

Social Monitoring Report

Project Number: 45389-004
January 2021

Azerbaijan: Second Road Network Development Investment Program - Tranche 2

Prepared by the State Agency of Azerbaijan Automobile Roads for the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Asian Development Bank.

This social monitoring report is a document of the borrower. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of ADB's Board of Directors, Management, or staff, and may be preliminary in nature.

In preparing any country program or strategy, financing any project, or by making any designation of or reference to a particular territory or geographic area in this document, the Asian Development Bank does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory or area.

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN



STATE AGENCY OF AZERBAIJAN AUTOMOBILE ROADS

Road Network Investment Program-MMF2

**Project: Upgrading of Km 0+300 to Km 46+120 of the
M- 5 Yevlakh - Zagatala - Georgian Border Road and
the Rehabilitation of Km 0+000 to Km 11+130 of the R-57, M-5 to Shaki Road,
Loan 3144- AZE**

Semi Annual Social Monitoring Report

July - December 2020

Prepared by: “IRD Engineering” LLC



January 2021

Table of Contents

<u>I. BACKGROUND</u>	<u>3</u>
A. INTRODUCTION	3
B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	4
C. LAND ACQUISITION AND RESETTLEMENT DUE DILIGENCE.....	4
D. TEMPORARY IMPACT.....	4
E. UNANTICIPATED IMPACT	4
<u>II. GRIEVANCE MANAGEMENT</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>III. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>TABLE 1. GRIEVANCE REGISTRATION BOOK LOT 1.....</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>TABLE 2. GRIEVANCE REGISTRATION BOOK LOT 2.....</u>	<u>8</u>
APPENDIX 1. PHOTOS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS.....	10

I. Background

A. Introduction

1. This social monitoring report is related to the Project Upgrading of Km 0+300 to Km 46+120 of the M-5 Yevlakh - Zagatala - Georgian Border Road and the Rehabilitation of Km 0+000 to Km 11+130 of the R-57, M-5 to Shaki Road (Project), implemented under the Second Road Network Development Investment Program, Loan 3144 AZE financed by Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Yevlakh-Zagatala-Georgian Border Section of the Highway Project II is an alternative to the Baku-Yevlakh-Gazakh-Georgian Border route of the East-West Corridor of the international Trans-Caucasian road corridor connecting Central Asia across the Caspian Sea with Western Europe across the Black Sea. The Project road starts in Yevlakh district, in the central area of the country then veers northwest towards Sheki and Qax to Zagatala and Balaken districts near the Georgian Border (Figure 1).

2. The social monitoring report presents the summary of social safeguards monitoring in implementation of the Project, including on issues related to any unanticipated land acquisition and resettlement impact identified, grievance management and resolution status, and project information disclosure, consultation and participation. The report covers period from July to December 2020.

Figure 1: Project Location for M5 and R57 Road Seg



B. Project Description

3. The Project's upgrading works follow the existing road alignment with some limited realignments to improve geometric characteristics, elimination of safety hazards, avoid areas with severe soil erosion or unstable slopes, and bypass sensitive areas. The Project execution consists of two lots:

- (i) Lot 1: Upgrading of Yevlakh-Zagatala-Georgian Border road (M5), Lot 1. Section Khaldan-Suchma (Km 0+300 to Km 33+100);
- (ii) Lot 2: Upgrading of Yevlakh-Zagatala-Georgian Border road (M5), Lot 2. Section Suchma-Shaki Roundabout (Km 33+100 to Km 46+120) and Rehabilitation of R-57 Road (Km 46+000 of M-5 to Sheki Town).

C. Land acquisition and resettlement due diligence

4. The engineering design was guided to avoid land acquisition and resettlement impacts. Land acquisition and resettlement due diligence was conducted in project preparation stage that found no land acquisition and resettlement impacts to private lands and/or properties, to be caused by the Project. All rehabilitation works for the roads have been carried out mainly within the existing roads' Right-of-Way (ROW). No municipal lands, private lands and/or buildings/structures, crops, trees or businesses have been impacted.

D. Temporary impact

5. Temporary land impacts are related to construction camps.

6. The camp for Lot-1 is located on five hectares land leased temporary by Contractor based on a contract signed by the Contractor and Sheki District municipality dated 1 October 2018. According to the contract between the land leaser and the contractor, the contract is on power till the end of the work completion. Upon completion of the Project, these lands will be restored to the pre-project conditions and handed over to the owners in accordance with the requirements of the Project's social and environmental safeguard documents, Environmental Monitoring Plan, ADB's SPS (2009) and laws of Azerbaijan

7. The camp for Lot 2 is located on three hectares of the State-owned land temporary used by the Contractor based on the contract between Sheki Region Executive Power and the Contractor since 20 September 2018 for twenty years period.

E. Unanticipated Impact

8. No unanticipated land acquisition and resettlement impact has been identified and reported during the reporting period.

II. Grievance Management

9. The Grievance Registration Books are maintained in both lots.

10. In total, ten grievances have been registered for Lot 1 during the reporting period. The grievances were about (i) providing access roads; (ii) cracks on the walls of the houses (iii) lay asphalt cover in front of the park area. The EA investigated and responded the requests and all requests have resolved status (Table 1)

11. In total, eleven grievances have been registered for Lot 2 during the reporting period. The grievances were about (i) cracks on the walls of houses; (ii) proper access to premises (iii) access to the land parcel (iv) lack of proper access to the premises (v) request new bus stop shelter and animal crossing. All total received grievances were investigated and have resolved status (Table 2).

III. Public Consultations

12. Due to the pandemic, meetings were scaled down with fewer people in attendance. To ensure their safety, sufficient supplies for regular hand washing and sanitation were provided and the mandatory 1- meter distance was observed, Windows and doors were kept open to make sure venues were well ventilated. For ease in contact tracing, participants were also asked to provide their full contact details to be shared with local public health authorities in case any of the participants becomes ill of the virus. This condition was set prior and anyone who does not agree to it was not allowed to attend the consultation.

13. No questions were raised at the meeting and local representatives and people mentioned that this is a big and perspective project which is very useful for the local people. They said that they were very grateful to the state bodies, ADB bank for financial support for this big and beautiful road. At the end of the meeting, the local people also mentioned their thanks to the road employees for this hard and good work. They wished good luck to the road employees in their future life and carrier.

14. During the reporting period, public consultation was held for Lot 1 on 08 October 2020 in Yevlakh region, Khanabad village and for Lot 2 on 12 October, 2020 in Sheki region, Jafarabad village. Information about the project's civil works, road safety, HIV awareness, Covid-19 pandemic and GRM were shared with participants. Discussions and follow up meetings were also held about the received grievances and their resolution. The photos from public consultations are in the Appendix1.

15. At the Public Consultations, the Engineer and contractors' representatives informed the local women about employment for different works and tried to attract the local women to the vacancies according to their knowledge and capabilities. But generally the deployment of women workers is limited because of remote job locations, nature of the construction activities, and non-availability of capable workers in remote locations.

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

16. During the reporting period the contractor implemented public health measures related to COVID-19 and road and occupational safety. The Consultant and Contractor put in place measures to minimize the chances and contain the spread of the virus as a result of the movement of workers and ensure all working locations are prepared for an outbreak. The Consultant and Contractor also developed and practiced contingency plans so that personnel know what to do if an outbreak occurs and how treatment will be provided. Further they used and followed information on preparing a workplace for COVID-19¹ and the recommendations given in the ADB's relevant documents in Construction / Civil Projects². For various tasks, the movement of experts and other staff were minimized. Site visits and physical surveys were undertaken when a practical alternative does not exist.

¹ <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/advice-for-workplace-clean-19-03-2020.pdf>

² <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/614811/safety-well-being-workers-communities-covid-19.pdf>
https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional_document/579616/adbs-comprehensive-response-covid-19-pandemic-redacted-version.pdf

17. The social monitoring was conducted for the entire project area to address timely any potential social issues. The physical works are progressing well and in general ahead of schedule. The project works are carried out mainly within the existing road's ROW and therefore, the due diligence conducted upon the technical design preparation, has not find any land acquisition and resettlement impacts. No any unanticipated land acquisition and resettlement impact has been identified during the project implementation and under the reporting period. The Project's GRM has been established and the received grievances have been registered, reviewed and actions have been taken for resolving. The PIU carries out regular social safeguards monitoring including on Contractors' performance and submits reports.

18. The PIU Safeguard expert will (i) continue conducting regular site visits; (ii) review grievances, and meet with complainants and local authorities as needed to solve complaints, if any; (iii) conduct regular monitoring to arrest any unanticipated impact on time; (iv) conduct meetings and consultations with the project communities to inform about the project progress, the GRM, and issues related to public safety during construction works; (v) ensure women participation in community meetings and consultations; and (vi) record all developments and issues in the monthly progress reports.

19. The COVID-19 Pandemic is an issue of Health, Safety and Environmental. The information of Measures Taken against COVID-19 has been reported in Environmental Monitoring Report and in this Semi-Annual Social Monitoring Report as well.

Table 1. Grievance Registration Book Lot 1

Complainant's name, address and contact details	Gender		Date and form of grievance received	Grievance type and summary	The Actions Undertaken.	Conclusion
	Men	Woman				
1.Baghirov I. Sheki Town, Chayqaragoyunlu village	√		20 July 2020 Informed by the SAAAR	Request to provide access/exit road to his petrol station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The access/exit road was restored. 	The resolution was accepted and no further complaint
2.Ahmadov Habil Yevlakh district, Khaldan village	√		12 August Informed by the SAAAR	Request for Compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultant investigated the issue and found out that the Contractor compensated the complainant to overcome his all losses including future, which might happen and an agreement was signed by the parties as confirmation. 	The resolution was accepted and no further complaint
3.Mubariz Gasimov Yevlakh district, Khanabad village	√		13 August Informed by the SAAAR	Request Construction of pedestrian sidewalk for school children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The request of the applicant was reasonable and a paved parallel walkway was provided for the safety of the school going children. 	The complainant accepted the investigation findings and no further complaint.
4.Ahmadov Elchin Sheki Town, Suchma village	√		14 August Informed by the SAAAR	Complaint for cracks on his fence and house	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultant and Contractor jointly met with the complainant and found out that the condition of the boundary wall was exactly the same as before the construction works and the cracks and worn out of plaster also old and due to old age and weather action not due to construction impact. The complainant agreed and no further complaint was filed 	The resolution was accepted and no further complaint
5.Asadov Gadir Sheki Town, Suchma village	√		14 August Informed by the SAAAR	Complaint for cracks on his fence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultant investigated the issue and found out that during investigation new photos of the wall were taken and the act together with old and new photos were produced before the complainant Asadov Gadir and it was confirmed that no changes or cracked have appeared, so we consider that no damage did occur to the property of the complainant due to road construction. The complainant agreed and no further complaint was filed 	The resolution was accepted and no further complaint
6.Mammadov Elshad And others Yevlakh district, Ashaghi Bujag and Yenija villages	√	√	22 September Informed by the SAAAR	Request to construct Bus Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultant investigated the issue and found that according to the request of the Executive Power/ Yevlakh Governor and subsequent several jointly organized site visits the drainage and bus shelters issues of the section Km 0+300 to Mingachevir intersection were resolved in the early 2019 prior to commencing works. A total of 10 bus shelters have been constructed within km 0-3 at the suitable locations selected and advised by the Yevlakh Governor. There is no suitable place to construct any more bus shelters in this section of the road. We consider that construction of further bus shelters at the requested locations are not required and even not feasible technically. The complainant agreed and no further complaint was filed 	The resolution was accepted and no further complaint
7.Qasimov Mubariz Yevlakh rayon Khanabad village	√		06 October 2020 Informed by the SAAAR	Complaint about poor quality of the side road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultant investigated the complaint and observed that the work carried out in a high quality and has been appreciated by the local people and the local governor except the complainant. As an evidence of the acceptance of the constructed walkway an agreement signed by Khanabad village people and the representative of Local Governor. 	The resolution was accepted and no further complaint
8.Mammadov Samad Azizov Rajab Ahmadov Bahruz Mammadov Vusal Alijanov Nurlan Ahmadov Eldaniz Mahmudov Ilgar Mammadov Parvin Rustamov Vusal Bakhishov Arzu Ibrahimov Bakhtiyar	√		07 October 2020 Informed by the SAAAR	Complaint about the width of the access road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultant investigated the complaint and observed that the design of the village road at the junction at Km 0+611 was 5 m in contract drawings while the contractor rehabilitated the road to 6.5m width in a quality manner even better than the existing one. Regarding quality and acceptance of the work act signed by the representative of Executive Power of Khaldan. 	The resolution was accepted and no further complaint

Yevlakh rayon Salamabad village						
9.Mammadov Fakhraddin Yevlakh rayon Khaldan Settlement	√		08 October 2020 Informed by the SAAAR	Request to lay asphalt cover in front of the park area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultant checked the mentioned place and found out that the roads around the Park mentioned in the complaint has been reconstructed according to the project design. 	The resolution was accepted and no further complaint
10.Ismayilov Valeh Yevlakh rayon Khanabad village	√		29 October 2020 Informed by the SAAAR	Complaint incomplete lighting poles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Consultant met the complainant and discussed about his complaints and found out lighting poles have been installed in Khanabad according to the contract requirement and for the area, which considered the only urban area. There remains a gap between the Shirvan Canal Bridge No.2 and the starting point of the Lighting poles for Khanabad village the complainant considered that this part of the Khanabad village shall also have street lighting. That is the reason he claimed that lighting works not done for half of the village. The consultant explained the complainant that these works are according to contract requirement and The complainant agreed and no further complaint was filed 	The resolution was accepted and no further complaint
11. Qafarov Mehdi Sheki rayon, Suchma village	√		15 October 2020 Informed by the SAAAR	Reinstatement of the asphalt which was in front of his restaurant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asphalt cover as mentioned in the complaint was not demolished rather the front yard of the restaurant has been covered with milled asphalt and suitable for parking of vehicles in all-weather condition. Therefore, we don't consider that the yard requires asphalt paving, which is out of the scope of the project. However, if it is necessary for social and community facilities the area (approx. 500m2) that the complainant asked for covering with asphalt will cost about 7500.00 manats. 	

Table 2. Grievance Registration Book Lot 2

Complainant's name, address and contact details	Gender		Date and form of grievance received	Grievance type and summary	Notes/undertaken actions
	Men	Woman			
1.Niftaliyeva Esli Boyuk Dahna		√	Letter to SAAAR 20.07.2020	Request for help due to cracks on the walls and roof of the house.	These cracks did not occur due to vibration impact of construction machinery; therefore the complaint was not acceptable. The issue is resolved.
2.Hummatov Rafiq Sheki	√		Letter to SAAAR 04.08.2020	Complaint about the lack of proper access to his premises.	Necessary work plan for providing appropriate access has been prepared (U-type covered drain and paving the front yard of the complainant) that will be implemented together with the roadway pavement and was accepted by the complainant. The issue is resolved.
3.Huseynov Qarash Sheki	√		Letter to SAAAR 11.08.2020	Request for compensation	The Consultant concluded that the claim has no ground to be considered. The issue is resolved.
4.Collective appeal Jafarabad Village			Letter to SAAAR 07.09.2020	Request for bus stop and animal crossing	The Consultant investigated the issue and recommended that Precast concrete slab was installed over the concrete V-drain to facilitate animal crossing. Construction of bus shelter also found feasible and recommended for construction of the same with comment that asphalt binder course is already completed at the location. The issue is resolved.
5.Huseynov Qarash Sheki	√		Letter to SAAAR 14.09.2020	Request for compensation	The Consultant concluded that the claim has no ground to be considered. The issue is resolved.
6.Menefova Merziyye Sheki		√	Letter to SAAAR 15.09.2020	Request for access to the land parcel	The Consultants investigated the issue and recommended for construction of the access road. The issue is resolved.
7.Mustafayev Allahverdi Boyuk Dahna	√		Letter to SAAAR 02.10.2020	Request for help due to cracks on the walls of the house.	These cracks did not occur due to vibration impact of construction machinery; therefore the complaint was not acceptable. The issue is resolved.
8.Mejlum Shukurov	√		Letter to SAAAR 19.10.2020	Request for help due to demolished guard building, destroyed asphalt cover and raised road level, creating flooding of the area	The new bus shelter has been constructed in a place of old guard building. There are no any drainage problems. There is no valid reason for construction of the claimed drain. The issue is resolved.
9.Huseyn Khudiyev	√		Letter to SAAAR 17.11.2020	Request for access road to the area.	The Consultant concluded that the claim has no ground to be considered. The issue is resolved.
10.Hasanov Allahverdi	√		Letter to SAAAR 27.11.2020	Request for compensation	The Consultant concluded that the claim has no ground to be considered. The issue is resolved.

Appendix 1. Photos of public consultations

08 October, 2020
Public Consultation Photo: Lot 1



PUBLIC CONSULTATION - ATTENDANCE REGISTER				
No	Name	Name	Signature	Signature
1	Shayev	Vigat		
2	Shayev	Vigat		
3	Shayev	Vigat		
4	Shayev	Vigat		
5	Shayev	Vigat		
6	Shayev	Vigat		
7	Shayev	Vigat		
8	Shayev	Vigat		
9	Shayev	Vigat		
10	Shayev	Vigat		
11	Shayev	Vigat		
12	Shayev	Vigat		
13	Shayev	Vigat		

12 October, 2020
Public Consultation Photo: Lot 2



PUBLIC CONSULTATION - ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Nr	Surname	Name	Location	Signature
1	Nasirov	Famil		
2	Saidmurodov	Hiyaga		
3	Abdulayev	Eldar		
4	Ishnurov	Kunoman		
5	Bayramov	Asif		
6	Chirnov	Talvadi		
7	Bayramov	Arif		
8	Chirnov	Jerom		
9	Chirnov	Agan		
10	Abdullayev	Shahin		
11	Konigov	Prokhor		
12	Muradov	Yasmin		