

THE UN-HABITAT CROSS-CUTTING MARKERS

While mainstreaming of the cross-cutting issues is a responsibility for all staff-members, project managers retain primary responsibility for ensuring mainstreaming throughout the UN-Habitat project cycle. The Climate Change, Gender Equality, Human Rights and Youth teams stand ready to provide training and advisory services upon request.

The overall goal of mainstreaming UN-Habitat's cross-cutting issues (climate change, gender, the Human Rights-Based Approach and youth) is to strengthen programmatic synergies while ensuring that project outcomes reach all intended beneficiaries, particularly persons in vulnerable situations. As a result, an effective integration of cross-cutting issues will also increasingly enable the replication and up-scaling of projects.

The **Markers are mainstreaming tools** that serve two main purposes:

- **Quality assurance.** The Markers assure the quality of projects at the level of the Project Advisory Group (PAG), and thus increase accountability and transparency through its monitoring function.
- **Capacity-building.** The Markers build the capacity of UN-Habitat to integrate cross-cutting issues in the project cycle by providing guidance and sharing knowledge, including through staff self-assessment.

At the project planning and design stage, a self-assessment rating should be recorded in the Projects Accrual and Accountability System (PAAS) by the project manager prior to submitting the Project Document to the PAG for review and approval. A UN-Habitat project for consideration of the PAG must receive a final rating of '1' or more by the cross-cutting teams in order to be approved. This final rating will be recorded in PAAS. Projects rated '0' (i.e. blind/negative rating by the respective cross-cutting teams) will be disallowed to move to the UMOJA stage to access funding.²

FAMILIARISING YOURSELF WITH THE MARKERS

1. **What are the User Guides?** These are a detailed version of the Markers that have been developed to ensure a uniform rating process.
1. **At what stage should I familiarise myself with the Markers?** Read through the Markers and their User Guides before commencing the design of your project in order to familiarise yourself with the structure and



content of the mainstreaming tool.

2. **Where can I find the Markers and their User Guides?** Relevant documentation related to the Markers are available on the Intranet on the Cross-cutting Issues and PAG pages, and on PAAS. In addition, the Gender Equality Marker is on its section of the UN-Habitat webpage.
3. **I need more guidance, where do I go?** The cross-cutting teams are available to assist and support upon request.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE MARKERS

1. **Why do the Gender Equality and Youth Marker range from 0 to 2b?** Gender Equality and Youth are recognised issues under the umbrella of Human Rights. Gender Equality and Youth recognise that all projects should take these issues into account, hence the 0 to 2a range. However, not all projects **must specifically target these issues**; nonetheless, those projects that do are eligible for a 2b rating. Regardless, Human Rights should be recognised in all projects, hence the 0 to 3 rating.

¹ As part of the UN family, UN-Habitat is mandated to respect, promote and protect human rights in all of its activities. In 2003, the UN Common Understanding on the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development Programming was adopted to ensure that UN agencies, funds and programmes apply a consistent Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA). In 2011, the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) established that all UN agencies, funds and programmes track resources invested in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women. Further, in 2013, the UN System-wide Action Plan on Youth established the strategic guidance to the UN system on Youth. Finally, the mainstreaming of climate change at UN-Habitat is guided by a new agency-wide Climate Change Strategy (2014-2019), which was approved by the UN-Habitat Board on 10 May 2015.

² In the case of climate change, implementation of this particular measure is pending, subject to assignment to the responsible Unit of adequate human resources funded by the core budget. See Agency-wide Climate Change Strategy (2014-2019).



CLIMATE CHANGE MARKER

CODE	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA
0	Climate change negative/blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none">× Addressing climate change is <u>not</u> a specific Expected Accomplishment or sub-Expected Accomplishment of the project, <u>and moreover</u>× The concept note or project document under review does <u>not</u> discuss climate change
1	Climate change aware	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ While addressing climate change is <u>not</u> a specific Expected Accomplishment or sub-Expected Accomplishment of the project,✓ The concept note or project document <u>does</u> provide at least a minimal amount of discussion of climate change considerations
2	Climate change sensitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Addressing climate change is a sub-Expected Accomplishment of the project, <u>and</u>✓ The concept note or project document systematically analyses the inter-linkages between the issues addressed by the project and climate change, <u>and</u>✓ The project contains at least a handful of actions, indicators and/or targets related to the reduction of greenhouse gases and/or adaptation to climate change, e.g., measures to help build the resilience of populations that are vulnerable to climate change impacts, based in part on community engagement
3	Climate change transformative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Addressing climate change is an Expected Accomplishment of the project, with a corresponding set of actions, indicators and/or targets, <u>and</u>✓ The project contains implementation and monitoring measures related to the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and/or adaptation to climate change that reflect global standards and/or state-of-the-art practices, <u>and</u>✓ The project seeks to have a transformative effect on how climate change is addressed at either the operational and/or the normative levels, with explicit mechanisms for replicating, upscaling and/or sharing of tools and lessons learned from city-level activities, and evaluating project outcomes

GENDER EQUALITY MARKER

CODE	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA
0	Gender negative/blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none">× No reference to gender of stakeholders, experts and/or target group× No reference to current gender relations and/or gender inequalities× No plans to collect sex-disaggregated data in project document and/or log frame
1	Gender aware	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Gender Strategy contains gender analysis relevant to context of the project✓ Specifies gender of stakeholders, experts and/or target group✓ Plans to collect sex-disaggregated data in project document and/or log frame
2a	Gender sensitive	<p>All criteria in (1); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Gender Strategy is linked to the log frame with specific activities, outputs, indicators and budget provisions to promote gender equality and/or women's empowerment✓ Risk assessment discusses effects of gender-sensitive activities specific to context of the project✓ Monitoring and Evaluation strategy includes a gender perspective
2b	Gender transformative	<p>All criteria in (1 and 2a); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Project activities, indicators, expected achievements, outputs and budget are central to promoting gender equality and/or women's empowerment in achieving positive development outcomes

HUMAN RIGHTS MARKER

CODE	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA
0	Human rights negative/blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none">× No reference to human rights or analysis of human rights situation× No reference to the rights of people in situations of vulnerability× No plans to collect disaggregated data in project document and/or log frame
1	Human rights aware	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Relevant human rights references and analysis of human rights situation✓ Addresses rights of people in situations of vulnerability✓ Plans to collect disaggregated data in project document and/or log frame
2	Human rights sensitive	<p>All criteria in (1) and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Right-holders and duty-bearers identified, their relationships analysed and capacity gap analysis carried out in stakeholder analysis✓ Focuses on people in situations of vulnerability and log frame enables their participation✓ Human Rights Strategy is linked to the log frame with specific activities, outputs, indicators, promoting human rights relevant to project, and for developing capacity gaps of right-holders and duty-bearers
3	Human rights transformative	<p>All criteria in (1) and (2), and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Includes human rights principles and standards✓ Log frame ensures all relevant groups meaningful participation at all stages✓ Includes strategies to monitor implementation✓ Budget includes monitoring and evaluation and resources for activities that promote relevant human rights

YOUTH MARKER

CODE	DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA
0	Youth negative/blind	<ul style="list-style-type: none">× No reference to youth as stakeholders, experts and/or target group in the different stages of the project× No analysis of the youth situation in the context of the project× No plans to collect age disaggregated data in project document and/or log frame
1	Youth aware	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Analysis of youth situation in the context of the project✓ Youth recognized as stakeholders, experts and/or target group in the different stages of the project✓ Plans to collect age disaggregated data in project document or logical framework
2a	Youth sensitive	<p>All criteria in (1) and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Youth Strategy is linked to the log frame with specific activities, outputs, indicators, addressing youth rights✓ Financial inputs assessed to ensure youth benefit as intended✓ Monitoring and Evaluation strategy includes a youth perspective
2b	Youth transformative	<p>All criteria in (1) and (2a), and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Project is designed based on principles of youth-led development, with youth effectively empowered to design, plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate project activities
