

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT GUIDELINES

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Contact Details

The Gold Standard Foundation Chemin de Balexert 7-9 1219 Châtelaine International Environment House 2 Geneva, Switzerland Tel: +41 22 788 70 80

Email: standards@goldstandard.org

SUMMARY

This document has been formulated as an extension to theof Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements. While the requirements document contains a set of rules that must be complied with -whileen conducting stakeholder engagement, this document on the other hand-is created withto an intention to helpassist pProject developers in drafting a stakeholder engagement plan that will support -which will ultimately result in a-compliance being achieved with the requirements. This document is not prescriptive rather a guide. It also contains a case--study at the end to facilitate a better understanding.

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Climate Security and Sustainable Development

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1| SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

- 1.1.1 | This document provides a step-by-step guide to help conduct a stakeholder consultation in an effective and meaningful manner. It also presents guiding questions to audit and validateconsider when developing the stakeholder consultation process. This guidance document refers to supports the Gold Standard Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements, however, if and where any conflict appears the 'Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements' supersedes the guidance document.
- 1.1.2 | Stakeholder Consultations provide a critical opportunity to engage stakeholders in a meaningful manner to improve project design and its outcomes. It also enables project <u>developers</u>s to identify, avoid and minimise adverse impacts and establish ongoing communications with relevant stakeholders.
- 1.1.3 | Involving the relevant stakeholders at an early stage of the project cycle helps them to understand the project, participate in decision-making and exchange views and/or concerns regarding the project impacts and opportunities. This generates a sense of ownership and helps to improve the long-term results for of the project.

2 DEFINITIONS

2.1.1 | In addition to definitions contained in the Gold Standard for the Global Goals

(GS4GG) —gGlossary of terms, there are some additions definitions thatsome
additional ones can be found in the Stakeholder Consultation and
Engagement Requirements,

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2|3| PLANNING FOR STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONGUIDANCE TO SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

3.1 | Planning General overview

The Gold Standard Stakeholder consultation process comprises of at least two rounds of consultation, plus aand a continuous input/grievance mechanism.

- 3.1.1 I It is important to review the <u>Principles & Requirements</u>, <u>and Stakeholder</u>

 <u>Consultation and Engagement Requirements and the applicable aActivity</u>

 <u>Requirement (if any)</u> to prepare a formal "Stakeholder Consultation plan".
- 3.1.2 | Careful planning will help ensure a successful consultation and Pproject developers should consider the key elements while planning for these consultations.

A list of suggested guiding questions for the preparation of stakeholder consultations are:

- a. What are the objectives of the stakeholder consultation?
- b. Who are your relevant stakeholders? Are you planning to involve everyone? Who else is missing?
- c. How will you engage them? What is the most appropriate format?
- d. Have you identified the potential impacts and risks of the project?
- e. Have you prepared the mitigation plan to avoid and minimise the adverse impacts of the project?
- f. Have you prepared an appropriate communication plan to share project information with stakeholders before and after the consultations? Is the information in a language spoken by the stakeholders? Is it presented in an understandable, non-technical way?
- g. How can you maximise the participation in stakeholder consultation along with ensuring that every section of the community is appropriately represented?
- h. Can your project impact a specific gender or section of the community more than the others? If yes, what can you do to ensure their representation in stakeholder consultation?
- i. Are there any national or regional laws applicable to your project in terms of stakeholder consultation?
- 3.1.3 | The pProject dDeveloper should ensure that the information is presented in a way that is understood by all in a wayand is best suited for the target audience. In cases where the stakeholders come from different cultural and/or socio-economic backgrounds, information in one language and/or style of narration might not be understood by all.
- 3.1.4 | —The project should consider different gender relationships and roles in the project area while preparing for consultations. Women and men typically fulfil different roles and responsibilities, depending on the context and the country.

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Virtually no role is always exclusively performed by just women or men. Since women, in some societal set-ups, are assigned a social status, not at par with men, women may show lower confidence, less influence and less involvement in the design, decisions and engagement with projects. In developing a project, "taking gender issues prevalent in the region of implementation of the project into account" requires that local stakeholder consultation processes reach a wide range of community representatives in ways that ensure equal and effective participation of women and men, and that gender issues are fully factored into comprehensive social and environmental impact assessments. Project Developers are referred to the Gold Standard Gender Equality Requirements & Guidelines and Gold Standard Gender Policy.

- 3.1.5 | The pProject dDeveloper should consider the following questions to ensure gender equality while planning for Stakeholder Consultations:
 - a. What measures and actions need to be put in place to ensure equal gender participation in Stakeholder Consultations?
 - b. How should inputs and insights from women and men be sought out, listened to, considered, addressedaddressed, and documented?
 - c. Is it necessary to make any specific arrangements to ensure that all constituencies are engaged in the consultation? For example:
 - o speak to women and men separately; separately.
 - have focus groups for women and focus groups for men separately before gathering them together to ensure their meaningful participation; participation.
 - adapt timings to fit with men's and women's working schedules;schedules.
 - try to employ local women who can facilitate such interactions.

An example of a gender-sensitive consultation approaches can be found in:

- USAID: When to use a Gender stakeholder analysis. Integrating Gender into climate change projects ENERGIA: Elizabeth Cecelski; Soma Dutta (2011);
- 3.1.6 | While preparing for the Stakeholder Consultation, the pProject dDeveloper should also carefully consider the social and other barriers that may prevent

 $^{^{\}underline{1}}$ Cotula, L. and Blackmore, E. (2014) Understanding agricultural investment chains: Lessons to improve governance, Rome and London: FAO and IIED. $\underline{\text{https://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/12574IIED.pdf}}$

participation in consultations. Examples of obstacles² to participation by women in public meetings and/or decision-making include:

- a. Ignorance and illiteracy, including ignorance of rights-
- b. The mockery, criticism, and other attitudes that confront women who speak out:
- c. Distrust from development workers and other members of the community-
- d. Traditional roles and power divisions-
- e. The higher control by men over information and resources relative to women-
- f. Invitations are announced and/or meetings are organised in places and at times not suitable for women-
- g. Meetings are conducted in a non-local language-
- h. Lack of access to or control over financial resources-
- i. Lack of solidarity among women or conflict within the community-
- j. Lack of self-confidence and low self-esteem-
- k. Low female representation in the project's workforce-
- I. The information regarding the project is not translated to a narrative that the local women understand such as using day to day analogies and idioms-
- m. Lack of local people's representation in the organising group which might not make women feel comfortable and come out to talk.
- n. Social conditioning which makes women believe that problems that the project aims to address are a part of life and they need not find a solution for it (such as inhaling polluted air while using traditional cookstoves for cooking).
- o. No time to participate due to household duties
- 3.1.7 | If the pProject dDeveloper thinks that involving children of the stakeholders in some way may enhance women's participation, then they may employ suitable strategies to do so.

² Adapted from ICIMOD (2008): Guidelines for a Gender Sensitive Participatory Approach https://www.icimod.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Guidelines-for-a-Gender-Sensitive-Participatory-Approach.pdf

2.1.1 | 3.2 | Planning Timing of Stakeholder Consultation

- 3.2.1 | The PDproject developer shallshould assess if there isare any specific requirements to be met in the context of the timing of the stakeholder consultation. Refer to Section 3.2 of Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements for details.
- 3.2.2 | To schedule the physical meeting, the pProject dDeveloper should take into account consider the stakeholder's work arrangements, accessibility, cultural or religious sensitivities. Particular attention should be given to women and the needs of marginalised groups to ensure their participation.
- 3.2.3 | The pProject dDeveloper should ensure that the physical meeting(s) is organised in an atmosphere that allows all participants to express their views and concerns freely.
- 3.2.4 | When one meeting is not adequate due to social, cultural, logistics and other barriers, the pProject dDeveloper should consider organising focus groups or smaller meetings for specific groups. For example, a womenwoman's-only meeting may be required in order to register their concerns and insights. In some communities, power relations play a part in who may or may not voice an opinion or concern in a meeting. Therefore, excessive representation of a hierarchy in a physical meeting could be intimidating for particular stakeholderstakeholder groups. For example, a senior government official and a female widowed farmer may have different perspectives and positions of power, which might affect their contributions in the meeting. In such cases, the developer may need to organise several meetings in different locations to ensure that all stakeholders can participate and contribute to the discussion and share their views, orviews or ensure that space is given to those most directly impacted by the project to express their views.

3.0.0 A list of suggested guiding questions for the preparation of
stakeholder-consultations are:
- What are the objectives of the stakeholder consultation?
. Who are your relevant stakeholders? Are you planning to involve
everyone? Who else is missing?
everyone: who else is imissing:
. How will you engage them? What is the most appropriate format?
. Have you identified the potential impacts and risks of the project?
- Have you prepared the mitigation plan to avoid and minimise the
adverse impacts of the project?
data a mipute of the project.
Have you prepared an appropriate communication plan to share project
information with stakeholders before and after the consultations? Is
the information in a language spoken by the stakeholders? Is it
presented in an understandable, non-technical way?
How can youI maximise the participation in stakeholder consultation
along with ensuring that every section of the community isof
appropriately represented?
Can myyour project impact a specific gender or section of the
community more than the others? If yes, what can I you do to
maximise ensure their representation in stakeholder consultation?
maximos chours than representation in statements consultation.
Are there any national or regional laws applicable to myyour project in
this regardterms of stakeholder consultation?
The Project Developer should ensure that the information is presented
in a way that is understood by all in a way best suited for the target
audience. In cases where the stakeholders come from different target
audience is varied (such as people from differenteultural or socio-
economic backgrounds, east, creed, social hierarchy etc., information in
one language and/or style of narration might not be understood by all.

Gender sensitivity

- The Gold Standard Stakeholder consultation process comprises of at least two rounds of consultation. The project should consider different gender relationships and roles in the project area while preparing for consultations. Women and men typically fulfil different roles and responsibilities, depending on the context and the country. Virtually no role is always exclusively performed by just women or men. Because Since women, in some societal set ups, are often are assigned a social status not at par with menlower social status relative to men, women tend to have may show lower confidence, less influence and less involvement in the design, decisions and engagement with projects. In developing a project, "taking gender issues prevalent in the region of implementation of the project into account" requires that local stakeholder consultation processes reach a wide range of community representatives in ways that ensure equal and effective participation of women and men, and that gender issues are fully factored into comprehensive social and environmental impact assessments."3 Project Developers are referred to the Gold Standard Gender Equality & Requirements & Guidelines and Gold Standard Gender Policy.
- 12.0.0 | In addition, to the above questions, tThe Project Developer should consider the following questions to ensure gender equality while planning for Stakeholder Consultations:
- What measures and actions need to be put in place to ensure equal gender participation in Stakeholder Consultations?
- How should inputs and insights from women and men be sought out, listened to, considered, addressed and documented?
- Is it necessary to make any specific arrangements to ensure that all constituencies are engaged in the consultation? (for Ear example:
- speak to women and men separately;
- have focus groups for women and focus groups for men before gathering them together to ensure their meaningful participation;
- adapt timings to fit with men's and women's working schedules:
- try to employ local women from local regions who can facilitate such interactions much easily)
- An few examples of gender sensitive consultation approaches are be found in:

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³ Cotula, L. and Blackmore, E. (2014) Understanding agricultural investment chains: Lessons to improve governance, Rome and London: FAO and IIED. https://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/12574IIED.pdf

- FAO: SEAGA (Socio-economic and Gender Analysis): An approach based on an analysis of socio-economic patterns and participatory identification of women's and men's priorities. The objective of the SEAGA approach is to close the gaps between what people need and what development delivers.
- CARE Canada: Stakeholder and institution mapping.
- USAID: When to use a Gender stakeholder analysis. Integrating Gender into climate change projects ENERGIA: Elizabeth Cecelski; Soma Dutta (2011);
- 21.0.0 | While preparing for the Stakeholder Consultation, the Project
 Developer should also carefully consider the social and other barriers
 that may prevent participation in consultations. Examples of obstacles4
 to participation by women in public meetings and/or decision-making
 include:
- Ignorance and illiteracy, including ignorance of rights.
- . The mockery, criticism, and other attitudes that confront women who speak out.
- Distrust from development workers and other members of the community.
- Traditional roles and power divisions.
- The higher control by men over information and resources relative to women.
- <u>Invitations are announced and/or Mmeetings are organised in places</u> and at times not suitable for women.
- Meetings are conducted in a non-local language.
- Lack of access to or control over financial resources.
- Lack of solidarity among women or conflict within the community.
- Lack of self-confidence and low self-esteem.
- Low female representation in the project's workforce.
- The information regarding the project is not translated to a narrative that the local women understand such as using day to day analogies and idioms.

- Lack of local people's representation in the organising group which might not make women feel comfortable and come out to talk.
- Social conditioning which makes themwomen believe that the problems they are facing the project aims to address are is an part of life and they need not find a solution for it (such as inhaling polluted air while using traditional cookstoves for cooking).
- Too occupied withNo time to participate due to household duties
- If the Project Developer thinks that involving children of the stakeholders in some way may enhance women participation, then they may employ some suitable strategies to do so.

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32|3.3 | Identify the Stakeholders Minimum group of stakeholders to be consulted

- 32.0.0 | Identification of relevant stakeholders is a critical step for a successful consultation. The pProject_d-Developer should identify the stakeholders in a transparent mannertransparently identify the stakeholders, ensuring that all relevant (both affected and/or interested stakeholders) are provided with an opportunity to participate in consultations. A list of required stakeholders who shall be invited to the consultation is provided in Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements, and included here for reference.
- b. Local people, communities and or representatives⁵ who are directly or indirectly affected by the project
- Stakeholders with land tenure rights for any area directly affected by the implementation of the project (i.e., within the project boundary)
- d. Local policy makers and representatives of local authorities

 $^{^{\}star}\underline{\text{Adapted from ICIMOD (2008):}}$ Guidelines for a Gender Sensitive Participatory Approach

https://www.icimod.org/resource/1288https://www.icimod.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Guidelines-for-a-Gender-Sensitive-Participatory-Approach.pdf

⁵ Legitimate stakeholder representatives could be, but are not limited to:to elected representatives of regional, local, traditional representatives, such as leaders (chairmen, directors) of local cooperatives, other community-based organisations, local businesses/business groups, local NGOs, and local women's groups, politicians and local government officials, school teachers<u>schoolteachers</u>, and religious leaders.

- National government officials or National Focal bodies responsible for the project in the host country, for example, Designated National Authority (DNA)⁶ https://cdm.unfcec.int/DNA/bak/index.html
- Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Women Groups working on topics relevant to the project or working with communities who are likely to be affected by the project
- Relevant international Gold Standard NGO Supporters with representation in your region and all Gold Standard NGO Supporters located in the host country of the project_https://www.goldstandard.org/about-us/ngo-supporters
- h.3.3.1 A Gold Standard representative at help@goldstandard.org
- The pProject dDeveloper should ensure all stakeholder groups are engaged, particularly the stakeholders that are often marginalised, including women, youth, the poor informal sector workers, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, disabled or elderly people, and members of the LGBTQ community.
- 32.1.3 | 3.3.3 | Where it is not appropriate to engage with stakeholder groups, for example, indigenous peoples, the project should make provisions to engage with their legitimate representatives (this may include community leaders, regional or national political groups and NGOs).
- Stakeholder mapping is one effective way to explore gender gaps. The pProject dPeveloper should ensure that gender-sensitive stakeholder mapping is conducted, and the selection of stakeholders is complemented with sex-disaggregated census data, where available.
- 32.1.5 | 3.3.5 | Suggested guiding questions:
 - a. Who are the local stakeholders? Do they include women, menmen, or both? Do they include different socio-economic groups?
 - b. Are there stakeholder groups from which women or men are excluded?
 - c. Which ones? Why? What do they lose through non-participation? Additionally, what would the project lose without their participation and feedback?

⁶ List of DNAs is available at https://cdm.unfccc.int/DNA/bak/index.html

Commented [AG2]: emails of the NGOs to be updated by comms.

⁷-List of Gold Standard NGO Supporters is available at https://www.goldstandard.org/about-us/ngo-supporters

- e.d. Are there stakeholder groups composed of women exclusively or men exclusively? If so, what is the focus of these groups? What do women/men gain from them?
- f.e. What project activities are men and women involved in and when and where do these activities take place?
- g.f. Who is most dependent on the resources at stake (women or men)? Is this a matter of livelihood or economic advantage?
- h.g. Who has access to and control of resources and services and decision making? How are decisions made?
- i-h. How do target groups interact with the project developer?
- j-i. What are the constraints to access and participation?
- k.j. Who has the capacity to can contribute to gender equality in the project?
- $\frac{1-k}{k}$. Who $\frac{1}{k}$ has the capacity to $\frac{1}{k}$ hinder efforts of gender equality in the project?

33 Decide time and place for physical meeting

- 34.0.0 | To schedule the physical meeting, the Project Developer should take into account the stakeholder's work arrangements, accessibility, cultural or religious sensitivities. Particular attention should be given to women and the needs of marginalised groups to ensure their participation.
- 35.0.0 | The Project Developer should ensure that the physical meeting(s) is organised in an atmosphere that allows all participants to express their views and concerns freely.
- 36.0.0 | When one meeting is not adequate due to social, cultural, logistics and other barriers, the Project Developer should consider organising focus groups or smaller meetings for specific groups. For example,
- kk. Aa women's only meeting may be required in order to register their concerns and insights.
- In some communities, power relations play a part in who may or may not voice an opinion or concern in a meeting. Therefore, excessive representation of a hierarchy in a physical meeting could be intimidating for particular stakeholder groups. For example, a senior government official and a female widowed farmer may have different perspectives and positions of power, which might affect their contributions in the meeting. In such cases, the developer may need to organise several meetings in different locations to ensure that all stakeholders can participate and contribute to the discussion and share their views, or ensure that space is given to those most directly impacted by the project to express their views.

38 3.4 Means for of inviting stakeholders

- 3.4.1 When inviting stakeholders for physical meetings, the pProject dPeveloper should ensure that all stakeholders are invited proactively and well in advance towith allow sufficient time_for stakeholders to make arrangements to participate (as per the Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements). A pProject dPeveloper should always consider if local circumstances demand an even longer notice period than as per the stakeholder requirements and accommodate wherever possible.
- 38.1.1 | The Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements requires the Project Developer to send out invitation at least 30 days before the date of consultation meeting. However, if the local circumstances demand an even longer notice period and it is possible for Project Developer to do that then they must do it as a good practice.
- 38.1.2 + 3.4.2 + The invitation should clearly state the objectives of the consultation, physical meeting date, venue along with details on how

feedback can be submitted for those who are unable to attend the physical meeting. The \underline{p} Project \underline{d} Developer should provide an email address, postal address, contact details of a local representative, which stakeholders can use to submit their concerns and/or questions and get project information.

- 38.1.3 | 3.4.3 | The pProject dPeveloper should select an invitation method taking into accountconsidering local and national circumstances, including appropriate language and measures to ensure a gender-sensitive communications process, using adequate and effective means.
- 3.4.4 | The invitations should include both oral and written invitations for example
 - a. Deoor to door announcements,
 - b. Eemails, phone calls or text messages to stakeholders
 - c. Aannouncements in media: newspapers, radioradio, or television, emails,
 - d. -Aannouncements in public meetings
 - e. , phone messages and calls, <u>A</u>announcements at places <u>which-that</u> stakeholders visit frequently, for example, community <u>centrescenters</u>, cultural centres, health clinics, post offices, municipality offices, schools, and places of worship (churches, shrines, temples, mosques, etc.).
 - 38.1.4 | f. Any other suitable method identified by the Project Developer
- The <u>pProject dDeveloper</u> should also-use <u>adequate and alternative</u> <u>appropriate</u> means of invitations considering the local context. For example, the written notice is not a useful mode of communication with an illiterate group of stakeholders. In cases, where <u>the majority of most</u> stakeholders are illiterate, the <u>pProject dDeveloper</u> should use oral means like radio announcements or hand-delivered invitations in the local language.
- 3.4.6 | Project dDevelopers should track all the invitations sent out and/or registrations/responses. If stakeholders do not respond to the invitation, the pProject dDeveloper should follow up via email, letter or by phone. In many cases, where phone numbers are unknown, visits to the project area may be required. This is important for cases where a pProject dDeveloper has identified a potential risk to a particular stakeholder group or local authority, as a justification will need to be provided on how they were consulted.
- 38.1.6 | 3.4.7 | Where the pProject dDeveloper does not have a local presence, they should endeavour to engage local representatives as contacts for the invitation process.
- 39|3.5 | Information to be made available to stakeholders
- 39.1.1 | 3.5.1 | The scope of the stakeholder consultation is to engage affected stakeholders and to discuss potential environmental, socialsocial, and economic impacts (both positive contributions and potential risks) that projects may have during design, planning and implementation, and to establish an ongoing mechanism for feedback.

- 39.1.2 | In order to provide adequate and timely information to the stakeholders, the Project Developer shall share information in the local language, at least a week prior to the consultation.
 - a. A non-technical summary of the project, including information on project design, technology, objectives, scale, duration and implementation plan (so far as known) tailored to the target stakeholder group to allow them to understand and engage with the project
 - a.—Summary of the economic, social and environmental impacts of the project as per <u>Safequarding Principles & Requirements</u>
 - a. Contact details to get further technical detail and project information, should any stakeholder be interested
 - a. Other relevant information to help stakeholders understand the project
- 39.1.7 + 3.5.2 The <u>pProject dDeveloper</u> is not obliged to disclose confidential commercial information.
- 3.5.3 | The pProject dPeveloper should consider some key points to decide the format in which project information should be prepared and presented to stakeholders:
 - a. --level of technical detail; detail
 - <u>b.</u> <u>–</u>local language and dialects;<u>dialects</u>
 - c. cultural sensitivity; and
 - \underline{d} . the roles of women and men, including the impact of the project on gender relations,
 - e. the ethnic composition of communities,
 - -f. literacy levels, community leadership structures, and local methods of disseminating information within stakeholder groups-

3.6 | Conduct Consultationphysical meeting(s) and feedback round

- 40 Physical meeting(s)
- 40.1.1 | The Stakeholder Consultation should comprise of a minimum of two rounds of consultation.
- 40.1.2 |3.6.1 | For a successful consultation, it is crucial to ensure that participants understand the information shared during the physical meeting. Therefore, the project developer should consider common issues and plan accordingly. For example
 - a. arrange for an interpreter if more than one language is used in the project area, or if the project developer is not fluent in the local language
 - b.a. ___keep the agenda of the meeting clear<u>and crisp</u>
 - explain the project and its potential impacts and risks in a manner that is simplified and easy to understand manner

- d.c. include a discussion on potential adverse impacts that a project may cause and how the Project Developer will address these
- e.d. include a <u>question-and-answer</u> session to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to seek more information or raise any questions about the project
- e. arrange for an interpreter if more than one language is used in the project area, or if the project developer is not fluent in the local language
- <u>f.</u> be sensitive to those stakeholders who are unable to read, write, seesee, or hear and provide assistance to them
- f-g. where appropriate, employ creative modes of information transfer such as enactment, role plays, small skits in a local language which the PD thinks may be appropriate for the stakeholders to understand the project and its impacts.
- 3.6.2 | The pProject dDeveloper should identify a respected local facilitator(s) to assist with engaging all stakeholders present and avoid allowing a single person or stakeholder group to set an atmosphere that prevents others from sharing their views and concerns. Particular attention should be given to encourage encouraging women to voice their opinions and if this is not possible given local customs, consider conducting a separate meeting, for example, a separate consultation for women only.
- - a. Opening of the meeting with an introduction of the \underline{p} -Project \underline{d} -Developer and stakeholders and objective of the meeting.
 - Explain the project in non-technical terms, providing project details including the location, project technology, implementation timelines, etc. Also, it is good practice to disclose relevant information about the Project Developer, implementers and other parties involved in the project.
 - c. Explain the expected sustainable development impacts of the project, both positive and negative, in a simplified manner. The pProject dPeveloper should ask stakeholders if they think there are any other relevant impacts of the project.
 - d. Discuss any potential adverse risks of the project, asking obvious questions for the Safeguarding Principles Assessments.
 - e. Follow the discussion with the positive impacts and invite stakeholders to provide views on project contributions; if the project is doing too little/enough/too much for identified impact and invite their reasoning.

Commented [RI3]: link

Consider prompting people by asking them first to think in terms of their priorities and day-to-day realities and then of the priorities of future generations. Try to reach <u>a_consensus</u> on the assessment of the impacts during the discussion before continuing to the next agenda item. The exercise is challenging, so take care not to confuse and ask too much of your stakeholders. Gather as many comments as possible to improve and balance the project's impacts.

- f. Discuss the monitoring plan for sustainable development impacts by inviting stakeholders to share ideas on how this could be done in a cost-effective and participatory way. What are the most appropriate ways for stakeholders to monitor the project? Again, consider the abilities and capacity of your stakeholders and be reasonable in expectations.
- f-g. Discuss the mechanism for input during the Stakeholder Feedback Round.
- h. Discuss the mechanism for <u>continuous</u> input and grievance with the stakeholders to decide what are the best methods to raise concerns and/or seek recourse for impacts that occur during the project implementation. At the physical meeting, the Project Developer should discuss potential options, such as those listed in the table below, for filing a grievance and the associated procedures and protocols to ensure that stakeholders agree with the selected grievance mechanism.
- f.—Arrange a question-and-answer session to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to ask questions to understand the project. Provide pen and paper for stakeholders to write down any questions and/or concerns and encourage people to do so. Invite stakeholders to discuss their concerns and how these concerns could be addressed. Discuss the mitigation plan to address the risks and ask if there are any suggestions to improve the mitigation measure(s). Try to reach a consensus among the stakeholder regarding the final proposed measure(s) to mitigate or minimise the risk in time.

i. Table 1 Recommended Methods for Grievance and Input Mechanism

METHOD CHOSEN (INCLUDE ALL KNOWN DETAILS E.G. LOCATION OF BOOK, PHONE, NUMBER, IDENTITY OF MEDIATOR)

JUSTIFICATION

Continuous Input and Grievance Expression Process Mandatory Book

Telephone access

Internet/email access

Nominated Independent Mediator (optional)

Other

At the end of the meeting, invite the stakeholders to complete the-an
evaluation form (see stakeholder consultation report template). Explain the follow-up action plan and how stakeholders can access the minutes of the meeting. It is also important to let attendees know how their comments are recorded and how they may find out about the follow-up actions to address the comments. Also, share the information on the Stakeholder Feedback Round. Close the meeting and collect Stakeholder Meeting Evaluation Forms using, for example, the following format. It may be adapted to the context of the project.

3.6.4

__Table 2 Stakeholder Feedback Form

	Written response:
Name:	
Gender - Male/Female:	
What is your impression of the meetings?	
What do you like about the Project?	
What do you not like about the Project?	
Signature:	

40.1.37 | 3.6.5 | The pProject dDeveloper should record the minutes of the meeting and gather evidence as pictures or if appropriate record a video; these are useful for keeping a record of questions and comments received and as evidence during the certification cycle. Keep the meeting minutes short and focus on comments received during the meeting. Where appropriate, the project developer may appoint a trusted individual who is familiar with the

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<u>participants' names</u> (for example, a community nurse or school principal) in advance to record the minutes of the meeting.

40.1.37 | The <u>p</u>Project <u>d</u>Developer should record the participant list (see <u>stakeholder consultation report template</u>) example content below), to register their name and contact details, job or position and sign<u>ature</u> to indicate they were present.

3.6.6 | Table 3 Participants Details

Date And Time		Location		
Name and Position of Participant (e.g.e.g., community roles etc.)	Gender Male Female Other Prefer not to state	Contact Details	Organisation (if <u>If</u> relevant)	Signature

Feedback round

3.6.7 | The Stakeholder Feedback Round (i.e., the second round of consultation)

covers all the issues raised in the first round of consultation (i.e., physical meeting). The pProject dDeveloper shouldmust provide feedback to the stakeholders on how comments from the physical meeting have been considered and provide another opportunity to seek comments from stakeholders.

All stakeholders invited to participate in the first consultation should be invited to the Stakeholder Feedback Round.

- 3.6.8 | Often stakeholders prefer not to raise their comments during a physical meeting, or the discussion may prompt during and after the meeting makes them think of further comments after the meeting. It is therefore very important to give enough space and opportunity to stakeholders to submit their comments
- 3.6.9 | The Stakeholder Consultation documentation and revised project
 documentation should be made accessible via a website or online platform. In
 addition to publishing the project documents via a website, the pProject
 dPeveloper should consider providing hard copies of the documents available
 at community places, for example, the local post office or municipality office,
 library, community health centre, or nursery or primary school.

Commented [RI5]: link

- The Stakeholder Feedback Round remains open for a minimum of 30
- If the physical meeting was not organised in the first round of consultation, the Project Developer should organise a physical meeting with stakeholders following the steps mentioned previously.
- During the Stakeholder Feedback Round, all stakeholder comments should be captured and addressed.
- The Stakeholder Feedback Round can be conducted in parallel to the Validation process, but the validating VVB must take into account the stakeholders' feedback to conclude the Validation opinion.
- The Project Developer should document the Stakeholder Feedback
 Round and how it was organised, what the outcomes were and how the
 feedback was followed up.

41|3.7 | Consideration of comments received

- 41.1.1 | 3.7.1 | Feedback evaluation and follow up actions are a crucial part of the consultations process. The following steps provide guidance on how the follow up actions and feedback should be shared after the meeting.
- 41.1.2 | All the comments/suggestions raised by the stakeholders in the meeting or via evaluation forms or other means must be documented by categorising as positive, neutral or negative.
- 41.1.3 |The Project Developer should consider all the comments and identify the comments that are serious, reasonable and proportional and therefore should be taken into account.
- 41.1.4 | 3.7.2 | The pProject developer should compare its own-sustainable development and safeguarding assessment with the outcome of the stakeholder consultation meeting. All the differences should be identified, and the project documentation should be updated accordingly.
- 41.1.5 | 3.7.3 | If one or more aspects of the project are considered negative and consensus could not be reached in the meeting, the Project Developer should revisit the impact assessment with an independent third party.
- 41.1.6 | 3.7.4 | The pProject dDeveloper's judgment is key at this stage and will ultimately determine changes to the final Project Design, implementationimplementation, and other relevant aspects. For example, if women provided feedback on the design of a cookstove, it is important to account for and understand the rationale behind the feedback considering that women are the primary user of the technology.
- 41.1.7 | 3.7.5 | If some stakeholders' concerns seem unwarranted, make a case as to why this is so. Negative stakeholder comments are not necessarily a reason to stop a project's progress, however, all stakeholder concerns should be addressed and accounted for or justified. It may highlight unintended risks

or harms from a gender perspective. Make sure to document individual differences⁸ as they relate to priorities, concerns, and potential impacts (positive or negative). These should be categorised and evaluated separately.

- 41.1.8 | 3.7.6 | After assessing the comments, the pProject dPeveloper should decide whether to change or amend the Project Design. Changes to the Project Design generally increase local ownership of and interest in the project and enhance sustainable development.
- 41.1.9 | 3.7.7 | The pProject developer shall document any alterations that will be made to the Project Design resulting from the Stakeholder Consultation meeting in the respective section of the project documentation.
- 41.1.10 | The pProject dDeveloper should document any comments, criticisms or improvements that were made to the input and grievance expression methods discussed at the physical meeting.

41.1.11 |3.7.8 |

Ongoing Continuous input and gGrievance mechanism

-monitoring

42 3.8 | Continuous input

- 42.1.1 |The Project Developer should monitor and record concerns and feedback that have been identified and raised by stakeholders during the stakeholder consultations and implementation and the mitigation measures put in place to address those.
 - The Project Developer should record and address any feedback given by stakeholders as part of the project's continuous input/grievance mechanism and include in the monitoring report.

Grievance mechanism

The project developer shall develop a grievance mechanism which is easy to implement and maintain. The feedbacks provided must be easily retrievable.

- 3.8.1 | The roles and responsibilities of the person/team managing the mechanism should be formally laid out and communicated effectively.
- 3.8.2 | The PDproject developer may develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for managing the feedback received. This SOP should be accessible to

⁸ Are responses different or are there similarities across gender lines?

everyone involved including the stakeholder and the project development team of PD employees so that the process doesn't become person dependent. The process should be able to run in absence of thea dedicated representative as well.

- 3.8.3 | Project developerD may maintain a database to analyse the kind/trend of feedbacks received.
- 3.8.4 | BThe best possible methods should be employed to maintain anonymity/confidentiality when the stakeholder demands so.
- 3.8.5 | The stakeholders should be assured that they are in safe hands when making feedback.
- 3.8.6 | Gender, caste, creed, social hierarchical and other cultural sensitivities should be taken care of when devising methods of the grievance mechanism. No section of society should become inaccessible by virtue of the mechanism.

3.9 | Stakeholder consultation documentation

3.9.1 | 3.9.1 The consultation must be reported using the stakeholder consultation report template. A complete stakeholder consultation report is required to initiate the preliminary review.

Ongoing reporting

3.10

- 3.10.1 | Project developers must use two template reporting templates formats to provide a transparent and regular account of all formal channel stakeholder interactions during the project's lifetime. —Thesese two templates are:
 - a. The annual report and
 - b. +The project monitoring report-
- 3.10.2 | Annual reports are normally only required in years when verifications are not completed, please see Principles & Requirements for the detail of this requirement.

4 POA-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

4.1.1 | The section below lays out some guidance applicable specifically to PoA and VPA level stakeholder engagement only. For a-generic guidance or related to aspects common with project—level consultation, please refer to the sections above.

4.2 | PoA level consultation

For a PoA, the stakeholder consultation is required at both PoA and VPA level.

4.2.1 | For the PoA level, the PDproject developer may employ any method for consultation. Physical stakeholder engagement is not mandatory, however if

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Commented [RI6]: added to make numbering make sense (no info previously0

- the <u>PDproject developer</u> thinks that physical engagement shall be most fruitful for a the purpose of consultation then it is highly encouraged to be conducted.
- 4.2.2 | The project developerPD should identify the stakeholders very carefully keeping in mind the real-case VPAs they plan to design.
- 4.2.3 | Since the PoA-level design consultation may not be a physical session, it is very important to ensure that the channel to provide feedback is well-explained and accessible to the stakeholders. TheA non-physical session not being conducted in the physical presence of the stakeholders should not pose as a hindrance in collecting the feedback.

4.2.4 | If in a multi-country PoA:

- a. If aThe project developerPD chooses to conduct a single design consultation for all the countries, then the PD must take special care must be taken of the similarities and differences amongst all the involved countries. AThe aspects such as language, culture, political and economic situation, food habits, etc. and many more such areas have a deep impact on the stakeholder's perspective thus the influence that the PoA might have on them may differ. The project developerPD must be respectful of this fact when conducting the consultation.
- b. If aThe project developerPD is conducting a single virtual design consultation, then a translator maybe useful to -also be invited who can interpret different languages spoken by representatives from the different countries involved.
- During the consultation, the government representatives/policy makers will be involved. It can sometimes lead to disagreements amongst the stakeholders. Thus, itIt is a good idea to to lay out a set a clear agenda and -scope for theof consultation in the beginning of the session to alleviate any disagreements amongst different stakeholder groups.
- d. The information made available to the stakeholders can be drafted separately for each country in a language and method best suited to them.

4.3 | VPA level consultation

- At VPA level, a physical stakeholder consultation is mandatory unlike PoA Design Consultation.
- 4.3.1 | The consultation requirements at the VPA- level are the same as that for a a project activity, viz one physical stakeholder consultation and one 30 days stakeholder feedback round. tThus, it is recommended that PDproject developers reads the sections above illustrating that provide the requirements guidance for project--level consultation.
- 4.3.2 | If the PDproject developer is conducting a grouped stakeholder consultation for several corresponding VPAs, the PDdeveloper may take care of the following:

Commented [CW7]: I don't understand the direct link with government representatives and other stakeholders having disagreements - it seems very specific. I therefore made it a little more generic. Can you check I haven't missed the point.

- a. If the host country is multicultural and multilingual, the PDproject developer should prepare the information provided to the stakeholder in the language and method most suitable to the specific stakeholder group.
- b. If need be, project developersPD may prepare the soft/hard copies of VPA information in multiple languages and also involve a translator on ground during the physical round.

Commented [CW8]: This has similar information as the section above - can we combine or refer to section 4.2.4?

5 EXPERT STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 5.1.1 | Expert stakeholders are not necessarily the group of people/community which are directly/indirectly impacted by the implementation of PA/PoA/VPA, however, they can, owing to their expertise of the field, provide constructive inputs to make in making the implementation a far bettermore successful.
- 5.1.2 | Even if iIt is not mandatory to seek expert opinion at the time of stakeholder consultation, it may still be beneficial to engage with them at this early stage rounds however the earlier these experts are involved, the better so that the project design becomes robust from the start.
- 5.1.3 | A fewSome projects require mandatory expert opinion at the time of validation against the assessment questions for technology--specific eliqibility criteriona. For example, Annex A of Renewable Energy Activity Requirements lists down various aspects of the project implementation which must be backed by expert opinion during validation. Thus, while in the planning phase itself, the PDproject developer may identify this need and involve the expert stakeholder so that the comments can be incorporated into the project design as early as possible.

ANNEX- 1: CASE STUDY FOR CONDUCTING A STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

The Gold Standard has published this guidance document in conjunction with the Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement Requirements to make the Project Developer's task a little easy-it easier to in terms of interpreting and implement the requirements—and physically implementing them. The list of requirements and guidelines can be overwhelming thus we have tried to consolidate aBelow is a case study for the PDs to refer to so that they understand the physical-that illustrates the implications—implementation of each requirement and guidance. This case study is a hypothetical example whichthat is created with a very sensitive consideration of not only the requirements but also considers the common challenges faced by PDsproject developers on the ground. The information/means/methods mentioned in the case study are by no means binding (beyond the Requirements) and are only for reference. The section below illustrates a case study, which puts all the guidelines mentioned above, in a perspective.

Project/situation description (Project idea)

The hypothetical project in consideration is aimed at intends to provideing more efficient thermal appliances for non-renewable biomass by introducing more energy efficient biomass-fired cookstoves in India. The project developer aims to install mudbrickmudbrick cookstoves in individual households thereby replacing the traditional three-stone fired stoves, thereby-leading to a reduction in indoor pollution and GHG emissions-created during cooking on the latter. The project is a small-scale project activity that follows AMS.II.G which is a CDM approved small-scale methodology, also eligible to be applied under The-Gold Standard Certification for the Global Goals.

Planning and preparations

As a part of the preparation for stakeholder consultation, the PDproject developer analyszed the relevant stakeholders, risks, opportunities and how to conduct the most effective consultation round. The PDproject developer noted, in the context of the applied technology, that the objective of the stakeholder consultation shall be to:

- a. Identify the priorities and opinions of the target population of the project i.e., lower-income groups and marginaliszed people of remote areas with limited access to basic means and facilities.
- b. Advertise the project to the masses to attain a good demand for the implemented technology.
- c. Bust various myths still living in the perceptions of the people which refrain them from switching to efficient cooking practices.
- d. Enlighten the population on the various ill-effects of cooking on a traditional three-stone fired stove.
- Include all relevant sections of the communities in decision making to facilitate successful project implementation and maintaining a continuous demand.
- f. As an organiszation, gain the trust of the stakeholders.

Identification of stakeholders

After a preliminary consultation with NGOs working with the target communities, the PDproject developer established that the relevant stakeholders to shall be:

- a. The potential end-users with a focus on women, as they are the predominate users of the technology would be the overwhelming part of the users (if not always clients)
- b. The local district magistrate
- c. Representatives of local NGO(s)
- d. The employees of Pradushan Hatao India Initiative
- e. Representative(s) from t\(\frac{1}{2}\)he Gold Standard Foundation

Sending invitations to the stakeholders

Considering that the majority of most of the end-user population was is illiterate with no basic skill of reading, the PDproject developer chose a verbal form of invitation in their mother tongue local language i.e., Hindi. The PDproject developer employed the following methods of invitation to the end-users:

- a. An announcement in the nearby-project area using a loud-speaker system installed on a moving van.
- Continuous announcements in common areas such as religious places, schools, bus stands, panchayat meetings and other common community locations.
- c. Verbal door-to-door message by local representatives of the project mainly through female staff to ensure good communication with women.

For the state and district officials, a formal letter was sent over email and by post and acknowledgement was sought.

Venue of the stakeholder meeting

Keeping in mind the wide variety of stakeholders, PD-project developer decided to conduct three3 separate local stakeholder consultations in 3three different districts of Bhind, Barwani and Dindori. It-This was done to maximise stakeholder participation and not discourage participation due to distancesince the end-users would have been discouraged to participate owing to the travel distance, majorly affecting women. Each of the three consultations Theus, were hosted PD decided to have these consultations at a hall in a government hospital to ensure it was central and in these 3 districts, since it was in the centre and was accessible to every caste, creed and sect of the society. Also, it was considered a safe place to be in by everyone in the community.

Creating information material for stakeholder

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Once the objective, design and involved stakeholders of the project were drafted, the PDproject developer made a non-technical summary of the project in both . The PD created this non-technical summary both in English and Hindi, to language to ascertain an efficient information transfer because as most of the population of the region spoke Hindi as their mother tongue. The non-technical summary in both English and Hindi is given below.

Commented [CW9]: It mentions above that the majority of stakeholders were illiterate - would they not try to also include a diagram into the information to make it easier to understand?



Pradushan Hatao India Bhind, Madhya Pradesh

Stakeholder Consultation Meeting "Improved Cook Stoves in India"

Non-technical Summary of the Project

General description

The objective of the project is the installation of mud brick cook stoves in individual households in the districts of Bhind, Barwani and Dindori of Madhya Pradesh in order to substitute the traditional three-stone fired cookstoves with an improved cookstoves for clean cooking which will lead to an improved indoor air quality in the household.

Fuel wood is the primary source of energy for majority of the population in India. It is also widely used in traditional stoves for cooking food.

The traditional three-stone fired cookstoves are responsible for high indoor air pollution with high concentration of smoke gases. Therefore, they have several drawbacks for the users:

- the fireplace acts as a constant source of irritation to the eyes and throat
- it creates a permanent environment filled with smoke
- $\mbox{-}\mbox{-}\mbox{it}$ may lead to development of chronic illnesses pertaining to the eyes, nose and throat of the residents
- the cooking is very inefficient and large amount of fuel wood is used
- women and children are the worst affected since they stay in proximity of these cookstoves for a larger duration $\,$

The projects aims at replacing such inefficient and problem-causing stoves with efficient cookstoves built with mud which shall reduce the indoor pollution levels. The efficient stove shall have an outlet which will throw away all the pollutants outside the premises of the house. Thus, keeping the indoor surroundings clean

and breathable. It will also lead to a considerable reduction in the requirement of fuel wood thereby helping the women of the family further.

Description of the technology

The improved cookstoves shall be made directly in the cooking space of the household using mud bricks and it will also have a chimney with an outlet for the gases outside the house. This project is promoted and developed by Clean Air Private Limited under the "Pradushan Hatao India" initiative. This initiative aims at employing energy efficient means of cooking thereby improving the indoor air quality in the involved households. The improved cook stoves will not only reduce the air pollution but also will lead to reduction in fuel wood consumption and time of cooking. It is a tried and tested technology in various parts of the world and will now make a difference in many parts of the country.

The stoves shall have 3 models:

- 1. One-pot variant
- 2. Two-pot variant
- 3. Three-pot variant

The efficiency of these improved cookstoves have been indicated to be 25% and shall lead to a reduction in fuel consumption by 30-50% when compared to the traditional baseline stoves.

For any other information, please contact:

Mr. Dubey PO Box No. 1234

Bhind, Madhya Pradesh. 477001

Phone number: +91 1234567890

Email address: <u>dubey123@pradushanhatao.com</u>



प्रदुषण हटाओ इंडिया भिंड, मध्य प्रदेश

हितधारक परामर्श बैठक "भारत में बेहतर कुक स्टोव"

परियोजना का गैर-तकनीकी सारांश

सामान्य विवरण

परियोजना का उद्देश्य भिंड, बरवानी और डिंडोरी जिलों में अलग-अलग घरों में मिट्टी के ईंट के चूल्हें की स्थापना करना है ताकि पारंपरिक तीन-पत्थर से चलने वाले चूल्हों को साफ खाना पकाने के लिए एक बेहतर कुकस्टोव के साथ प्रतिस्थापित किया जा सके जिससे घर में हवा की गुणवत्ता बेहतर हो सके।

भारत में अधिकांश आबादी के लिए ईंधन की लकड़ी ऊर्जा का प्राथमिक स्रोत है। खाना पकाने के लिए पारंपरिक स्टोव में भी इसका व्यापक रूप से उपयोग किया जाता है।

पारंपरिक तीन-पत्थर से चलने वाले चूल्हे धुएँ के गैसों की उच्च सांद्रता के साथ उच्च इनडोर वायु प्रदूषण के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। इसलिए, उनके पास उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए कई किमयां हैं:

- फायरप्लेस आंखों और गले में जलन के निरंतर स्रोत के रूप में कार्य करता है
- यह धुएं से भरा एक स्थायी वातावरण बनाता है
- इससे निवासियों की आंख, नाक और गले से संबंधित बीमारियों का विकास हो सकता है
- खाना बनाना बहुत अक्षम है और बड़ी मात्रा में ईंधन की लकड़ी का उपयोग किया जाता है
- महिलाएं और बच्चे सबसे अधिक प्रभावित होते हैं क्योंकि वे इन चूल्हों के पास अधिक समय तक रहते हैं

परियोजनाओं का उद्देश्य ऐसे अक्षम और समस्या पैदा करने वाले स्टोव को मिट्टी से बने कुशल कुकस्टोव से बदलना है जो इनडोर प्रदूषण के स्तर को कम करेगा। कुशल चूल्हे में एक आउटलेट होगा जो घर के परिसर के बाहर सभी प्रदूषकों को फेंक देगा। इस प्रकार, इनडोर परिवेश को स्वच्छ और सांस लेने योग्य रखना। इससे ईंधन की लकड़ी की आवश्यकता में भी काफी कमी आएगी जिससे परिवार की महिलाओं को और मदद मिलेगी।

तकनीक का विवरण

सुधरे हुए चूल्हे सीधे घर के खाना पकाने के स्थान में मिट्टी की ईंटों का उपयोग करके बनाए जाएंगे और इसमें घर के बाहर गैसों के निकास के साथ एक चिमनी भी होगी। इस परियोजना को " प्रदुषण हटाओ इंडिया" पहल के तहत क्लीन एयर प्राइवेट लिमिटेड द्वारा प्रचारित और विकसित किया गया है। इस पहल का उद्देश्य खाना पकाने के ऊर्जा कुशल साधनों को नियोजित करना है जिससे शामिल घरों में इनडोर वायु गुणवत्ता में सुधार हो। बेहतर कुक स्टोव न केवल वायु प्रदूषण को कम करेगा बल्कि ईंधन की लकड़ी की खपत और खाना पकाने के समय में भी कमी लाएगा। यह दुनिया के विभिन्न हिस्सों में आजमाई हुई और परखी हुई तकनीक है और अब यह देश के कई हिस्सों में बदलाव लाएगी।

स्टोव में 3 मॉडल होंगे:

- १. एक बर्तन प्रकार
- २. दो बर्तन प्रकार
- ३. तीन बर्तन प्रकार

इन उन्नत चूल्हों की दक्षता २५% बताई गई है और इससे पारंपरिक बेसलाइन स्टोव की तुलना में ईंधन की खपत में ३० -५०% की कमी आएगी।

किसी भी अन्य जानकारी के लिए कृपया संपर्क करें:

श्री दुबे पीओ बॉक्स नंबर १२३४ भिंड, मध्य प्रदेश , ४७७००१ फोन नंबर: +९१ १२३४५६७८९०

ईमेल पता: dubey123@pradushanhatao.com

In addition to a non-technical summary, the project developer PD-created small pamphlets illustrating the summary of the economic, social and environmental impacts of the project as per Safeguarding Principles & Requirements and; means and methods to provide feedback for those who would not be able to join the consultation meeting.

Conducting the face-to-face Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

After the establishment of the objectives and invitees (stakeholders) the PDproject developer had to finalise-identify the mode of the most effective communication with the people of the area. The local employees working for the initiative analysed that a recent event organised by the government under the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" initiative was very well received by the local people since they used the form of enactments that involved children from the same area. The PDproject developer decided that public inclusion is the best form of communication, as established in the past. Thus, the project developerPD, with the help of local staff called for children to take part in a play that enacted the negative impacts of traditional practices of cooking on a chulha.

After one month of sending out the invitations invitation campaign, the local stakeholder consultations were carried out at all three districts within one week. The invitations were sent through email, letters through the post, visual and audio displays of the event details. Posters were stuck on the announcement corners of all major places frequented by the community such as government schools, hospitals, dispensaries, bus stands and other similar places. AThe audio projection was done through loudspeaker announcements in the areas where most of the probable endusers lived. All the required classes of stakeholders attended the event and gave their feedback/comments. Since the children from the same community were involved, it raised the participation level immensely. It also led tothere was very high astonishing female participation since mothers were keen to see their children participate in the act. As a result of this successful stakeholder engagement round, the PDproject developer could, to an extent, break the societal conditioning and lack of knowledge of the masses.

The PDproject developer made sure to note every feedback and draw a mitigation strategy to address each one of the applicable comments. The PDproject developer made sure that several female employees of the project developer took partiace in the meetings which facilitated a better interaction with women attending the event. The meeting was concluded with an evaluation form which was provided to each member present. As many women could not read and write well, the employees allowed the stakeholders to come to them for to record their opinions and evaluation at the end of the meeting. Once the interview was done, the results were read out loud to the stakeholder and only then signed.

The PDproject developer emphasiszed the fact that a grievance mechanism was in place in form of a logbook with every local representative and a list of contact numbers was also displayed at all the commonly accessed places. A stakeholder suggested that the office of the microfinance institution would be an additional good

place to place a complaints book and the list of contact numbers, and also and to provide numbers for all local phone providers to allow for lower costs of communication. The PD project developer noted these suggestions and implemented them, as the cost of implementation was reasonable for the impact.

Completing the Stakeholder Feedback Consultation

All the stakeholders who were a part of the initially conducted-local stakeholder consultation were also invited to contribute to the stakeholder feedback consultation. The project developer reached out to every contributor of the local stakeholder consultation and explained how her/his comments were incorporated into the project design. Since most of the end-users were illiterate, most of this communication was verbal, however confirmation that the information is dispersed was documented in the form of acknowledgements from the end-users. To all the authorities relevant, a documented version of the same was shared. The window for seeking the feedback was for tone2 months. No further issues/concerns were shared by any of the stakeholders.

42.1.2

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Description
X.X	Mm/dd/yyyy	- Consultation guidelines for PoAs and VPAs added - Editorial changes - Addition of case-study - Guidance on expert stakeholder engagement added - Guidance on grievance mechanism added
1.2	23/10/2019	
1.1	01/03/2018	
1.0	01/07/2017	