ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARD POLICY

1. Scope

Sight For All is committed to sustainable economic development through the delivery of Australian and International eye health initiatives and all business undertakings. This Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy outlines how Sight For All manages the environment and social impacts of initiatives. The application of this policy ensures accountability for the use of donor funds, enables compliance with requirements of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's (DFAT) Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy and complies with requirements of partner governments.

Sight For All has several complimentary policies and procedures that support this Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy. This included the Code of Conduct Policy, Vulnerable Persons Code of Conduct, Child and Young Person Protection Policy, Gender Equity Policy, Disability Inclusion Policy and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy.

The Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy applies to Sight For All Board Directors, staff, consultants, Visionaries, Fellows, project participants and partners.

2. Definition of Safeguards

DFAT's Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy defines safeguards as 'measures taken to avoid or minimise the negative impacts of aid investments on people and the environment.'

3. Commitment to Environmental Protection, Social Safeguards and Climate Action

Sight For All is committed to providing environmental sustainability, climate action and improved environmental outcomes in our development and humanitarian initiatives. Sight For All is further committed to minimising our environmental impact, including the carbon footprint of our internal operations.

Implementation of this Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy has the objective of ensuring that Sight For All's eye health initiatives and projects do no harm. Through the implementation of environmental and social safeguards, Sight For All aims to prevent, reduce and mitigate unintended negative impacts on development projects.

In implementing this policy, Sight For All makes the following commitments:

- Compliance with applicable legal and environmental requirements in Australia and designated partner countries
- Identifying and modifying activities that may have a negative impact on the environment
- Promoting effective transport practices minimising water usage and implementing initiatives to minimise waste
- Promoting environmental sustainability and improved environmental actions through projects and general operations
- Supporting and encouraging the engagement of people with disability and indigenous peoples in project design and implementation
- Implementing robust measures to keep staff, Visionaries, volunteers, contractors, Fellows, project participants and project partners safe
- Protecting children, young people, vulnerable people and disadvantaged groups.

4. Safeguarding Principles

At the project design phase, Sight For All undertakes an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment. This assessment aims to determine that projects adhere to DFAT's five Safeguard Principles that are:

1. Do no harm
2. Identify, assess and manage environmental and social impacts
3. Engage effectively with stakeholders
4. Work effectively with partners
5. Promote improved environmental and social outcomes

5. Implementing DFAT's Five Environmental and Social Safeguards

In implementing this Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy, Sight For All applies DFAT's five social safeguards. Sight For All's projects are screened for environmental and social impacts against these five safeguards.

This screening is undertaken at the project design phase, along with the Partner Audit, Capacity Assessment and Gender Analysis. Sight For All's Environmental and Social Safeguard Assessment tool is used to undertake this screening. Questions asked and information gained at the screening phase includes:

Environmental Protection

Sight For All's in-country projects primarily involve education and eye health promotion and this the impact on the environment is minimal. Despite this, Sight For All recognises that negative impacts on the environment resulting from projects can undermine development outcomes and as such is committed to the environment through:

- Ensuring compliance with applicable legal and other environmental requirements
- Identifying and modifying activities that may have a negative impact on the environment
- Engaging with partners to identify needs and priorities
- Promoting efficient transport solutions
- Minimising water usage

As such Sight For All projects are assessed and coordinated to manage environmental risks and impacts including consideration for:

- Are there opportunities to integrate environmental and ecological sustainability concepts in designing and implementing projects?
- Does the site have appropriate processes in place for the disposal of ophthalmic items?
- How can partners be educated to ensure that when the disposal of items is required, that it is done so in an environmentally appropriate manner?
- Are there project related, cost-effective options to be considered to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Children, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups

Sight For All considers the needs and protection of children, vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in project planning and implementation. In planning and designing projects, this is undertaken at the Capacity Assessment stage, where questions are considered such as:

- Are the needs of people with disabilities considered?
- Has there been participation of people with disability in the project design?
- Is signage in participating hospitals large enough for people with a vision impairment to read? Can improvements be made?
- Are there child protection issues that need to be considered?
- What child protection safeguards are in place?
- Has the Child and Young Person Protection Policy been shared with relevant parties?
- Does the project site have a Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy?
- What can Sight For All do to assist in the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in the context of the project?

At the same time as the Capacity Assessment and Environmental & Social Safeguard Assessment is taking place, a Gender Analysis is also undertaken. The purpose of the Gender Analysis includes ensuring that the different needs of all genders are identified and addressed at all stages of the project. This supports, amongst other things, the promotion of women's participation and engagement in community, political and economic life, and the promotion of better-informed gender responsive and effective interventions.

Displacement and resettlement

As Sight For All's eye health initiatives focus on four core strategies of Collaborative Research, Sustainable Education, Infrastructure Support and Eye Health Awareness, they do not result in, or impact, the displacement and/or resettlement of individuals.

Indigenous peoples

Sight For All is committed to supporting indigenous people via eye health initiatives where possible. Examples of this in action, includes the delivery of projects in regional provinces and remote areas in which there is a higher population of indigenous individuals. By undertaking projects focused on education, infrastructure provision and community eye health awareness in regional areas, the likelihood for early intervention of eye conditions is heightened. The opportunity for indigenous peoples to be included in projects is considered as part of the Capacity Assessment and recorded via project indirect beneficiary data that is collected throughout project delivery.

Health and safety

Sight For All has various policies, procedures and guidance documents to keep Visionaries, staff, contractors, volunteers, Fellows and project participants safe in the deliver of projects. This includes:

- Child and Young Person Protection Policy
- Emergency and Security Procedure
- Incident Investigation and Reporting Policy
- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy
- Work Health Safety Policy
- Fellow Engagement Arrangement
- Visionary Engagement Arrangement

Sight For All's Human Resource Policy outlines recruitment and screening requirements, while the Code of Conduct and Vulnerable Persons Code of Conduct specify expectations of all paid and volunteer representatives. Additionally, all Sight For All representatives are required to undertake Good Development Practice Workshops at their point of engagement and annually thereafter.

Environmental and social safeguard risks and their mitigation strategies are documented in the risk assessment matrix prepared for each project and monitored throughout the project period.

6. Climate Action

Sight For All recognises that climate change is a major risk to sustainable development. While our blindness prevention projects are largely focused on education and therefore have minimal impact on the environment, the impacts of climate change are widespread and therefore considered in our operational and project undertakings.

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) defines climate action as:

'Actions taken to reduce the overall climate risk that communities, economies and ecosystems are facing across the world by addressing both the causes and the impacts of climate change.

The inclusion of climate action in project design and implementation, assessing climate exposure and risk, acknowledges that addressing climate action helps to protect the human rights of vulnerable communities.

In designing and implementing projects, Sight For All communicates with and listens to in-country partners about their experiences of climate action and their needs and priorities.

7. Focal Person

Sight For All's General Manager is the organisation's Environmental and Social Safeguard Focal Person.

8. Understanding Sight For All's Environment and Social Safeguard Policy

To ensure understanding of Sight For All's commitment to ensuring environmental and social safeguards by staff, contractors, Visionaries, volunteers, project participants, Fellows and project partners, the following activities are implemented:

- Circulating this Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy

- Providing Information about environmental protection and social safeguards via Visionary and Fellow Handbooks and as part of Good Development Practice Workshops
- Providing this Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy to project partners as part of project agreements.

9. Related Documents

- Sight For All Child and Young Person Protection Policy
- Sight For All Code of Conduct
- Sight For All Disability Inclusion Policy
- Sight For All Emergency and Security Procedure
- Sight For All Gender Equality Policy
- Sight For All Human Resources Policy
- Sight For All Human Rights Policy
- Sight For All Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy
- Sight For All Project Identification, Design and Appraisal Procedure
- Sight For All Safeguarding Policy
- Sight For All Vulnerable Persons Code of Conduct
- DFAT Environment and Social Safeguard Policy

10. Review

The Sight For All Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy is reviewed on a biennial basis.

Sight For All Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy
Version 9

Document Revision History		
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Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy	8	17 June 2025
Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy	9	24 February 2026

1.13 Environmental & Social Safeguard Assessment Template

Document Management	
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V1.0	June 2025	Judy Hatswell		Published

<Project Title>

<MONTH, Year>

Environmental and Social Safeguard Assessment Report

Completed by: <Name>

SIGHT
FOR ALL
TEACHING
THE WORLD
TO SEE

Purpose of Environmental and Social Safeguard Report

The purpose of undertaking an environmental and social safeguard assessment is to ensure that Sight For All's eye health initiatives and projects do no harm. Through the implementation of environmental and social safeguards, Sight For All aims to prevent, reduce and mitigate unintended negative impacts on development projects.

Assessment Checklist

Issue to be considered	Yes	No	Comments
Does the project have little or no negative impact on the environment?			
Will the project cause significant negative environmental impacts?			
Will the project have any serious negative social impacts? If so are these impacts sensitive or unprecedented?			
Will be project impact cultural resources that are meaningful to the local community?			
Does the project site (hospital/REU/SEC) have appropriate processes in place the disposal of ophthalmic items?			
Is education of project participants/partners about the appropriate disposal of items required?			
Are there project related, cost-effective options to be considered to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?			
Have the needs of people with disability been considered in the project design?			

Has there been participation of people with disability in the design of the project?			
Has a gender analysis been undertaken?			
Does this project support children and vulnerable people?			
Are there child protection issues that need to be considered?			
If the project does support children and vulnerable people, have considerations been made via the Capacity Assessment?			
Has he Sight For All Child & Young Person Protection Policy been shared with the project site (hospital/REU/SEC)?			
Has he Sight For All Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment Policy been shared with the project site (hospital/REU/SEC)?			
Has a Capacity Assessment been undertaken?			
Have in-country partners been communicated with regarding their experience of climate action and their needs and priorities considered?			
Does the project involve supporting indigenous peoples?			
If the project does support indigenous people been considered in the project design?			
Are plans in place to allow for collection of disaggregated data of indigenous people supported by the project?			
Has Sight For All's Environmental and Social Safeguard Policy been shared with the project site (hospital/REU/SEC)?			
Other			

Environmental & Social Safeguard Assessment Conclusion and Outline of Measures Required to be implemented

Personal Reflections and Recommendations