

## Our approach to integrating Gender Equity, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) into technical assistance requests

The CLEAN Helpdesk integrates gender equity, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) through all technical assistance (TA) requests to advance effective and sustainable climate, environment and nature (CEN) outcomes.

We support programmes to embed equitable outcomes, meaningfully engage socially excluded groups, and leverage GEDSI co-benefits through their work.



### Why do we mainstream GEDSI and safeguarding in our technical assistance?

**It is widely accepted that the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, and biodiversity loss are not felt equally.** Pre-existing inequalities and barriers to resources and information means that socially excluded groups face disproportionate risks from climate change, with negative effects for their health, access to food and water, livelihoods, displacement, and security. Despite these well-documented linkages, GEDSI is frequently siloed from CEN programmes.

**Mainstreaming GEDSI is crucial for effective and sustainable CEN outcomes.** It is detrimental to programmes to exclude women and socially excluded groups who play important roles as consumers, workers, organisers, and activists. Indigenous peoples are **5% of the world's population yet protect 80% of the planet's remaining biodiversity**. Engaging the wider population increases the likelihood of successful CEN outcomes.

**Effective GEDSI mainstreaming can provide social and economic co-benefits** that offer better value for money for programmes and economies. Access to clean energy can improve women's health and reduce time needed for fuel collection, which can instead be dedicated to education or employment. CEN programmes that integrate gender-based violence prevention **can help address the increased risks climate change creates**.

**Adopting a GEDSI approach complements national and global policy frameworks and commitments**, including the

- [Paris Agreement](#) ↗
- [FCDO's International Women and Girls Strategy 2023 to 2030](#) ↗
- [FCDO Disability Inclusion and Rights Strategy 2022 to 2030](#) ↗
- [2030 Strategic Framework for International Climate and Nature Action](#) ↗
- [International Development \(Gender Equality\) Act 2014](#) ↗

Visit the [CLEAN Helpdesk website](#) ↗ to access existing CEN resources or make a request for technical assistance.



Visit the CLEAN online **Resource Library**  
for examples of work undertaken  
<https://www.clean-helpdesk.org/knowledge-hub>



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[www.clean-helpdesk.org](http://www.clean-helpdesk.org)



## Integrating GEDSI in technical assistance

**GEDSI is mainstreamed throughout all CLEAN Helpdesk TA requests.** This involves discussing GEDSI needs and expectations with requester teams, ensuring that there is adequate GEDSI and safeguarding expertise within the expert team, and reviewing terms of reference (ToRs) and deliverables to ensure GEDSI and safeguarding considerations are integrated throughout.

**The CLEAN Helpdesk's GEDSI team provides additional support to TA requests as needed,** supplementing the expertise of the delivery team and ensuring GEDSI analysis and recommendations are included in final outputs. Requests that do not consider GEDSI or have safeguarding risks will not move forward unless the issues are addressed.

### How the CLEAN technical assistance process integrates GEDSI



## GEDSI-focused technical facilities

Requests may be referred to other FCDO-funded helpdesk facilities that offer targeted GEDSI-related support in areas beyond the CLEAN Helpdesk's scope:



**Inclusive Futures**  
Promoting disability inclusion

The Disability Inclusion Helpdesk provides research and advice on disability inclusion in ODA funded policy and programming. It advises on disability inclusion across sectors and themes, including in CEN.



The Ending Violence Against Women and Children Helpdesk provides research and advice to improve policy, practice and investment in preventing and responding to violence against women and children.



The Social Protection Technical Assistance, Advice, and Resources Facility (STAAR) is dedicated to expanding and improving the effectiveness of investments in social protection that is gender-responsive.