



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FAIR 2026

21-24 SEPTEMBER 2026 | ADB HEADQUARTERS, MANILA



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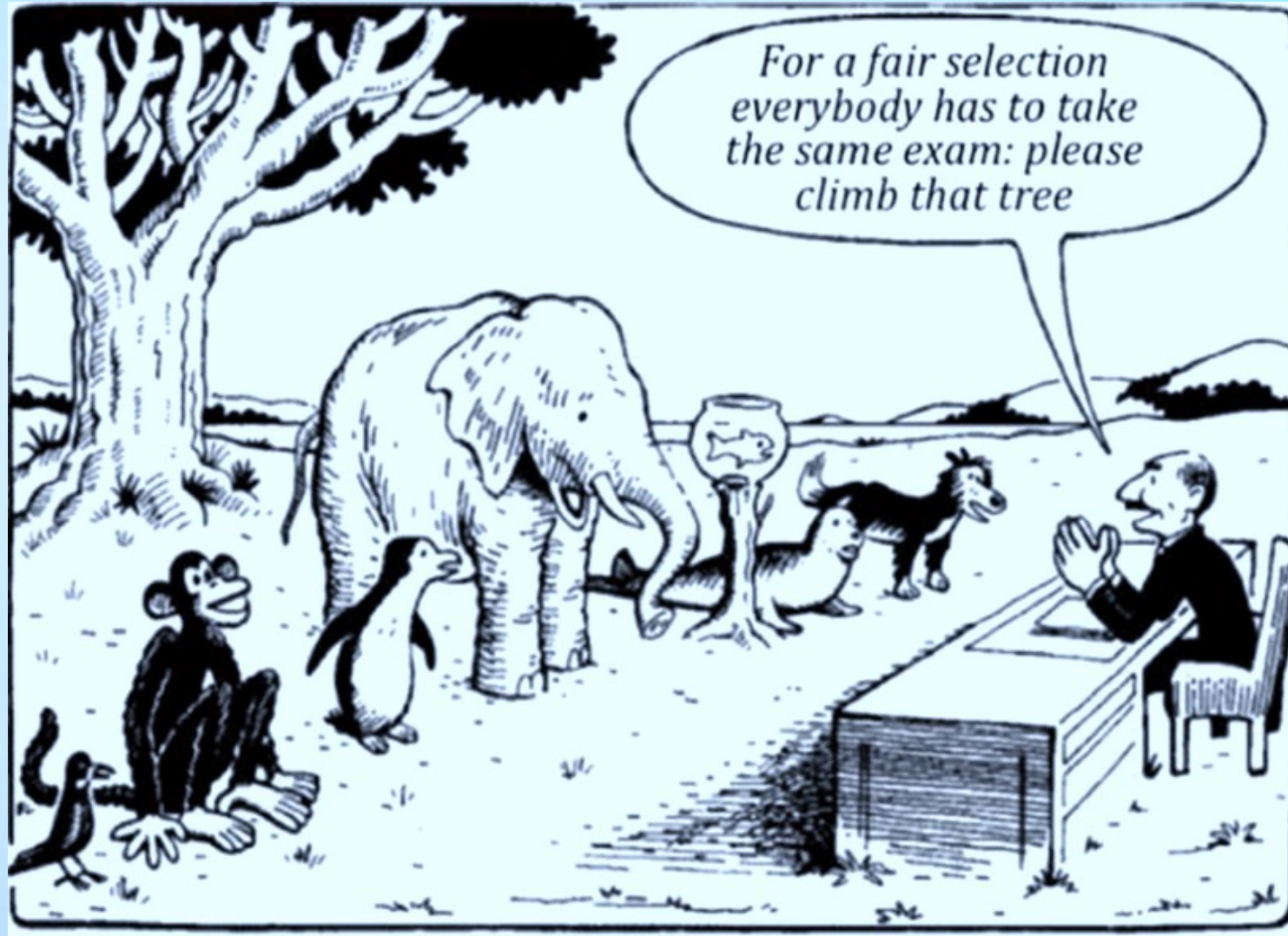
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VALUE FOR MONEY: DRIVING QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE



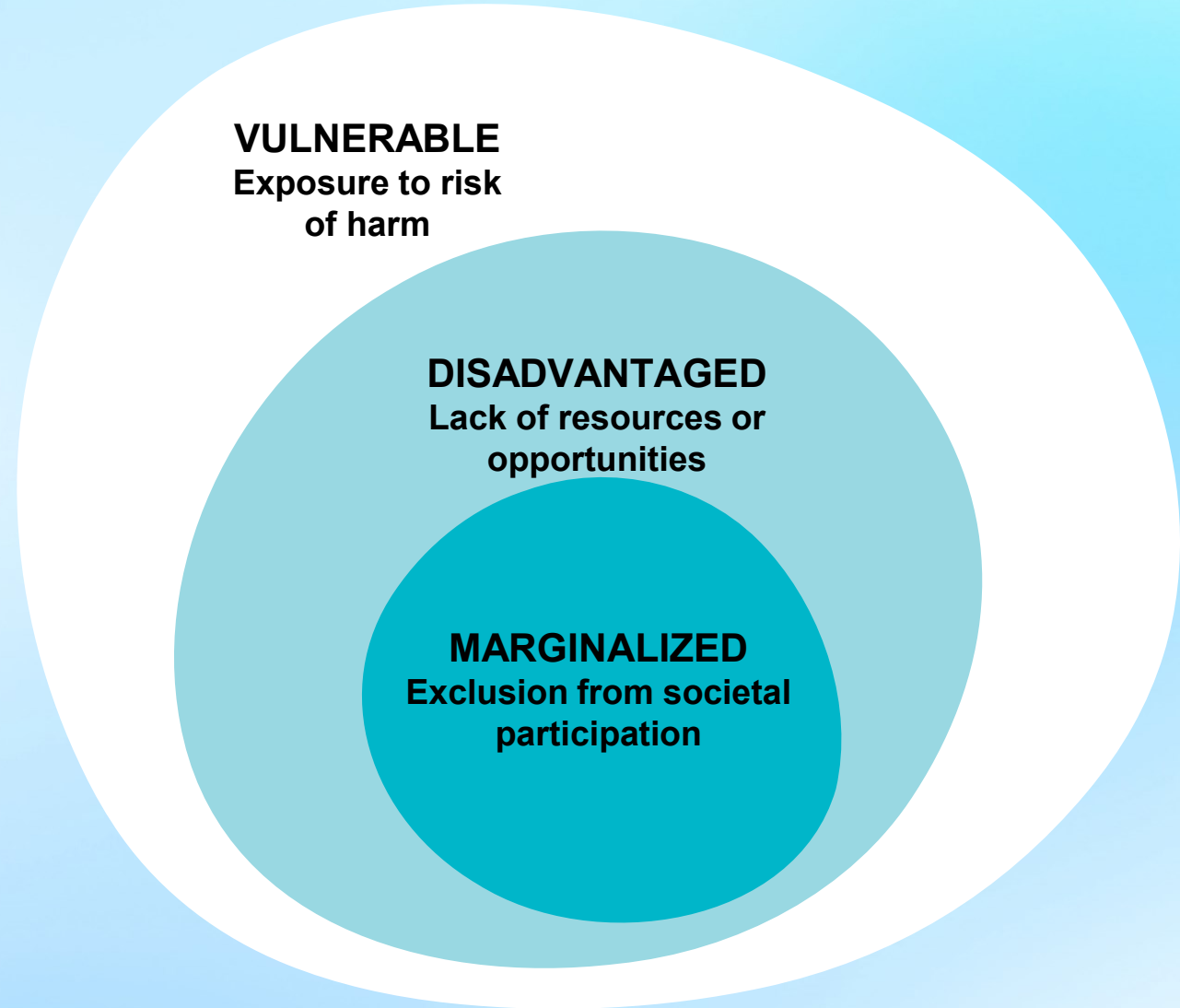
ESF's Definition of Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals and Groups

“Those individuals or groups who,

- by virtue of, for example, their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, social, civic or health status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic disadvantages or indigenous status, and/or dependence on unique natural resources,
- may be more likely to be (i) at risk of being adversely affected by project impacts, (ii) more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project's benefits, and (iii) excluded from/unable to participate fully in consultation processes and benefit sharing.”



Definition of the Terms: Vulnerable, disadvantaged, and marginalized

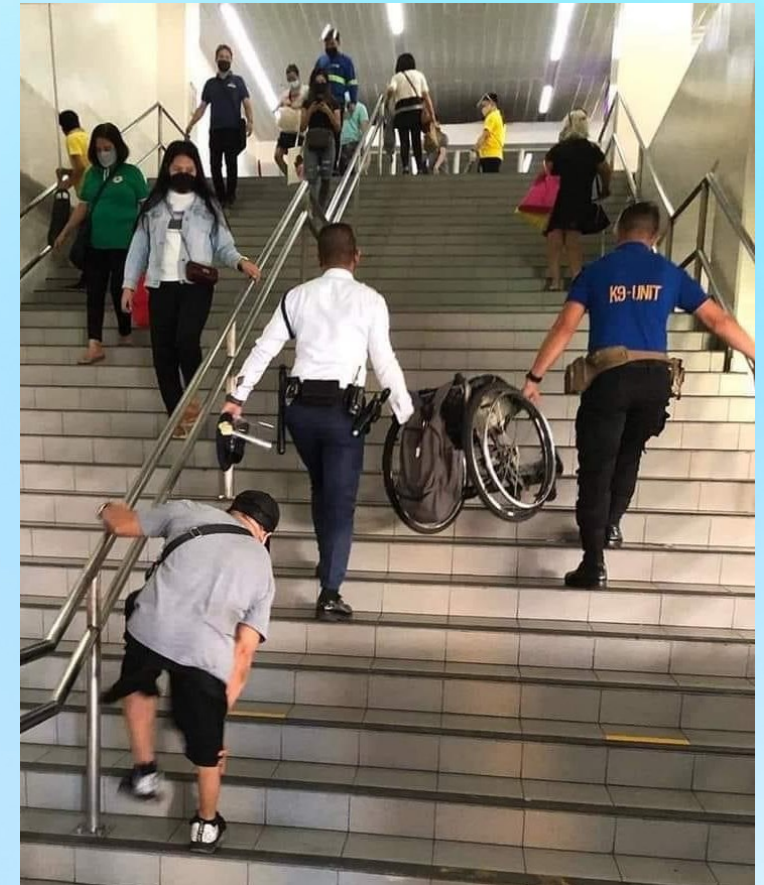




ESF Approach to D/V in ADB projects

This dual framing- risk mitigation and equitable access to project benefits- has important practical implications:

- assess vulnerability
- Identify risk mitigation
 - » equitable access to benefits
 - » remove barriers to inclusion and participation





**Factors that
cause or
contribute to
disadvantage
or vulnerability**

**Environmental
Factors**

Social, legal,
economic,
physical
structures



**Intrapersonal
or Intragroup
Factors**

Internal
characteristics or
traits of a person
or group

Interpersonal or Intergroup Factors

How individuals or groups are treated
in relationships or social exchanges



The Intersectionality Framework

- Kimberle Crenshaw intersectionality framework
- Intersectionality recognizes that vulnerability is shaped by multiple, overlapping social identities
- Gender, age, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, income status, and geographic location—or various structures of discrimination underlying these identities intersect to create unique modes and degrees of disadvantage or vulnerability.

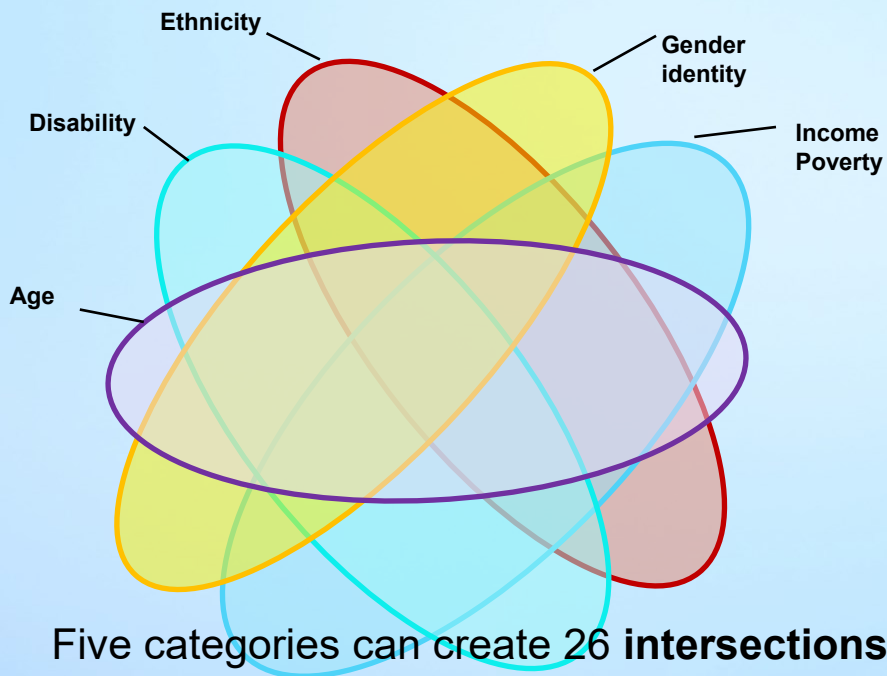


The Intersectionality Framework

ADB ESF para. 32 (p. 25): “The assessment will consider intersectionality to address how gender inequalities intersect with other forms of disadvantages and discrimination that create barriers to accessing project benefits and limit their ability to respond to adverse impacts of a project.”



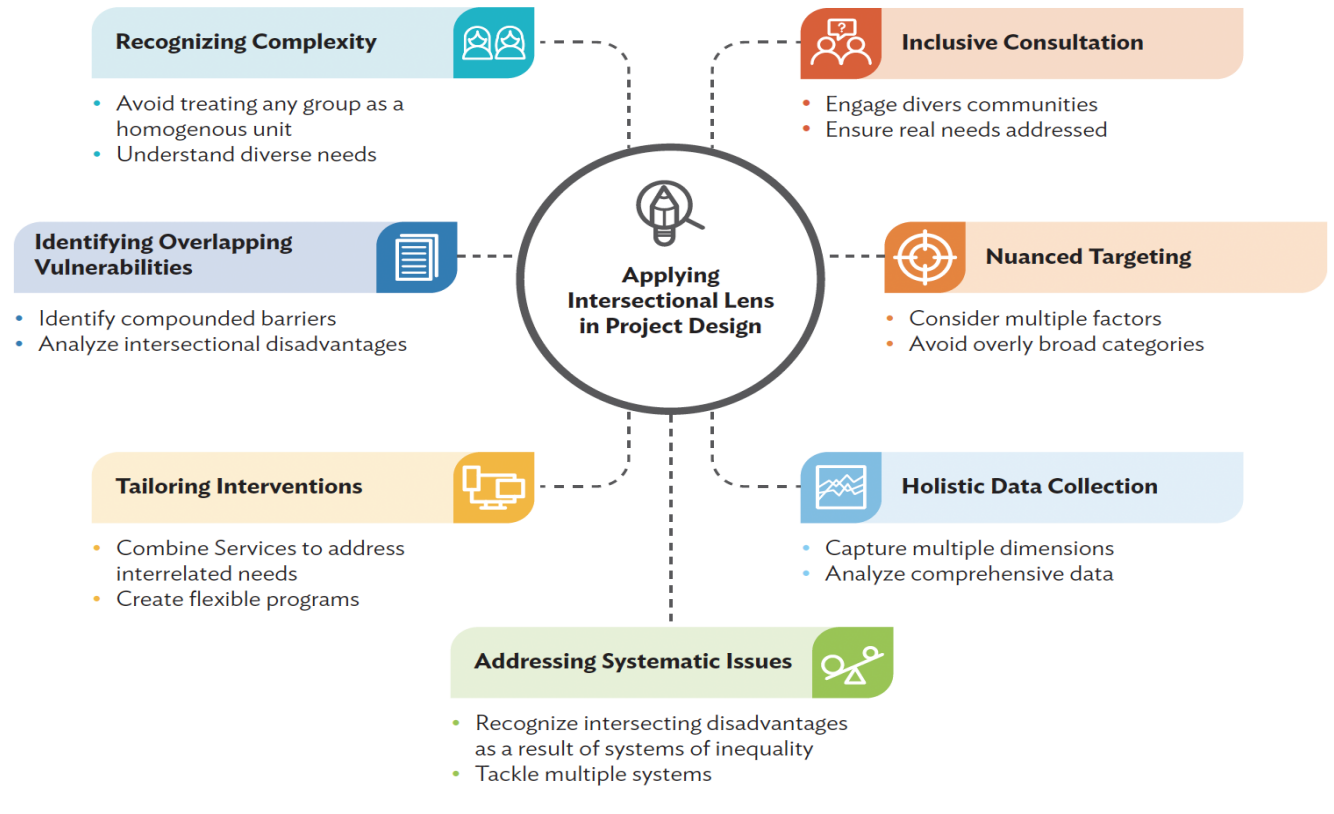
A Visualization of the Intersections of Five Social Identities



Five categories can create 26 intersections. People in each intersection have unique experiences of discrimination.

Application of the Intersectionality Lens to Projects

Figure 1: Applying Intersectional Lens in Project Design





Assessment & Management
of Environment and Social
Risks and Impacts

- The assessment identifies those who may be **disproportionately affected** by a project due to their disadvantaged or vulnerable status.



Labor and Working
Conditions

- Employment principles encompass **equal opportunity and fair treatment, eliminating discrimination** across all aspects of employment relations.



Health, Safety,
and Security

- Avoid or minimize health, safety, and security risks and impacts that impact project workers with particular attention to those who may be disadvantaged or vulnerable;
- Focus areas: Occupational health and safety, **community health and safety, exposure to disease mitigation, and sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) prevention**



Land Acquisition and
Land Use Restriction

- Mitigation measures must include **improvement of livelihoods and living conditions** of disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups, including by providing adequate housing with essential services, utilities, and security of tenure to those who are physically displaced.



Indigenous Peoples

- Need to consider disadvantaged or vulnerable Indigenous Peoples (IP) groups and subsections within **IP communities**



Climate Change

- Include disadvantaged or vulnerable groups in **climate change-related risk assessment and designing** of mitigation measures.



Stakeholder Engagement
and Information Disclosure

- Emphasizes the **need to recognize and address the needs of disadvantaged or vulnerable groups** in stakeholder engagement, disclosure, and grievance mechanisms, including addressing allegations of reprisal, abuse, intimidation, or discrimination and taking appropriate remedial actions.

Entry Points for Applying ESF Requirements for D/V Persons or Groups in ADB's Project Cycle



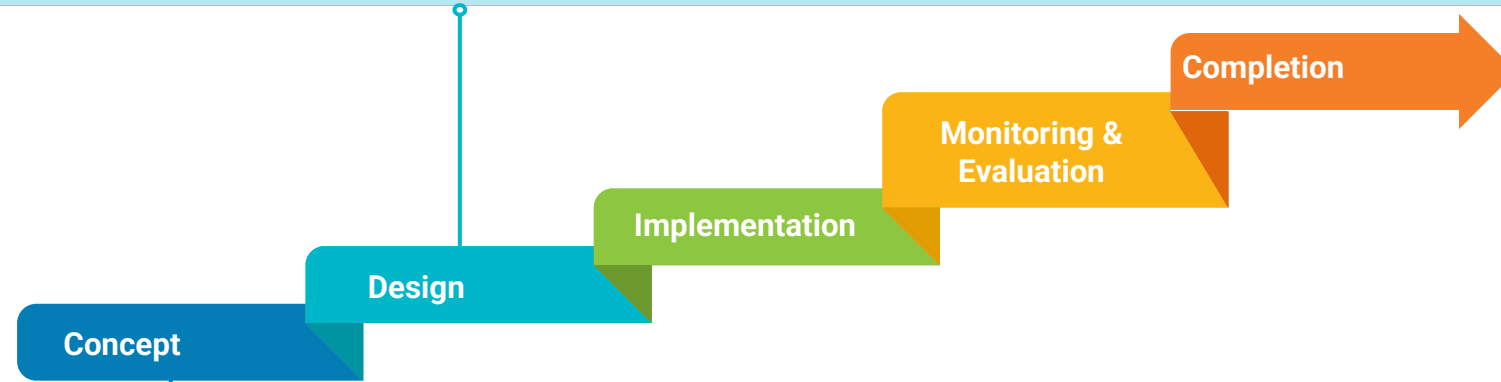
1. **Environment and Social Assessment:**

Comprehensive assessments to analyze how the project will affect D/V persons or groups.

2. **Inclusive Strategies:** Targeted mitigation measures and interventions of D/V persons or groups.

3. **Gender:** Gender considerations in all mitigation measures throughout the project cycle.

4. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Opportunities for continuous participation of D/V persons or groups in the design process.



1. **Stakeholder Identification:** Identify stakeholders early, particularly D/V persons or groups defined by the ESF.

2. **Social Screening:** Preliminary assessments to understand the social context and potential impacts of the project on D/V persons or groups.



3. **Consultation and Engagement:** D/V persons or groups consultations to gather their input and perspectives on the project concept.

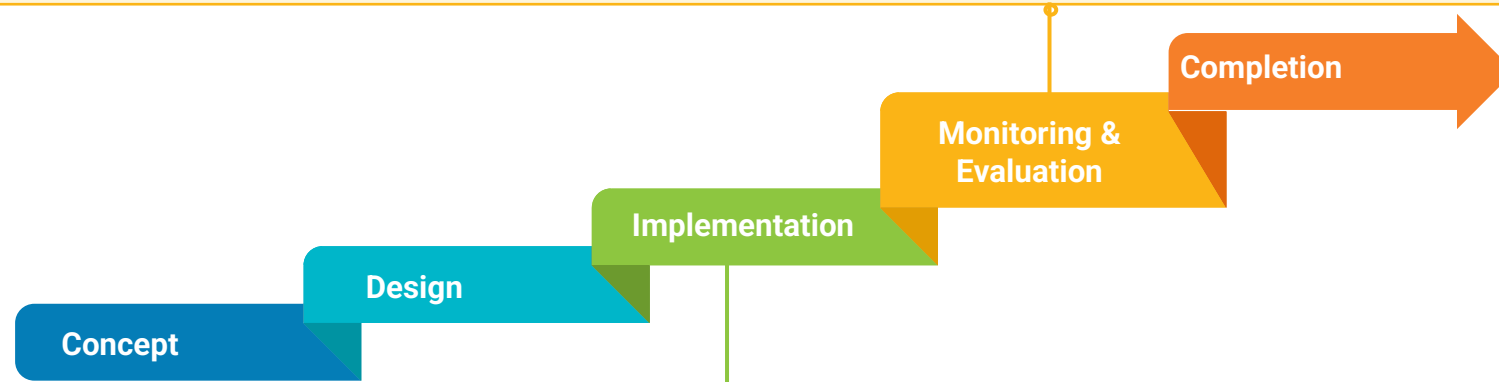
4. **Information Disclosure:** Disclose information early in a manner and form that is accessible, understandable, and culturally appropriate.

Entry Points for Applying ESF Requirements for D/V Persons or Groups in ADB's Project Cycle



- 1. Monitoring Indicators:** Indicators to measure the impact of the project on D/V persons or groups.
- 2. Participatory Monitoring:** Involvement of D/V persons or groups in the monitoring process.

- 1. Evaluation Framework:** Framework to assess the effectiveness of strategies aimed at supporting D/V persons or groups
- 2. Reporting and Feedback:** Transparent reporting on project outcomes related to D/V persons or groups



- 1. Capacity Building:** Training and resources to empower D/V persons or groups
- 2. Continuous Engagement:** Mechanisms for continuous engagement with D/V persons or groups during implementation, for real-time feedback

- 3. Grievance Mechanism:** Accessible grievance mechanisms to address concerns and complaints from D/V persons or groups promptly and effectively.



ADB's Environmental and Social (E&S) Policy (para. 56, p. 15)

KEY PRINCIPLE: Avoid exposing D/V individuals or groups to further risks.

- There may be circumstances in which the identification of disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups, or the design of differentiated measures, could expose these individuals or groups to further risks.
- ADB will consider the overall project-specific circumstances and project and country context [including the host country's legal, governance, and institutional framework, the host country's applicable laws and other relevant factors] and work with the borrower/client to understand the potential effects and risks to such individuals and groups to determine and record an appropriate course of action.



References



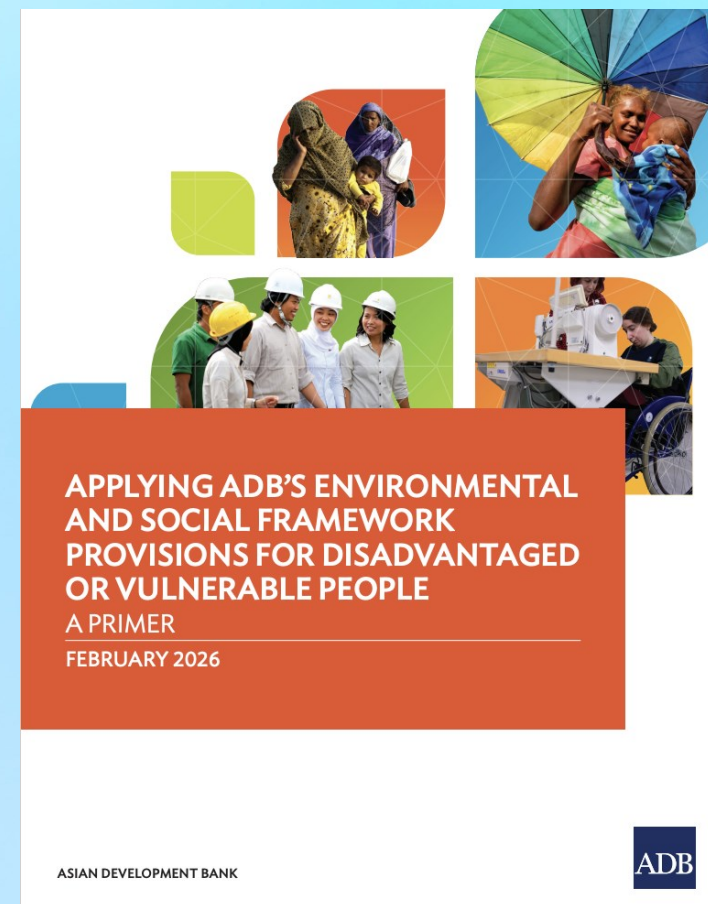
1. Primer

Guides ADB staff, borrowers/clients, and stakeholders in applying ESF provisions for D/V groups throughout project cycle

2. Training Facilitator's Guide on Applying ESF provisions for D/V persons and groups: aims to enhance the capacity of ADB staff and borrowers/clients in three areas:

- (i) identifying disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups in project areas,
- (ii) assessing the project risks and impacts on them, and
- (iii) designing and delivering differentiated mitigation measures.

(to be converted to e-Learn)





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Q&A

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ESF Requirements for Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Persons or Groups

ADB's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) requires protection for disadvantaged or vulnerable (D/V) persons or groups in ADB-financed projects throughout the project cycle, with specific requirements for inclusive risk management, nondiscrimination, and equitable benefit-sharing among affected persons.

ESS1: Risk Management

Adopt differentiated measures so disproportionate risks do not fall on D/V persons or groups



ESS4: Health, Safety, and Security

Prevent disproportionate harm, including sexual exploitation and harassment risks because of D/V status



ESS7: Indigenous Peoples

Undertake meaningful consultation and decision-making processes that are culturally appropriate and consider Indigenous Peoples who may be D/V



ESS 10: Stakeholder Engagement

Identify and address needs and concerns through the engagement and information disclosure process



ESS2: Labor Conditions

Promote fair treatment, nondiscrimination, and equal opportunity for all, including D/V populations



ESS5: Land Acquisition

Pay particular attention to impacts and risks to D/V populations and their needs during land acquisition/land use restriction



ESS9: Climate Change

Include D/V populations in discussions on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures



Scan to access the quick reference guide





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Explore more ESF resources



Scan to visit the ESF knowledge page

Questions?
Contact AskESF@adb.org

Guidance notes



Good practice notes



Short videos and flyers on the 10 ESSs



Infographics



eLearning course



Learn more about how the ESF applies to

- sovereign operations
- nonsovereign operations
- various financing modalities and products



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Thank you!

Send us questions at AskESF@adb.org