



Fund for Innovation
and Transformation

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FIT *Integrated* Environmental Assessment



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This resource is meant to guide FIT funded Innovators who have an Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) reporting requirement.¹ We also hope that this resource can be used by others as a how-to guide to planning, conducting and reporting an IEA and EMP.

As part of the FIT Proposal Application process, FIT has adopted the [Global Affairs Canada Environmental Integration Process](#) (EIP) to evaluate the environmental risks associated with each proposed innovative solution and identify whether an Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) and resulting Environmental Management Plan (EMP) would be required.

What is an *Integrated* Environmental Assessment?

An Environmental Assessment (EA) looks at the environmental context in which you are testing and assesses both positive and negative risks and includes a mitigation plan. Due to the short testing timeframe for FIT funded innovation tests, FIT has developed an *integrated* environmental assessment that can be done as part of the baseline activities rather than a standalone assessment and report. An Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) should be conducted as part of your baseline data collection process, in collaboration with the local community and through a gender lens, in order to develop your Environmental Management Plan.

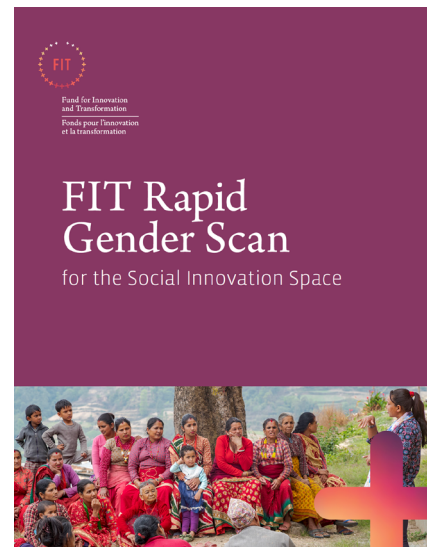
¹ For FIT Funded Innovators- please visit the FIT Reporting Guidelines when developing your Baseline, Midterm and Final Reports. Contact your Program Officer to find out if your innovation requires an EMP.

The IEA consists of three steps:

Step 1: Collect data via Baseline Study

Step 2: Analyze Data

Step 3: Develop an Environmental Management Plan



[Link to FIT's Rapid Gender Scan](#)

A Note on Data Collection

Crosscutting Considerations – Gender and the Environment

A gender and environmental lens should be applied to all aspects of results-based planning, design and testing. These lenses ensure that the impact (social, environmental, positive and negative) of your activities and results is understood and planned for. These lenses strengthen your testing by enhancing its inclusiveness, sustainability and effectiveness, leading to better results for all.

Planning Ahead

Prior to starting your baseline data collection process, it is important to have an internal baseline workplan developed which *integrates* the IEA. Ensure there is real value in each question that you are asking, that you are collecting data integrating gender and environment rather than conducting three separate surveys to understand baseline, gender and environment.

Code of Ethics

While innovation testing comes with its own set of risks and challenges, it is imperative to take all possible measures to mitigate any potential risks to beneficiaries and/or other vulnerable populations impacted by testing. Organizations funded by FIT are expected to adopt a Do No Harm approach and conduct testing activities in an ethical manner at all times. Visit the “Do No Harm Approach” section on the [Environment page](#) on the FIT website for more details. Organizations must also follow the legal requirements and procedures for data collection and data use in Canada and the testing country (i.e. abide by local laws and customs, obtain clearance from research ethics boards or other bodies, etc.).

FIT’s Code of Ethics, included in the Innovation Contract, provides further detail about FIT’s expectations regarding ethical practices during testing. We encourage you to familiarize yourself with it.

Step 1: Collect Data

Secondary Source - Policy, Legal and Administrative Framework

To have a clear understanding of the environmental framework in which you are testing your innovation, conduct secondary research into the local environmental regulations and legislation where testing will take place. This includes looking at institutions, policies, laws and any required environmental permits for the innovation testing.

Primary Source- Environmental Impact and Environmental Management Plan

By integrating relevant questions into your baseline study, you will collect data to describe the environmental impact of your innovation in terms of:

- Immediate positive and negative effects during the innovation testing period.
- How those effects will be experienced after your innovation testing is completed.
- Different impact and responsibilities, related to the environment, experienced by women, girls, men and boys and other vulnerable groups.
- If your innovation is working with animals, identify what is needed to care for them. What resources are required, any hygiene requirements, what is the time and resource commitment for farmers?
- If your innovation is working with the natural environment (soil, air, water etc), who and how will those living in other communities experience the effect, if any?
- If your innovation is testing electronic technology, how will these materials be disposed of after the testing is complete? If they end up in a landfill, what is the total time they will remain in the landfill? Who will be responsible for disposing these items?
- If your innovation deals with medical waste, how will it be disposed of? If a health centre will be responsible for disposal, has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) been signed?

Additional questions should be integrated into data collection, depending on the type of innovation you are testing. Visit the “Environmental Considerations” section on the [FIT Environment Page](#) for additional questions to consider.

Step 2: Analyze Data

Analyze the data collected, identify and prioritize what environmental risks and opportunities exist. Ensure this analysis is conducted through a gender lens: how do these risks and opportunities affect women and men differently? How can the innovation integrate mitigation measures for the risks and increase the likelihood of the positive opportunities? Walk through the prioritized risks with your team and brainstorm opportunities and mitigation measures. If you have the time, reach out to women and other project stakeholders to review and add their voice.

Step 3: Develop an Environmental Management Plan

Taking this information, complete the EMP table and narrative (see the EMP table below) which will serve as an environmental risk management tool and guide for the duration of the testing. Please note that not all FIT funded innovations require an IEA and EMP, please check your FIT Innovation Contract or contact your FIT Program Officer to confirm.

If required, the IEA and EMP will be included in the Baseline Report as a first deliverable, usually within 2 months of the testing start date. The sections below outline what information will be required as part of the Environment Management Plan within the Baseline Report. The IEA should directly inform the narrative and EMP table, shown below.

Policy, Legal and Administrative Framework

To have a clear understanding of the environment and legal framework in which you are testing your innovation, describe the local environmental regulations and legislation where testing will take place, i.e. institutions, policies, laws, any required environmental permits for the innovation testing.

Environmental Impact and Value of Life

Using the results of your Integrated Environmental Assessment, describe the environmental impact of your innovation both in terms of immediate effects during the innovation testing period and how that effect will be experienced after your innovation testing is completed. Be sure to emphasize if there is a different impact on women, girls, men, and boys in terms of responsibilities and positive or negative impacts. If your innovation is handling animals, please detail the care of their life.

Responsibilities

Identify staff and partners responsible for managing the environmental aspects of your innovation testing along with any related staffing and capacity building plans or requirements. Include details of the role/responsibility of women, men, (girls and boys) in developing and implementing mitigation measures in consultation with your organization to ensure that local knowledge is incorporated.

Environmental Management Plan Table

The Environmental Management Plan is developed based on the beneficiary, stakeholder and organizational data you collected via the Integrated Environmental Assessment and outlines the environmental risks, impact, and the mitigation measures you will take to reduce those risks and impacts. An example is provided in the table below. Add rows as necessary.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN					
No.	Environmental Risk	Environmental Impact <i>(Including gendered impact)</i>	Mitigation Measures <i>(Including measures to address the identified adverse impacts on women, men, boys, girls)</i>	Monitoring Lead	Monitoring Frequency
1.	e.g. Biomedical waste	e.g. Water and soil contamination; hazard/injury and/or infection to hospital staff, community, animals. Women are most at risk as they make up most nursing positions and will be handling the medical waste.	1.Implementing disposal plan and mechanism (specify); 2. Training medical staff on clinical hygiene and biomedical waste disposal; 3.Equipping the local health facility with proper PPE to dispose of the medical waste OR ensuring the health facility chosen to dispose of the waste has proper PPE for their medical staff who will handle the medical waste. 4.Signing MOU with health facility responsible for the proper disposal.	Staff (title) role responsible	e.g. Quarterly
2.					
3.					



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302-280 Smith Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1K2 Canada

P: 204 987-7400
F: 204 956-0031
W: www.fit-fit.ca

