

Gender equity, disability and social inclusion & safeguards in Pawarim Komuniti

A key objective of Pawarim Komuniti is to support increased numbers of rural households and community service facilities to benefit from access to improved and affordable off-grid clean energy services.

The integration of gender equity, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) & safeguards in Pawarim Komuniti will enable safe, accessible and inclusive off-grid clean energy services that will have equitable outcomes for all Pawarim Komuniti beneficiaries.

What is GEDSI and safeguards?

What does gender equity mean?

Gender equity is the process of being fair to women, men, girls and boys, and people with diverse gender identity, by implementing necessary actions to enable equitable representation and participation in development opportunities.

What does disability inclusion mean?

Disability inclusion seeks to identify and address the physical, structural, social and communication barriers that prevent people with disabilities from participating in and benefiting from development initiatives. The inclusion of people with disabilities through their representative organisations -disabled persons organisations (DPOs) as active participants in development processes leads to broader benefits for families and communities, reduces the impact of poverty and positively contributes to economic growth.

What does social inclusion mean?

Social inclusion means ensuring that people who are socially disadvantaged have fair and equal opportunities to realise their full human rights and participate in and benefit from national, political, economic, social and cultural development. Social inclusion involves taking steps to enable and facilitate equitable participation and contribution in consultations, decision-making processes, and activities generated by economic and social infrastructure projects, and to ensure that program benefits meet a diversity of interests and needs.

What does safeguards mean?

Safeguards are an essential component of delivering GEDSI-responsive community-based projects. Safeguards covers prevention activities and compliance measures for child protection and the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in line with the standards set by DFAT's zero tolerance approach.¹² Implementation of safeguards is a requirement for all DFAT-funded programs that are implemented by contractors and grantees on project sites and in host communities and surrounding areas.

Safeguards also encompass the broader enabling environment by considering the safety and security issues that affect people's ability to access and utilise services and facilities. This includes safe transportation, reliable lighting in public spaces, an adequate supply of clean water for sanitation and hygiene, good communication, and actions to prevent intimidation and violence of all forms.

¹ DFAT. 2018. *DFAT Child Protection Policy*. [child-protection-policy.pdf](#) ([dfat.gov.au](#))

² DFAT. 2019. *Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy*. [pseah-policy.pdf](#) ([dfat.gov.au](#))

How should GEDSI & safeguards be considered in Pawarim Komuniti activities?

- Pawarim Komuniti GEDSI & Safeguards Action Plans (GAPs) should be developed with considerations for safety, inclusion and accessibility, particularly for women, adolescent girls, children, and people with disabilities.
- Establish and implement measures for safety and wellbeing of Pawarim Komuniti teams and host community during implementation of all Pawarim Komuniti activities e.g. scoping, training, installation etc.
- Broader enabling environment for safety, accessibility and inclusion to support access and use of off-grid facilities e.g. geographical area where installation takes place, location of installation, ease of access, inclusion of women and people with disabilities voices in decision making including feedback mechanisms etc.
- Income-earning opportunities and skills development for women, people with disabilities and youth contributing time, skills and resources to Pawarim Komuniti activities.
- Local involvement including capacity development through training workshops, guidance and on-the-job training to support off-grid installation and maintenance.

Accessibility

Strategic actions for GEDSI & safeguards all involve considerations of accessibility. This means:

- Ensuring that information, services, products, and facilities are easily accessible and useable for everyone
- Ensuring that program opportunities and benefits reach all people equitably by identifying and addressing physical, structural, social and communication barriers that prevent access, use of services and facilities, and meaningful participation
- Ensuring that consultations to inform the design, implementation and ongoing management of projects involve diverse groups of women and men, people with disabilities, elderly, youth, and other socially disadvantaged groups.

Project specific GEDSI & Safeguards Action Plans

All ESIP contractors and grantees involved in project management and implementation are required to develop a GEDSI & Safeguards Action Plan (GAP) using tailored templates developed in consultation with the GEDSI & Safeguards Team and sector program staff and based on the principles and objectives outlined in the ESIP GEDSI & Safeguards Strategy.

The GAP serves to:

- Identify, implement and monitor project activities that address safety, inclusion and accessibility
- Monitor and report on the system in place for Safeguards compliance to ensure the wellbeing of workers and communities.

Project specific GAPs complement other project management plans, including health, environment and safety plans and stakeholder engagement plans. Successful implementation of the GAP builds project sustainability and ownership within local communities and enhances equitable economic and social development benefits.