

Integrating human rights into environmental, social and health impact assessments

A practical guide for the oil and gas industry



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This new guidance document describes how human rights can be integrated into environmental, social and health impact assessments (ESHIA), which the oil and gas industry routinely uses to evaluate projects and activities.

Designed for industry ESHIA practitioners and consulting firms, the Guide is the outcome of a collaborative effort by impact assessment practitioners from global oil and gas companies brought together by IPIECA and human rights experts from the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE IS TO:

- Bridge the gaps in terminology, processes and approaches between the ESHIA and human rights impact assessment communities;
- Foster the integration of human rights into ESHIAs conducted for projects undertaken by the industry;
- Provide human rights insights on the key process steps in international standard ESHIAs (defined as those which follow the social impact assessment principles of the IAIA and IFC Performance Standards), and
- Provide a practical reference point in the evolving field of assessing human rights impacts.

THE GUIDE HAS THREE KEY PARTS:

Part 1: Human rights issues and impacts in the oil and gas industry

This section defines human rights impacts and their scope, and outlines the parallels between ESHIAs and the assessment of human rights impacts.

Part 2: Human rights considerations in the ESHIA process steps

The section provides practical guidance on applying a human rights lens to the activities and content of each step of the ESHIA process.

Part 3: Strategic themes and processes

This section looks at human rights issues that are applicable across the ESHIA process:

1. Integrated impact assessment or dedicated human rights impact assessment;
2. Strength testing of the assessment of human rights impacts;
3. Stakeholder engagement and participation;
4. Considerations and options when communicating about human rights impacts;
5. Focus on vulnerable individuals and groups, gender and Indigenous Peoples; and
6. Organizational skills and resources for the assessment and management of human rights impacts.



IPIECA is the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues. It develops, shares and promotes good practices and knowledge to help the industry improve its environmental and social performance; and is the industry's principal channel of communication with the United Nations.

www.ipieca.org

The **Danish Institute for Human Rights** is an independent, national human rights institution modelled in accordance with the UN Paris Principles. The mandate of the Institute encompasses research, analysis, information, education, documentation and the implementation of national and international programmes. The chief objective of the Institute is to promote and develop knowledge about human rights on a national, regional and international basis predicated on the belief that human rights are universal, mutually interdependent and interrelated.

<http://www.humanrights.dk>