

ADB Design and Monitoring Framework (DMF) Guidance (seed summary)

Purpose

This seed reference supports retrieval for ADB DMF-based proposal drafting in GrantFlow evaluation runs.

Not an official ADB document. Replace with official ADB project administration instructions for production use.

ADB Design and Monitoring Framework (DMF) overview

The DMF is ADB's primary project design and monitoring tool.

It replaces the logical framework with a four-level results chain:

- Impact: the long-term development change the project contributes to.

Aligned with country development plan (e.g. national medium-term development plan).

Not directly attributable to the project alone.

- Outcome: the medium-term change at the level of beneficiaries or systems.

The primary accountability level of the project.

Expressed as a change in behaviour, condition, access, or capacity.

- Outputs: goods, services, or institutional changes produced by the project.

Each output must link to at least one ADB Strategy 2030 Operational Priority.

- Activities: actions taken to produce outputs.

DMF performance indicators

Each DMF level requires performance indicators with:

- Baseline value and year.

- Target value and year.

- Data source.

- Reporting frequency and responsible party.

Indicators must be SMART and sex-disaggregated where beneficiary-level data is collected.

ADB Strategy 2030 — Seven Operational Priorities

ADB Strategy 2030 organises work around seven OPs:

1. Addressing remaining poverty and reducing inequalities.

2. Accelerating progress in gender equality.
3. Tackling climate change, building climate and disaster resilience, and enhancing environmental sustainability.
4. Making cities more livable.
5. Promoting rural development and food security.
6. Strengthening governance and institutional capacity.
7. Fostering regional cooperation and integration.

Every ADB project must identify which OPs it addresses.

Climate finance classification

ADB targets 75% of committed operations to support climate action by 2030.

Projects are classified as:

- Climate mitigation: reduces GHG emissions (renewable energy, energy efficiency, low-carbon transport).
- Climate adaptation: reduces vulnerability to climate impacts (resilient infrastructure, disaster risk reduction).
- Both: projects with mitigation and adaptation co-benefits.

Climate finance eligibility must be documented at project design stage.

Gender equity categories

ADB assigns one of four gender equity categories to each project:

- GEN (Gender Equity as a Theme): gender equality is a primary objective.
- EGM (Effective Gender Mainstreaming): specific gender features are integral to design.
- SGE (Some Gender Elements): some gender-relevant design features but not systematic.
- NO (No Gender Elements): no gender elements included.

EGM and GEN projects require sex-disaggregated indicators and gender-specific activities.

Sovereign vs non-sovereign operations

ADB distinguishes:

- Sovereign operations: loans/grants to member governments; government guarantee required.
 - Non-sovereign operations (NSO): loans/equity to private sector without government guarantee.
- NSO requires additional credit risk assessment and environmental and social safeguard screening.

Key drafting checklist

1. DMF is complete at all four levels.
2. Impact is aligned with country development plan.
3. Outcome is expressed as measurable change at beneficiary level.
4. Each output links to ADB Strategy 2030 Operational Priorities.
5. Climate finance rationale is documented.
6. Gender equity category is assigned with justification.
7. Sovereign or non-sovereign classification is stated.
8. Important assumptions are explicit at all levels.