

HSES

safeguarding rules

Changing lives – protecting lives



Private Infrastructure
Development Group
Pioneering infrastructure changing lives



Respecting the human rights of our projects' workers and host communities.

Introduction

The HSES safeguarding rules are a set of 10 rules designed to ensure safeguarding processes are in place across all our projects, protecting the fundamental rights and wellbeing of workers and the worker community interface, specifically in regard to incidents of Gender Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH), Modern Slavery, and Child Labour arising in our projects and supply chain.

The rules have been established to provide mechanisms and controls to mitigate against human rights risks within our projects. They are not intended to be exhaustive, but rather to seek to ensure that we have the fundamental controls and mitigations in place, which can help minimise risk and provide a safe place of work, protect the rights and wellbeing of workers, and ensure safe and respectful interaction between workers and communities. The rules complement the PIDG Life Saving Rules designed to protect the health and safety of our projects' workers.

All rules are derived from requirements already defined across our PIDG Health Safety Environment and Social Management system (HSES MS) and recognised Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) but they aim to provide focused emphasis and awareness across our project portfolio on these essential safeguarding requirements. These rules cannot be implemented in isolation but must form an integral part of the HSES governance being implemented across PIDG Group and our projects.

PIDG HSES governance starts with our HSES policies. Safeguarding risks are assessed as part of our due diligence processes detailed in our Due Diligence guidelines and checklists. These risks are then managed through this set of Safeguarding Rules and in further detail in our PIDG Local Employment and Labour Management Standard, PIDG Gender Equality Standard, PIDG Stakeholder Engagement Standard and PIDG Grievance Mechanism Standard and in our projects' HSES processes aligned to these standards.

The rules are aligned with the IFC Performance Standards¹. The rules also draw on the requirements of the ETI Base Code², and are informed by Best Practice Guidance on GBVH^{3,4}, Modern Slavery⁵, Child Labour⁶ and Worker Accommodation⁷.

These safeguarding rules relate primarily to labour management processes. Safeguarding risks also arise in other project community interactions, particularly in regard to land acquisition processes, the requirement for security provision, through the act of providing community services and benefits and through the broader changes a project brings to local society. We must therefore always ensure that we risk assess our projects and that the implementation of these rules forms an essential part but not all of our risk mitigation. Considered together we can successfully safeguard our projects.

1. IFC, 2012. Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability.
2. Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) (2018) Base Code.
3. World Bank, 2018. Good Practice note. Addressing Gender Based Violence in Investment Project Financing involving major civil works.
4. IFC, EBRD and CDC. Gender based violence and harassment: A good practice note for the private sector (forthcoming).
5. IFC, CDC, EBRD and DFID (2018). Managing risk associated with modern slavery: A good practice note for the private sector.
6. EBRD (2017). Performance Requirement 2 – Labour and working conditions: Children, young people and work – Guidance note.
7. EBRD/IFC (2009) Workers' accommodation: processes and standards – Guidance note.
8. Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.



HSES safeguarding rules

Responsible investment requires strong Health, Safety, Environmental and Social (HSES) governance. We at PIDG recognise that to meet our values and to be able to deliver the responsible investment that we believe in we must seek to ensure that strong HSES governance runs across all our companies and is at the heart of all our operations.

PIDG recognises that for all projects a strong worker-management relationship, good working conditions and assuring workers' wellbeing are key to the success and sustainability of a company. A constructive relationship creates tangible business benefits and where the workforce is from the local communities, enhances community relations and strengthens the project's social licence to operate.

- We consider a constructive relationship as one that respects the rights, dignity and wellbeing of each and every worker.
- We are committed to gender equality and non-discrimination through all our HSES processes;
- We will not tolerate Gender Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH) in any form;
- We are committed to reducing the risk of modern slavery and child labour in the workforce, contractors and primary supply chain;
- We will seek to ensure that all workers understand both our expectations and their rights; and
- We will provide reporting and response mechanisms to support any safeguarding concerns.

This is enshrined in our Safeguarding Policy and set out in these HSES 10 safeguarding rules.



01 Human Resource policies



02 Project Safeguarding Code of Conduct



03 Recruitment plan



04 Employment Terms and Conditions



05 Training and communication



06 Working environment



07 Freedom of association



08 Security management



09 Community interactions and stakeholder engagement



10 Grievance mechanisms

How our project companies recruit and manage their workers and procure their contractors and suppliers, establishes how they manage the rights and wellbeing of these people.

There are HSES processes which are required across all projects, whatever the type, size or location, which are essential for protecting the fundamental rights of workers, and which can reduce the risk of GBVH, Modern Slavery and Child labour occurring. These processes have therefore been established as a set of safeguarding rules to be implemented by every project at all times.

The safeguarding rules are applicable to:

- all PIDG people;
- all PIDG companies; and
- all PIDG projects¹.

The complexity and scope of these HSES processes are defined by the particular project risks for which detail is provided in the PIDG HSES Standards. They shall be implemented, monitored and reported on as part of the PIDG, Company or Project HSES MS.

In all instances the wellbeing of our projects' workers and the communities they interact with is paramount. A suspected or actual human rights violation of GBVH, modern slavery or child labour, will be treated as a serious incident by PIDG and shall be escalated immediately through the HSES 004-001 PIDG Incident Reporting Procedure to the appropriate response mechanism within PIDG.

Safeguarding is an integral part of delivering positive impact through our investments. At PIDG, we aim to change lives for the better, so we must 'protect lives' and seek to ensure that all the people across all our portfolio are treated with respect and dignity.

1. In which PIDG and its companies are the investor/lender including consultants and contractors.





Basic requirements

There are basic requirements which need to be in place to ensure the effective implementation of the safeguarding rules.

- A positive and inclusive organisational structure shall be encouraged with diversity of representation at all levels from project workers to senior management and board level.
- All projects are required to provide the appropriate level of leadership on safeguarding. There should be an identified focal point in the top tier of management with responsibility for safeguarding supported by an appropriate number of champions within the company.
- The focal point should be responsible for ensuring that the project has robust management systems in place to implement these safeguarding rules, including training of these rules and ongoing monitoring and review processes.
- The focal point should seek to develop a workplace culture where workers know their rights and feel comfortable and supported to raise any concerns.
- All projects should establish clear channels for communication and engagement between management and workers, including being encouraged to get to know each other.
- There should be safe and confidential grievance mechanisms in place for workers and communities to report safeguarding concerns.
- All safeguarding processes shall be implemented and monitored as part of the HSES MS.
- Workers shall be encouraged to talk to each other with regard to understanding and complying with the safeguarding rules, and to approach line managers with any questions.

01 Human Resource policies

There are clear policies to define the project company's commitment to good labour management practices, to gender equality and non-discrimination and to the prevention of GBVH, modern slavery and child labour.



Requirement

Human Resources policies must be put in place to communicate with workers and to establish a consistent approach to managing workers across the company. Policies must be clearly written and posted in all places of work in the main language(s) spoken by the workforce.

Policies must include commitments to:

- Equality and non-discrimination
- Zero tolerance of GBVH
- Reducing risks of Modern Slavery and Child Labour.

Policies must include the requirement for:

- A recruitment plan
- Workers' terms and conditions of employment
- Clear, objective and merit-based criteria for promotions, and bonus and award schemes, with decisions to be authorised by at least two people
- Worksite (and accommodation and travel where applicable) plans which consider health and safety, gender and worker welfare and
- A sexual harassment policy.

Where specific GBVH risks have been identified, a standalone GBVH policy should be developed.

Adherence to the policies must be a requirement of all project contract and procurement processes.

Management

Ensure policies are in place, are endorsed and are up to date.

Ensure that policies are clearly communicated to all managers, supervisors and workers and are consistently implemented.

Ensure contractors and primary suppliers are aware of policies.

Ensure policies are clearly displayed at all worksites, and workers receive training on all policies.

All workers

Read and understand the Human Resource policies.

Engage constructively in induction and refresher trainings and actively adhere to and use the policies to protect yourself and others.

02 Project Safeguarding Code of Conduct



Every worker, contractor and primary supplier is aware of the behaviour that is expected of them under the project safeguarding Code of Conduct and the sanctions for breaching the project safeguarding Code of Conduct.

Requirement

All workers, contractors, subcontractors and primary suppliers² must be made fully aware of the expected behaviour both at work and outside working hours by reading and signing the project safeguarding Code of Conduct. It covers activities on all worksites, in work related accommodation or during work related travel, and during any form of work-related meetings, consultation, communications or engagement.

The project safeguarding Code of Conduct must stipulate the project company's commitment to:

- Equality and non-discrimination
- Zero tolerance of GBVH
- Reducing risks of modern slavery and child labour.

The project safeguarding Code of Conduct must define or include reference to appropriate sanctions for any breaches by the workers of the Company Code.

Management

Ensure you have read, understood and signed the project safeguarding Code of Conduct.

Ensure you understand the behaviour expected of you. If you are unsure about any aspects of the project safeguarding Code of Conduct, ask PIDG HSES.

Ensure all workers (employees, contractors and primary suppliers) have read and signed the project safeguarding Code of Conduct.

All workers

Ensure you have read, understood and signed the project safeguarding Code of Conduct.

Ensure you understand the behaviour expected of you. If you are unsure about any aspects of the project safeguarding Code of Conduct, ask your supervisor or manager.

If you are concerned that anyone may be violating the project safeguarding Code of Conduct discuss this with your line manager, or report it using the Grievance Mechanism.

2. Primary suppliers are those suppliers who, on an ongoing basis, provide goods or materials essential for the core business processes of the project.

Related Standards: HSES 003-010 PIDG Local Employment and Labour Management Standard, HSES 003-011 PIDG Gender Equality Standard, HSES 005-007 PIDG Project Safeguarding Code of Conduct Guidance.

03 Recruitment plan

The recruitment process is fair, transparent, documented in a plan and free of charge to workers.



Requirement

Project recruitment processes must be documented in a recruitment plan. Contractors are required to develop and implement a recruitment plan.

The recruitment plan will define the processes of hiring and recruitment which will:

- Be fair, transparent and non-discriminatory
- Set out the number of jobs required and clear and objective criteria for each role
- Outline local labour requirements
- Ensure that any related consultations include adequate consultation with women
- Ensure that job opportunities are accessible for women and men alike
- Define the screening and interview process, including relevant background checks and a selection panel of at least two persons at each interview
- Require safety risk assessments and health monitoring for any worker under the age of 18 (and over the age of 15)
- Be free of charge to applicants and
- Consider safeguarding where there will be an influx of workers from outside the community.

The use of external labour agencies should be limited as far as practical. If required, they must ensure that recruitment fees are not charged to workers and worker documentation is not retained.

Recruitment processes shall where possible include the requirement to verify the dates of birth of all workers by official documentation.

Management

Ensure the recruitment plan is in place and is implemented systematically.

Monitor recruitment practices of labour providers or agencies where used. Make sure that fees are not charged to workers and worker documents are not retained.

All workers

Be aware of the recruitment plan and ask to see the recruitment plan.

Report to management or raise concerns via the grievance mechanism if you are aware of workers experiencing any form of GBVH during recruitment.

Report to management or raise concerns via the grievance mechanism if you are aware of workers being charged recruitment fees or having their documents retained.

04 Employment Terms and Conditions

All workers and contractors have documented Employment Terms and Conditions, which explain their rights at work in a language that they understand and that comply with all national laws.



Requirement

All workers (including temporary workers) and contractors must be provided with written terms and conditions of employment that comply with national legislation and company standards.

Terms and conditions of employment must specify:

- The duration of employment
- Wages and remuneration that are in line with national laws and appropriate to the location/sector
- Method and frequency of pay
- Working hours that are not excessive
- Overtime arrangements, including conditions for overtime, compensation and maximum limits that are not excessive
- Leave entitlements, including maternity/paternity leave
- Any company benefits
- Disciplinary procedures and termination of employment and
- Reference to Human Resource policies and – where applicable – collective agreements.

The terms and conditions of employment must be in a language understood by the worker and they must be explained verbally to the worker.

Management

Ensure all workers (including temporary workers) and contractors have been provided with written terms and conditions of employment and understand their terms and conditions of employment.

All workers

Understand the terms and conditions of your employment and know your rights.

If you have any questions, ask your supervisor or manager.

If you are unsure about or not happy with any of your terms of employment, including the amount you are paid and when, your hours of work and any overtime arrangements, or any other work-related matter, discuss it with your supervisor or manager or raise the issue using the Grievance Mechanism.

05 Training and communication

All workers and contractors will receive sufficient training and information to understand safety and welfare requirements, their rights, their expected behaviour and how to report any concerns or complaints.



Requirement

All workers and contractors shall receive an induction training prior to starting work. It shall cover at a minimum:

- Companies HSES policies
- The project safeguarding Code of Conduct and consequences for breaching the Code
- General and job-specific health and safety information that is necessary for carrying out jobs safely, including core PIDG life-saving rules or equivalent
- General terms of employment, disciplinary procedures and workers' rights under national and international law
- Child labour and modern slavery
- Non-discrimination, gender equality, bullying, protection against GBVH
- Required lawful conduct in host communities and consequences for failing to comply
- Cultural sensitisation regarding interaction with local communities and
- The use of the project specific grievance mechanism.

Where specific safeguarding risks have been identified in a project, management teams should put in place focused training to raise awareness in risk identification, mitigation and reporting of concerns and complaints.

All projects should communicate their commitment to respect workers' rights and to provide a safe place of work throughout all work-related sites.

Management

Ensure all workers and contractors receive induction training.

Understand the safeguarding risks of your project and seek appropriate training to support the type and level of identified risk.

Provide easy to understand information (such as posters) addressing the project commitment to respect workers' rights and to provide a safe place of work.

Ensure that individuals responsible for dealing with GBVH complaints have the training that they need in order to handle complaints responsibly, without creating risks for complainants.

All workers

Ensure that you have attended induction training and that you have understood all of the material covered, including expected behaviour during and outside working hours.

06 Working environment

All work sites and work-related accommodation are safe, hygienic and considerate of the worker's wellbeing.



Requirement

All companies must provide a safe, healthy and respectful place of work.

Consideration must be given to the wellbeing of workers in workplace design. Consider the personal safety of female and male workers, including how women and men are distributed throughout the workplace, lighting and open access.

All workers must receive the personal protective equipment (PPE) that they need to do their job safely and be trained in how to use it correctly. All PPE must be gender appropriate.

Adequate and easily accessible toilet and washroom facilities must be provided separately for both male and female workers, with lockable doors for privacy.

If workers' accommodation is provided it must be safe and hygienic, provide single-sex accommodation and bathroom facilities, and ensure that there are adequate lights, doors and locks to support adequate security in its design.

Potable water must be provided free of charge at work and in workers' accommodation.

If transport is provided it must be safe, and minimise the possibilities of GBVH in its operation, and in its provision.

All projects must conduct a GBVH risk assessment at each work site, which must be updated for each phase of work.

Management

Ensure that the workplace requirements are met.

Facilitate the provision of a safe and respectful place of work.

All workers

Respect your place of work and help to make it safe and pleasant for your fellow workers.

Be mindful of the language you use and the manner in which you address your colleagues.

Do not bring anything to work or use any form of posters or screen saver which have the potential to cause offence.

Be vigilant. If you see any poor health and safety practices or suspect any wrongdoing discuss it with your supervisor or manager or report it using the grievance mechanism.

07 Freedom of association

All workers, contractors and primary suppliers are free to form or join trade unions or workers associations, without negative consequences.



Requirement

The right of every worker, contractors and primary suppliers, to form or join organisations of their choosing must be respected, in line with national law.

Workers who engage in trade union activities must not be subject to retaliation, discrimination or penalty on the basis of these activities.

Where national law provides for collective bargaining rights, these must be respected. Collective agreements must be complied with where these are in place.

Worker representatives should be provided with access to the workplace to enable them to carry out their representative functions.

Management

Establish clear structures for regular and open dialogue between management and workers and – where they are present – their representatives.

Seek to ensure that all voices are heard in worker-management dialogue, including those of women, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups.

Engage with workers' organisations in accordance with national law and provide them with information needed for meaningful negotiations.

Allow workers (including groups of women, migrant workers and other vulnerable groups) to meet freely without management presence.

Do not try to control or influence the activities of trade unions or worker representative bodies.

Do not discriminate against workers on the grounds of trade union membership or activity.

All workers

Understand your rights regarding worker organisations and discuss these with other workers. Identify whether there are any trade union or worker representatives in your workplace and any collective agreement that applies to you.

08 Security management

A security management plan is prepared for any security provision and considers the Human Rights risks to the workforce and host communities.



Requirement

The security services and activities related to a project must be assessed to consider the potential human rights risk posed by private and public security forces in relation to workers and host communities. Consideration must be given to planned private and public security operations and to the potential responses from public security in the event of possible security threats.

Contracted private security should be required to carry out appropriate training for their personnel and put in place appropriate protocols in relation to issues such as the use of force, searching and other high-risk activities.

Security assessments shall pay particular attention to women and the risks of GBVH from the security services to women and girls within the company and within the communities of the project.

A security management plan must be developed in line with the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPHR)³.

Management

Ensure that there is a security management plan in place that meets the VPHR.

Ensure that all security personnel have received training on the project safeguarding Code of Conduct and safeguarding requirements, particularly those related to GBVH.

Ensure that security arrangements are communicated to communities.

All workers

The role of security is to protect the project and workforce from threats to their safety and well-being.

Security is there to make you safe. If you feel in any way threatened or intimidated by a security provider, or witness this behaviour towards others, report it immediately using

the grievance mechanism.

Familiarise yourself with your place of work (and accommodation) and the entrances and exits. Do not work or travel alone. Support your colleagues in managing their security too.

3. Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights <https://www.voluntaryprinciples.org/>

Related HSES Standards: HSES Security Policy, HSES 003-010 PIDG Local Employment and Labour Management Standard.

09 Community interactions and stakeholder engagement

All workers and contractors are expected to respect the rights, dignity and wellbeing of people in local communities, as set out in the project safeguarding Code of Conduct. All project related stakeholder engagement is controlled through a transparent stakeholder engagement plan that defines the conduct, processes and reporting of all engagement activities.



Requirement

All interactions with communities must be carried out in a way that respects their rights, dignity and wellbeing, with particular care paid to interactions with indigenous or traditional communities, and other vulnerable groups such as women, children and ethnic minorities.

All community engagement must be controlled through the stakeholder engagement plan, defining the conduct and processes of engagement and the reporting of all engagement activities. All meetings with members of host communities should be conducted by a minimum of 2 project representatives (for meetings with women, at least one representative should be female).

Women should be adequately represented in stakeholder consultation and engagement. All project decisions taken with regard to host communities must be signed off by at least two people, including decisions relevant to recruitment, livelihood and resettlement, community programmes and any other project related matters. Gender considerations must be included and documented in these decisions.

Workers must always comply with the project safeguarding Code of Conduct, particularly with respect to GBVH, and respect local cultural sensitivities. Workers must not engage in prostitution or transactional sex of any form, even if permitted by national law. Workers must not engage in any kind of sexual activity with children aged under 18 years (except for pre-existing marriages).

Management

Ensure that the stakeholder engagement plan is in place and it is being implemented and updated regularly.

Ensure that workers are aware of the behaviour expected of them regarding community interactions, both during and outside working hours.

Be quick to listen to and address project-related concerns that are raised by local communities. Establish safe mechanisms to collect regular feedback from local communities (including local women's groups) to ensure that communication channels and grievance mechanisms are working effectively.

All workers

Treat host communities with respect and be aware of local cultural norms. Always act in accordance with the project safeguarding Code of Conduct, and do not engage in behaviour that could bring the company into disrepute. Understand the behaviour that is expected of you both during and outside working hours and ask your line manager if you have any questions.

If you see or hear about any inappropriate behaviour by workers or security, talk to your line manager or use the grievance mechanism to report it. Do not meet community members for any project-related business without prior approval from management.

10 Grievance mechanisms

All workers, contractors and host communities have access to fair, transparent and confidential grievance mechanism routes that address concerns promptly and are sensitive to the needs of vulnerable groups, including women and girls.



Requirement

All workers and contractors must have ready access to a documented, clear and transparent workers grievance mechanism.

All host communities of projects must have ready access to a documented, clear and transparent community grievance mechanism.

Grievance mechanisms must be in place from the start of the project and clearly communicated to all workers and communities. They must clearly set out the process for receiving and addressing concerns and complaints, and the timeframe for responses. There must be an appropriate level of management involved.

Confidentiality must be assured, and it must be possible to lodge grievances anonymously. The safety of those raising complaints must be paramount, alongside protection from retaliation.

All workers and host communities must receive training on how to use the grievance mechanism.

The grievance mechanism must, commensurate with the level of risk, include measures to address any known or suspected incident of GBVH, modern slavery or child labour and provide survivors with linkages to local NGO or service providers where available. Any of these incidents must be escalated to PIDG Group as serious incidents and shall be responded to accordingly. The primary consideration prior to any investigation should be the need to safeguard the wellbeing of any person who may have been subject to GBVH, modern slavery or child labour.

Management

Ensure workers and communities are aware of the grievance mechanism and that it is readily accessible at all times.

Understand who in the company is responsible for receiving grievances and how and when they are escalated to PIDG.

Ensure that there is a written record of all grievances.

Ensure that all grievances are handled with sensitivity and personal details are kept confidential.

Ensure that there are options for workers to lodge grievances with individuals who are not their line managers, and to choose male or female contact points.

All workers

If you have any concerns about work or persons associated with work, use the grievance mechanism. Your anonymity and/or confidentiality will be respected, and there will be no negative repercussions for raising genuine concerns.

By speaking out, you are not only protecting yourself but protecting those around you.



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