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-Bbased Approach to Development Programming was adopted to ensure that UN agencies, funds and programmes apply a consistent Human Rights-Bbased 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**	× 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**	✓ 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**	✓ Addressing climate change is a <u>sub</u>-**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**	✓ 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**	× 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**	✓ 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**	**All criteria in (1); and** ✓ Gender Strategy is linked to the log frame with specific activities, outputs, indicators and budget previsions 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**	**All criteria in (1 and 2a); and** ✓ 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**	× 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**	✓ 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**	**All criteria in (1) and** ✓ **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**	**All criteria in (1) and (2), and** ✓ 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**	× 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**	✓ 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**	**All criteria in (1) and:** ✓ 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**	**All criteria in (1) and (2a), and:** ✓ Project is designed based on principles of **youth-led development**, with youth effectively empowered to design, plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate project activities