacent tank for the toilets will be filled by trucking.
- Grievance Mechanism: While WHO will provide a focal point for the grievance mechanism, contractors are recommended to establish their own grievance mechanisms at the contractor level to ensure quick and effective resolution of complaints and issues.

#### Supervision and Stakeholder Engagement:

- Contact stakeholders (Healthy Facilities) to identify the locations for the portable toilet units.
- Supervision of the works will be conducted by the MOH engineering office, with ongoing communication to monitor project progress.



## C. Procurement of Fuel

### Brief risk description

<b>Activity category</b>	Fuel procurement/supplies and handling
<b>Location</b>	Gaza
<b>Implementation stage</b>	Pending
<b>Risk level</b>	<b>Moderate</b>
<b>Brief justification</b>	The "Fuel procurement, supplies, and handling" activity in Gaza is rated as moderate due to the shortage of fuel storage capacity, exacerbated by ongoing hostilities and infrastructure destruction. The inability to secure alternative storage solutions increases the risk of fuel shortages and environmental hazards. Frequent suspensions of fuel deliveries and a few incidents related to security, including hijacking, pose significant challenges. Furthermore, the absence of Environmental and Social (E&S) guidelines for fuel procurement, combined with a lack of an incident response mechanism for addressing fuel-related risks, contributes to the moderate risk rating. However, with UNOPS' monitoring in place, incident monitoring remains feasible, and fuel deliveries are only charged on a cost-recovery basis for the exact amounts delivered to the required health facilities. This oversight and the controlled cost-recovery approach mitigate some of the risks, thereby maintaining the moderate risk rating.
<b>Date of screening</b>	03/07/2024 and 27/08/2024

### Screening form

Question	Answer		Relevant ESS
	Y	N	
Are there clear contractual obligations with the supplier regarding environmental and social compliance?		N	ESS1
Is there an incident reporting mechanism for fuel-related risks?		N	ESS1
Does the activity involve hiring workers for a directly contracted supply company	Y		ESS2
Has the activity included a review of applicable labour national requirements?	Y		ESS2
Will the activity require a larger contractor workforce?		N	ESS2
Are the workers involved in fuel delivery and storage provided with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)?	Y		ESS2

Does the activity include a risk of child and/or forced labor?		N	ESS2
Is there any other security risk to project workers triggered by project activities?	Y		ESS2
Is the storage capacity adequate, and are the facilities structurally sound to prevent leaks or spills?		N	ESS4
Does the project area present considerable Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) risk?		N	ESS2/ ESS4
Is there coordination with local authorities to ensure safe passage of fuel deliveries?	Y		ESS3
Are the environmental impacts of transportation (e.g., potential spills, emissions) assessed and mitigated?		N	ESS3
Would the potential outcomes of the project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?		N	ESS3
Does the activity have a GM in place, to which all workers and beneficiaries, and local communities have access, designed to respond quickly and effectively?		N	ESS10
Is there a risk that the activity fails to incorporate measures to allow meaningful, effective and informed consultation of stakeholders, such as community engagement activities?		N	ESS10
Are women likely to participate in decision-making processes in regard to the activity?		N	ESS10
Is there a risk that exclusion of beneficiaries leads to grievances?		N	ESS10

## Conclusions

### 1. Proposed Environmental and Social Risk Ratings and Justifications

Risk Rating: **Moderate**

Justifications:

- **Fuel Shortages and Supply Interruptions:** Fuel shipments to Gaza frequently experience suspension, leading to significant shortfalls between planned and actual fuel deliveries. This unpredictability amplifies operational risks and hinders effective project implementation (ESS1).
- **Security Incidents:** The risk of fuel hijacking and other security-related incidents is high due to the volatile environment in Gaza. These incidents present serious safety risks to both workers and the fuel supply chain (ESS4).
- **Infrastructure Limitations:** Ongoing hostilities and destruction of infrastructure in Gaza have created a severe shortage of adequate storage facilities for fuel. This lack of secure storage further increases the risk of fuel loss, leakage, and potential environmental hazards (ESS3).
- **Absence of E&S Guidelines for Fuel Procurement:** Currently, according to UNRWA there are no established Environmental and Social (E&S) guidelines specific to fuel procurement for the project. This gap leaves significant risks unmitigated and

requires immediate attention to develop appropriate protocols (ESS1/ESS3).

- **Incident Response Mechanism Deficiencies:** Although internal incident reporting mechanisms exist at UNRWA, there is no formal system in place for responding to incidents or taking corrective actions, which exacerbates the risks in case of fuel-related accidents or security issues (ESS1/ESS4). To mitigate this, UNOPS plays a role in overseeing the fuel distribution process and tracking the roles and activities of all involved parties.
- **Security Protocols:** The security situation is regularly assessed with coordination from UNDSS and local authorities, ensuring that activities adhere to established security guidelines. However, the volatile nature of the region necessitates ongoing vigilance and adaptation of security measures (ESS4).
- **Low Risks for Child Labor and GBV/SEA:** There is no child labor involved in this subproject, and the risks related to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Harassment (SH), and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) are considered very low due to the limited community interaction and the specific nature of the workforce (ESS2/ESS4).

Given these factors, the moderate risk rating is necessary to ensure that robust mitigation measures are put in place to manage the identified risks effectively.

## 2. Proposed Environmental and Social Risk Management Requirements

To manage the identified risks effectively, the following requirements must be integrated into the contracts:

Responsibilities:

- Contractor Responsibilities:
  - ✓ Ensure strict adherence to all Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) procedures. This includes providing regular safety training for workers, supplying necessary PPE, and maintaining safe working conditions at all times.
  - ✓ Implement comprehensive measures to prevent child and forced labor. This includes rigorous worker screening processes and continuous monitoring.
  - ✓ Establish robust systems to address GBV and SEA risks, including awareness training, confidential reporting mechanisms, and support services for survivors.
- Security Measures: Develop and implement comprehensive security plans to protect workers. This includes coordination with local authorities, establishing secure transportation routes, and providing security escorts as necessary.
- Incident Management: Establish a formal incident response mechanism through strengthening UNOPS' monitoring role. This mechanism will ensure that fuel-related accidents, security incidents, and environmental risks are addressed promptly by closely overseeing the fuel distribution process, tracking the roles and activities of all parties, and ensuring alignment with the agreed allocation mechanism.
- Waste Management: Develop and implement a system for the proper handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste related to fuel operations, ensuring

that these are in line with E&S standards (once developed).

- Grievance Mechanism: While WHO will provide a focal point for the grievance mechanism, contractors are recommended to establish their own grievance mechanisms at the contractor level. This system should allow for quick and effective resolution of complaints and issues related to the project.