

Social Monitoring Report

Project No.: 47017-003
Semi Annual report on LARP (July – December 2017)
March, 2018

TAJ: Wholesale Metering and Transmission Reinforcement Project

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Semi Annual Report on Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP) Implementation

1. Introduction

1. The Republic of Tajikistan has received financing (grant) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Wholesale Metering and Transmission Reinforcement Project. Parts of this financing will be used for payments under the contract for Rehabilitation of Substation Rudaki, Extension of Substation Ayni and Construction of new 220 kV OHL between SS Ayni 220 kV and SS Rudaki; replacement of electricity meters, several current transformers and several voltage transformers, introduction of an advanced metering infrastructure, and introduction of a settlement system.

2. It is expected that the proposed project will improve electricity supply to households and industries in the country by reducing losses through metering entire high and medium voltage transmission grid and expand transmission capacity in Panjakent region presently suffering from load shedding.

2. Background of the Project and Scope

3. The Project cost of the Lot 2 includes the cost of Social Mitigation Measures. The costs associated with temporary or permanent land acquisition have been financed by Barki Tojik. The Government has been financing the taxes and duties. The Project Preparatory Technical Assistance (PPTA) Wholesale Metering and Transmission Reinforcement report provides information on the following:

a) Metering Project

This does not have any scope for land acquisition and resettlement.

b) Transmission Line Project

- i. The Project of 220 kV Ayni-Panjakent line and associated substations
- ii. Engineering, social, environmental, economic and financial progress of the project including resettlement implementation.

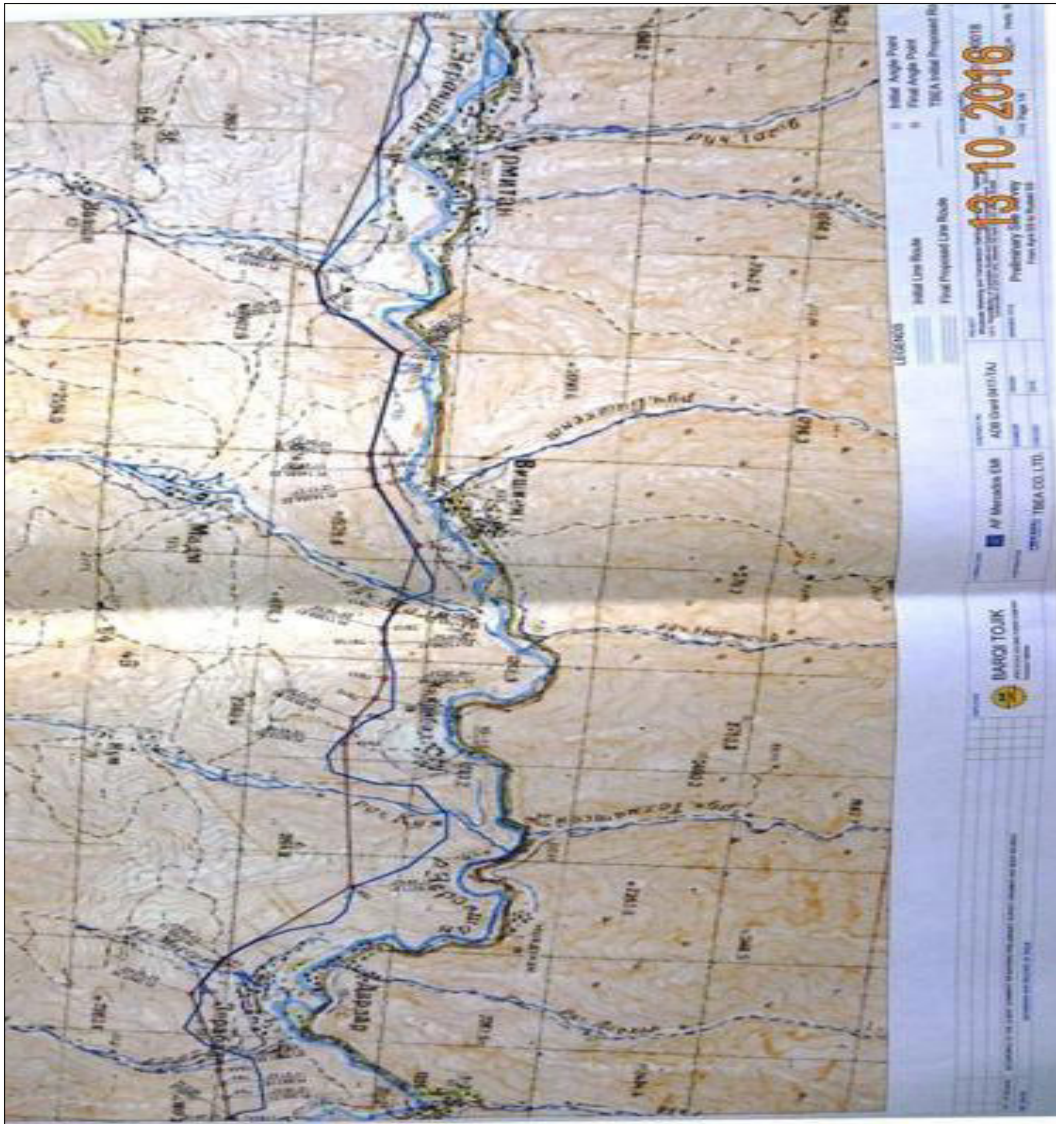


Figure 1: Location Map of the Project

4. Implementation consultants are to ensure that any land acquisition and involuntary resettlement are fully compensated and other requirements stipulated in the LARP are fully implemented before the commencement of works.

3. Project impacts

5. This document reports the activities under social sector during the last six months. An addendum to the project LARP, based on design change for 3.4 km additional stretch at Jamoat Chinor, which was finalized in June 2017, was implemented and reported between July-September 2017. There was loss of land and income due to the changes in the transmission line design. However, the loss of lands and crops has not affected the livelihood of the DPs since compensation were provided. No conflicts among the DPs, project implementers and local authorities were reported.

6. The Resettlement Plan was implemented guided by the legal, institutional and implementation framework in accordance with the ADB IR policy guidelines and legislation for compensation for affected assets and rehabilitation of the DPs. Proper efforts have been taken



to meet all the concerned mitigation measures to keep the project complied with ADB SPS 2009 requirements.

7. BT followed the ADB Safeguard Policy Statement requirements for involuntary resettlement and the principles adopted for the project. All compensations, assistance and benefits adopted in the proposed entitlements matrix, corresponded to the DPs received benefits that they were entitled for. Implementation of Addendum to LARP has adequately met all requirements listed in the main LARP of the project, which Barqi Tojik and ADB approved. For more detailed information please refer to the LARP implementation compliance report uploaded on ADB website in Sep. 2017.



Figure 2: Location Map of the Additional Impact of Project

4. Grievance Redress

8. The Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) has been constituted in order to assist the DPs in resolving queries and complaints. The GRC met at least once in three weeks to resolve the pending grievances. Grievance registers were placed at district level. There was no grievance reported concerning the LARP implementation. Based on informal interviews the DPs were satisfied with compensation received.

9. In line with the Policy requirements, the Project has established a transparent GRM. DPs were informed of the GRM and appeal procedures through public consultations, the LAR information brochures and through appointed GRM focal points at jamoat level.

5. Indigenous People

10. This Project is classified as Category C as per the SPS, as it has not affected any indigenous people in the process of its implementation.



6. Gender Issue

11. This Project has been categorised as No Gender Elements (NGE), i.e. it does not include any gender design features.

7. Poverty and Social

12. It has been experienced that a reliable supply of electricity brings very significant benefits to people, especially the poorest ones. It is expected that this Project will enhance economic opportunities, better livelihoods, improved health and education, better security, and a generally higher standard of living. In Tajikistan, the winter months are particularly difficult for those who lack reliable electricity, and cannot afford adequate alternatives (or must spend much time seeking fuel). Women, in particular, will benefit from the Project because of their household and family responsibilities, including collecting fuel for cooking, heating, and processing water; and caring for children, the sick, and the elderly. Electricity also offers women many more opportunities for home-based enterprise and income generation, and has positive impacts on public facilities such as schools and health centers.

8. Resettlement Monitoring

13. The Project implementation was monitored during the period to provide the PIU/PMU with an effective basis for assessing resettlement issues, if any. Monitoring involved i) administrative monitoring to ensure timely implementation and problem solving; ii) socioeconomic monitoring during and after any resettlement impact utilizing baseline information established through the socioeconomic survey of DPs undertaken during preparation; and (iii) overall monitoring to assess DPs' status. The EA was required to implement safeguard measures and relevant safeguard plans, as provided in the legal agreements, and to submit periodic monitoring reports on their implementation performance.

- Establish and maintain procedures to monitor the progress of implementation of safeguard plans
- Verify compliance with safeguard measures and their progress toward intended outcomes
- Document and disclose monitoring results and identify necessary corrective and preventive actions in the periodic monitoring reports
- Follow up on these actions to ensure progress toward the desired outcomes
- Retain qualified and experienced external expert to verify monitoring information for projects with significant impacts and risks
- Submit periodic monitoring reports on safeguard measures as agreed with ADB.

14. The PIU/PMU monitoring includes daily planning, implementation, feedback and troubleshooting, maintenance of individual file for each AP, community relationships, dates for consultations, number of appeals placed and progress reports. The PIU/PMU will provide monitoring report to ADB on a semi-annual basis. Additionally, ADB will monitor projects on an ongoing basis until a project completion report is issued.

9. Public Consultation and Disclosure

15. Public consultations have been important and continuous process. The team interacted with the project affected persons, and informed them about the project, the nature



and magnitude of impact, the policy of Government, ADB in mitigating the impact, the entitlement for various types of impacts etc. and counselling them to cooperate for smooth implementation of LARP on outstanding APs. This was undertaken on a regular basis by PMU assisted by PIC.

16. To maintain transparency in planning and for further active involvement of all stakeholders and the general community in the implementation of LARP, the Project information was disseminated through disclosure of the resettlement planning documents. Each DP was given a pamphlet with information regarding the specific entitlements. The pamphlet specifically covers a brief description of the Project, compensation eligibility and entitlement including the entitlement matrix, schedule of LARP implementation and the compensation rates.

10. Compliance Monitoring

17. Grant agreement covenants, policy, legal, financial, economic, environmental, social safeguards and other, are being monitored through semi-annual project meetings and the midterm review.

18. **Safeguards Monitoring** will be performed by the consultants and PMU and the results will be included in the semi-annual progress reports and. Such monitoring should adhere to the requirements in IEE, EMP, and LARP. The compliance status is presented in the **Table 1** below:

Table 1: Compliance Status

SN	Agreement	Status of Compliance
1	It will be ensured that all land and right of way required for Investment Program are made available in timely manner	It's been done
2	Adequate compensation are provided prior to the signing of relevant civil works contracts, and involuntary resettlement is carried out in accordance with the LA and resettlement framework (LARF) and LA and resettlement plan (LARP) agreed upon between the Government and ADB	Compensation has been being ascertained by the competent authority
3	It will be ensured that the Projects will not negatively impact vulnerable groups, such as indigenous people, women, disabled and others, if any.	No IPs are impacted
4	If any issues related to indigenous people arise in course of project implementation, the borrower and the State shall ensure to address those issues in accordance with the applicable laws and policies. In case of any discrepancy between the borrower's legislation and ADB's policy, ADB's policy shall prevail	The grantee has ensured that no issues related to IP is there
5	It will be ensured that all civil works contractors comply with all applicable labour laws, including those on occupational health and safety, and do not employ child labour as defined in national legislation for construction and maintenance activities. Work will be given to people from the area where the works are implemented and men and women will receive equal pay for work of equal value.	All legal issues dealt in accordance with the country's applicable law.
6	The Project has established a grievance reporting and redressing mechanism	Established



11. Monitoring and Reporting

19. The Project implementation has been closely monitored during the period to provide the PIU/PMU with an effective basis for assessing resettlement issues, if any. The extent of monitoring activities, including their scope and periodicity, were commensurate with the risks and impacts of the subprojects. Monitoring involves: (i) administrative monitoring to ensure timely implementation and problems solving; (ii) socioeconomic monitoring during and after any resettlement impact utilizing baseline information established through the socioeconomic survey of DPs undertaken during subproject preparation; and (iii) overall monitoring to assess DPs' status. The EA was required to implement safeguard measures and relevant safeguard plans, as provided in the legal agreements, and to submit periodic monitoring reports on their implementation performance. ADB requires the EA to:

- establish and maintain procedures to monitor the progress of implementation of safeguard plans
- verify compliance with safeguard measures and their progress toward intended outcomes
- document and disclose monitoring results and identify necessary corrective and preventive actions in the periodic monitoring reports
- follow up on these actions to ensure progress toward the desired outcomes
- retain qualified and experienced external expert to verify monitoring information for projects with significant impacts and risks,
- Submit periodic monitoring reports on safeguard measures as agreed with ADB.

12. Observation

20. It has been observed during period the following:

- The contractor has finished OHL work during this period.
- No outstanding DPs after submission of the latest LARP implementation that took August, **thus there were no new grievances** in this period.
- The construction workers are using safety measures like helmet, gloves, jacket, belt, etc. as recommended.
- All Outstanding persons were redressed by EA during July and August 2017 Appendix I List of Redressed Persons in Ayni and Penjaket and Appendix II Photos of redressing process, thus the LARP implementation is considered concluded.

21. Related to this, an additional LARP was prepared based on the actual implementation of the LARP, to include APs actually affected by the OHL works.

22. **A DDR belonging to the Amendment no 2 of the Contract** has been delivered during the period to carry out the renovation of the switchyard of 110 KV in Rudaki SS Penjaket Distric. The current switchyard is 32 years old it's technology, great oil volume breakers, is obsolete and unreliable that's why the proposal is to replace all the devices by new devices, SF6 Breakers much lighter, more reliable and less space consuming. Busbar arrangement and basic engineering remain. All the works, dismantling, civil works, assembling and commissioning will be carried out inside the Substation plot so no disturbance for residents is expected. The result of the study suggests that the proposed rehabilitation activities within the boundaries of Rudaki sub-station does not have impact on people and communities lands, structures and properties as the construction works will be carried out within existing compound of the switchyard. Moreover, planned construction works are only rehabilitation of existing structures. Mitigation measures will be taken following the ADB SPS 2009 for smooth implementation of the project.



23. The proposed project works will not have any negative impacts and consequences on public facilities (schools, hospitals cemeteries, mosques and other sites of religious, cultural and historical values). Community properties, trees, crops, and any other income generating activities will not be affected by the project.

13. Conclusion and Recommendations

24. Field assessments and monitoring of the project is carried out on the basis of detailed technical drawings, field visits, and consultations with a group of engineers, with PMU specialists at the central and local levels and local communities.

25. The results of a proper survey and monitoring showed that project did not have any negative impact causing land acquisition and / or involuntary resettlement. Rehabilitation / renovation of switchyards (proper Due Diligence was carried out and documented) taking place within the existing infrastructure land plot / allotment and thus there was no need for the allocation of land in private ownership / use.

26. The Consultant's Resettlement team closely monitored the implementation stage and helped PMU to ensure compliance with the ADB social safeguard requirements as well as the national legislation. The PMU Monitoring and Evaluation unit conducted regular internal monitoring and the outcomes reflected in this report.

27. Any grievances by local people had to be addressed through the GRM established under the project and applied to both environmental and social safeguards. This has been established by PMU in parallel with contract award process. However, no grievance application was filed in the reporting period. Community perception on the project is very positive and during monitoring visits, PMU safeguards specialist confirmed no negative impact of the project to communities.