

Social Monitoring Report

Semestral Report: July-December 2021
March 2022

Tajikistan: Wholesale Metering and Transmission Reinforcement Project

Prepared by the State Establishment «Project Management Unit for Electro-Energy Sector» (SE «PMUES») for the Executing Agency Open Stock Holding Company «Barqi Tojik» (BT) and the Asian Development Bank.

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Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BT	Barqi Tojik
DDR	Due Diligence Report
EHS	Environmental, Health & Safety
kV	Kilovolt
LARP	Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan
MVA	Megavolt Ampere (unit used to measure apparent power)
OHTL	Overhead Transmission Line
PIC	Project Implementation Consultant
PMU	Project Management Unit
SS	Substation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble

1. This report represents the Semi-Annual Social Monitoring Review (SASMR) for the Wholesale Metering and Transmission Reinforcement Project on the implementation of the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan.
2. The health and safety aspects, including the community ones, have been covered in the Semi-Annual Environmental Monitoring Review report.
3. This report is the 14th Social Monitoring Report (SMR) for the project. The dates of the previous monitoring reports are October 2021, January 2021, September 2020, December 2019, July 2019, February 2019, September 2018, March 2018, February 2018 (joint monitoring of environmental and social safeguards, only for Lot 1), October 2017 (only for Lot 2), September 2017, July 2017 and November 2016.

1.2 Headline Information

4. In Lot 1 on Wholesale Metering System, the meters Factory Acceptance Test was conducted successfully in July 2018 by the Contractor Huawei/ TBEA. The Contractor has selected the subcontractor Cuculus GmbH for the software part. 100% of the meters in the substations have been installed as of end of December 2020. The construction of the foundations and erection of the Current and Voltage Transformers inside the substations was completed by September 2019. The only missing activities are the losses reports in relation to the SSs and the cybersecurity certificate, the vector diagram and the full integration with the Landis + Gyr meter.
5. Regarding the Amendment 2 of Lot 2's work, which includes the renovation of 110 kV switchyard at Rudaki Substation, it started in April 2018. Every activity was developed inside the plot of the Substation and on a working installation. TBEA completed the construction of OHL in October 2018. Renovation of SS Rudaki and extension of SS Ayni were completed in March 2019.

Package 4. The objective of the additional subproject is to enhance the system enabling it to control the fluxes of energy in the Transmission Grid item by item from higher to lower levels, meaning all the items, lines, power transformers and busbars in the levels of voltage 500, 220, 110 and 35 kV. The objective is increasing redundancy of measurements on the top levels and full control of losses. Besides, it can provide relevant information of fluxes of energy between different segments of the grid. Package 4 activities are executed inside the substations which are already owned by Barqi Tojik and are located geographically around the country at the substations in the Khatlon region (Vakhsh, Yavan, Kulyab and Nurek districts), Sughd region (Isfara, Istarafshan, Khujand, Penjakent) and the Regions of the Republican Subordination (Rasht and Varzob districts). The Social Safeguards Due Diligence report dated March 2020 for the new Package 4 concluded that the proposed activities would not have adverse social impact on community and private properties and lands as the rehabilitation/construction activities will be carried out within boundaries of existing substations. Package 4 was

awarded in December 2020 to the JV TGEM-SANXING and it is scheduled to be completed by 31 March 2022. The Contractor's Environmental, Health and Safety Plan for Package 4 is in place since 26 April 2021. Package 4 Contractor has requested a 6-month extension. The civil works are undergoing.

6. This is the summary of the findings of the social safeguard monitoring undertaken in the current period:

Table 1. Summary of findings.

Main finding	Corrective actions applied or needed	Status
Package 4 Contractor to confirm if the 3 planned EHS Managers (one for each main region) as per the SSEMP are already working in the Project.	Clarification to be submitted to the PMU and the PIC.	Done by August 2021.
In relation to Package 4, regarding the terms of provision of disconnection (which may mean short blackouts for the utility customers), there is a lack of planning. The Barqi Tojik customers have not been informed on it yet.	A detailed disconnection schedule has to be submitted by the Contractor. After being accepted by Barqi Tojik, it has to be communicated to the customers (radio programs, notices at bills payment kiosks, notices at Barqi Tojik regional offices and other suitable communication actions).	Due by March or April 2022 (If equipment will be received by January or February 2022).
Complaints logbook was not available on site	Ensure that a complaints logbook is available at all construction sites	By 20 December 2021. Closed. See letter in Annex II.

2 BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT AND SCOPE

2.1 Project Description

7. The Republic of Tajikistan has received a grant from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of the Wholesale Metering and Transmission Reinforcement Project. 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 that used to suffer from load shedding.
8. Parts of this financing are being used for payments under the contract for: **Lot 1)** Installation of 1,682 wholesale meters and settlement system including 846 current transformers and 744 voltage transformers in most of the substations along the country, introduction of an advanced metering infrastructure, and introduction of a settlement system; **Lot 2)** Rehabilitation of Substation Rudaki, Extension of Substation Ayni and Construction of new 220 kV Over Head Transmission Line (OHTL) between Substation (SS)Ayni 220 kV and SS Rudaki, approximately 95 km of new single circuit single conductor with rated capacity of 320 MVA; and **Package 4)** Replacement or installation of 448 smart meters and 121 metering panels in 175 substations, replacement or installation of 300 current transformers (CTs), 105 voltage transformers (VTs) and 196

Mercados-Aries International was signed on August 2015 and the current closing date is March 31 2022.

14. The PIC's international environmental safeguards specialist was Mr. Pasi Vahanne and the national environmental safeguards specialist was Ms. Muazama Burkhanova until July 2018. Afterwards, the position was taken by the international safeguards specialist Mrs. Patricia Ramos Peinado.
15. The EHS management of the project for the reporting period 2021 S2 is as shown in the updated Figure 2.

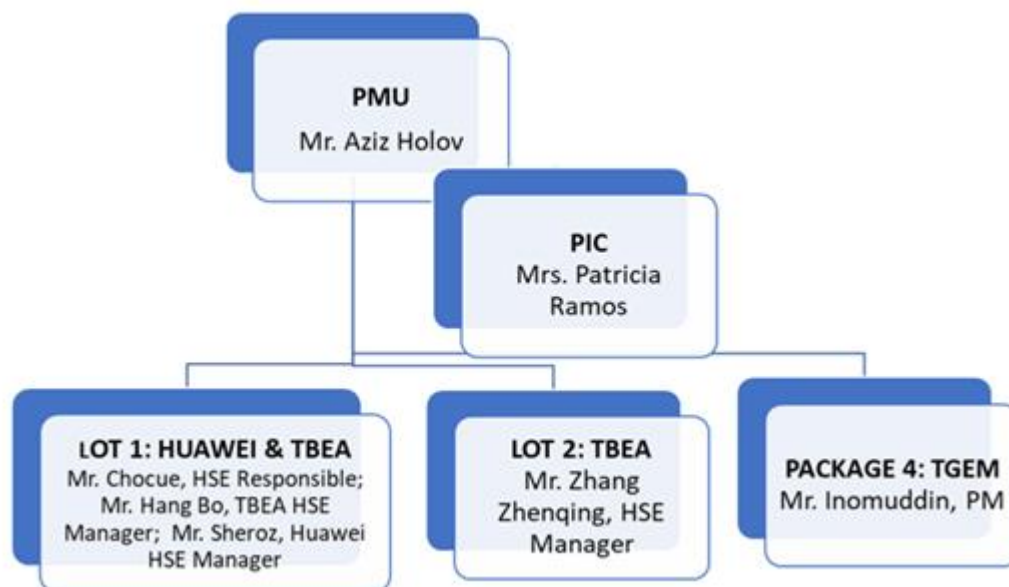


Figure 2. Safeguards management of the project for 2021 S2 (Project Management Unit - PMU, Project Implementation Consultant – PIC, Health & Safety, Social and Environmental, Project Manager-PMHSE.)

16. The contractors for Lot 1 are Huawei & TBEA. The contract was signed on 6 December 2016 and the original completion date was July 4, 2019. The contract was extended until 1 March 2020. The Contractor has requested a contract extension of 5 months due to the period that the implementation has been on-hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic (from 13 April to end July 2020). The contractor for Lot 2 is TBEA and the contract was signed on 28 December 2015 and its end date as stated in the amendment 4 of the contract is 31 December 2019. The contract was extended until 1 March 2020. Package 4 was awarded in December 2020 to the JV TGEM-SANXING and it is scheduled to be completed by 31 March 2022. 31 March 2022 is the planned closing date of the project.
17. Summary of civil works contracts and works' progress is summarized in Table 2. All awarded contracts included EMPs cleared by ADB and any conditions of applicable national EIA/IEE clearance.

Table 2: Summary of Civil Works Contracts and works' progress

Package	Scope	Contractor	Signed	Approval Date			Environmental personnel		Civil Work		(%) Progress as of	
				SSEMP	COVID-19 HSMP	ERP	Environmental officer	Health and Safety officer	Start	End	30 Jun 2021	31 Dec 2021
Package 4	Construction of foundations	TGEM-SANXING	12/20	26/04/21	26/04/21	26/04/21	Mr. Bermadov	Mr. Bermadov	Q3 2021	Q1 2022	0%	20-25%
Package 4	Installation of equipment	TGEM-SANXING	12/20	26/04/21	26/04/21	26/04/21	Mr. Bermadov	Mr. Bermadov	Q3 2021	Q1 2022	0%	0%

Note: The Month/Years in brackets are planned schedule.

COVID-19 HSMP = COVID-19 Health and Safety Management Plan, ERP = Emergency Response Plan, SSEMP = site-specific environmental management plan.

18. The names of the main parties and focal points involved in the project can be found in Annex I together with their contact details.
19. The contracts are being managed by the Project Management Unit of the power utility Barqi Tojik with the support of the consultancy company Mercados-Aries International in the role of Project Implementation Consultant.

2.3 Project Activities During Current Reporting Period

20. Construction activities for the Lot 2 and Lot 1 physical works were fully completed in previous periods. Construction activities for Package 4 in the form of construction of the foundations for the new equipment are under-going and have been completed by a 20-25% level by now.
21. In the table below, it can be seen the number of workers employed by the Package 4 Contractor during the reporting period.

Table 3. Number of Workers involved in Package 4 (July-December 2021).

Package 4	Number of workers
July	11
August	15
September	22
October- November	29
December	31

2.4 Description of Any Changes to Project Design

22. No changes to project design done within June-December 2021.
23. Package 4 activities were added to the project scope in June 2020. The objective of the additional subproject is to enhance the system enabling it to control the fluxes of energy in the Transmission Grid item by item from higher to lower levels, meaning all the items, lines, power transformers and busbars in the levels of voltage 500, 220, 110 and 35 kV. The objective is increasing redundancy of measurements on the top levels and full control of losses. Besides, it can provide relevant information of fluxes of energy between different segments of the grid. Specifically, Package 4 involves the replacement or installation of 448 smart meters and 121 metering panels in 175 substations, replacement or installation of 300 current transformers (CTs), 105

voltage transformers (VTs) and 196 arresters, installation of modems/data concentrators in the substations, installation of meter cabinets, overvoltage limiters and other minor equipment, communication equipment installation, testing, commissioning and training. The Social Safeguards Due Diligence report dated March 2020 for the new Package 4 concluded that the proposed activities would not have adverse social impact on community and private properties and lands as the rehabilitation/construction activities will be carried out within boundaries of existing substations.

3 ESMP DOCUMENTS

- 24. The Contractor and the PMU are able in general terms to implement and monitor respectively the Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan (SSEMP) for Package 4. Package 4 Contractor is submitting the monthly monitoring reports. Although after the meeting held between the Package 4 Contractor and the PMU and the PIC in September 2021 the monitoring of EHS aspects in the monthly reports have been strengthened, they are still missing information on vehicles mileage, COVID-19 prevention measures, use of PPE or HSE training performed.
- 25. The measures set out in the SSEMP are still appropriate and they are working as intended. No updates to the ESMP were required during the reporting period.

4 PROJECT IMPACTS

- 26. There is no physical resettlement involved under Package 4 activities since all construction works will be carried out within the substations' boundaries.
- 27. The activities performed during the current period did not involve any temporary or permanent land acquisition.

5 RESULTS OF ESMP MONITORING

5.1 General Description of Social Safeguard Activities

- 28. No complaints were received. The SSEMP is being generally implemented.
- 29. Activities carried out by consultant during the monitoring period is provided in Table 4 below.

**Table 4: Social Safeguards Activities Carried out During Reporting Period
(July-December 2021)**

Social Safeguard Activities
The International environmental expert (Mrs. Patricia Ramos) of Supervision Consultant (MAI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination meeting with the PMU and the Package 4 Contractor in September 2021 to follow-up on the status of the Environmental and Social Management System and suggest improvements in the safeguards aspects of the Contractor monthly monitoring reports. - Follow-up meeting with the ADB and the PMU in December 2021 on the safeguards aspects of the Package 4 works. - Drafting the SASMR.

5.2 Site Audits

30. No site visits were implemented by the International Safeguards specialist of the PIC within July-December 2021 since the International Environmental and Social Specialist intended to go on mission last December 2021 to perform site visits to the Package 4 Substations but the PMU estimated the timing was not appropriate and the visa could not be processed. The ADB Environmental Safeguards Consultant Ms. Malika Babadzhanova performed site visits to some of the Package 4 Substations in December 2021.

5.3 Issues Tracking (Based on Non-Conformance Notices)

31. There are no pending actions in relation to the non-conformance notices.

Table 5. Status of non-conformities found in the previous reporting period and the current reporting period.

Non-conformity	Corrective actions applied or needed	Status
PACKAGE 4		
Major- Package 4 Contractor to confirm if the 3 planned EHS Managers (one for each main region) as per the SSEMP are already working in the Project.	Clarification to be submitted to the PMU and the PIC.	Done by August 2021.
Major- In relation to Package 4, regarding the terms of provision of disconnection (which may mean short blackouts for the utility customers), there is a lack of planning. The Barqi Tojik customers have not been informed on it yet.	A detailed disconnection schedule has to be submitted by the Contractor. After being accepted by Barqi Tojik, it has to be communicated to the customers (radio programs, notices at bills payment kiosks, notices at Barqi Tojik regional offices and other	Due by March or April 2022 (if equipment will be received by January or February 2022)

	suitable communication actions).	
Major-Complaints logbook was not available on site	Ensure that a complaints logbook is available at all construction sites	By 20 December 2021. Closed. See letter in Annex II.

32. The percentage of issues that get closed early is medium.

5.3 Summary of Issues Tracking Activity for current period

33. The social issues identified in this reporting period can be seen in the table below,

Table 6. Social issues tracking

Date of the SAEMR	Non-conformity	Corrective actions applied or needed	Status by the end of December 2021
2021 S2	Major-Complaints logbook was not available on site	Ensure that a complaints logbook is available at all construction sites	Closed. See letter in Annex II.

34. Status of compliance with social safeguards related covenants in the Project's Grant Agreement signed between Republic of Tajikistan and ADB on 27 January 2015 is summarized in Table 6 below.

Table 7: Grant Agreement Compliance Status

Schedule	Paragraph	Covenant	Compliance Status
3	6	<u>Conditions for Award of Contract</u> <u>The Recipient shall not award any Works contract which involves involuntary resettlement impacts until the Recipient has prepared and submitted to ADB the final RP based on the Project's detailed design and obtained ADB's clearance of such RP.</u>	Being complied with. Only relevant for Lot 2 that is fully completed.

Schedule	Paragraph	Covenant	Compliance Status
4	16	<u>Environment</u> <u>The Recipient shall cause Barqi Tojik to ensure that the preparation, design, construction, implementation, operation and decommissioning of the Project and all Project facilities comply with (a) all applicable laws and regulations of the Recipient relating to environment, health and safety; (b) the Environmental Safeguards; and (c) all measures and requirements set forth in the IEE, the EMP, and any corrective or preventative actions set forth in a Safeguards Monitoring Report.</u>	Being complied with in general terms. 2 corrective actions have been included in this report.
4	17	<u>Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement</u> <u>The Recipient shall cause Barqi Tojik to ensure that all land and all rights-of way required for the Project are made available to the Works contractor in accordance with the schedule agreed under the related Works contract and all land acquisition and resettlement activities are implemented in compliance with (a) all applicable laws and regulations of the Recipient relating to land acquisition and involuntary resettlement; (b) the Involuntary Resettlement Safeguards; and (c) all measures and requirements set forth in the RP, and any corrective or preventative actions set forth in a Safeguards Monitoring Report.</u>	Being complied with. Only relevant for Lot 2 that is fully completed.
4	18	<u>Without limiting the application of the Involuntary Resettlement Safeguards or the RP, the Recipient shall cause Barqi Tojik to ensure that no physical or economic displacement takes place in connection with the Project until: (a) compensation and other entitlements have been provided to affected people in accordance with the RP; and (b) a comprehensive income and livelihood program has been established in accordance with the RP.</u>	Non-applicable.

Schedule	Paragraph	Covenant	Compliance Status
4	19	<u>Indigenous Peoples</u> The Recipient shall ensure that the Project does not have any indigenous peoples impact within the meaning of the Safeguard Policy Statement. In the event that the Project does have any such impact, the Recipient shall take all steps required to ensure that the Project complies with the applicable laws and regulations of the Recipient and with the Safeguard Policy Statement.	Non-applicable.
4	20	<u>Human and Financial Resources to Implement Safeguards Requirements</u> The Recipient shall make available, or cause Barqi Tojik to make available, necessary budgetary and human resources to fully implement the EMP and the RP.	Being complied with. The borrower makes available the budgetary and human resources to fully implement the EMP.
4	21	<u>Safeguards – Related Provisions in Bidding Documents and Works Contracts</u> The Recipient shall cause Barqi Tojik to ensure that all bidding documents and contracts for Works contain provisions that require contractors to: (a) comply with the measures relevant to the contractor set forth in the IEE, the EMP and the RP (to the extent they concern impacts on affected people during construction), and any corrective or preventative actions set forth in a Safeguards Monitoring Report; (b) make available a budget for all such environmental and social measures; (c) provide the Recipient with a written notice of any unanticipated environmental or resettlement risks or impacts that arise during construction, implementation or operation of the Project that were not considered in the IEE, the EMP and the RP; (d) adequately record the condition of roads, agricultural land and other infrastructure prior to starting to transport materials and construction; and (e) reinstate pathways, other local infrastructure, and agricultural land to at least their pre-Project condition upon the completion of construction.	Being complied with. Bidding documents and contracts for various works under the project have been prepared include the necessary provisions envisaged in the IEE and EMP. During the construction whenever required necessary corrective or preventive actions have been applied.

Schedule	Paragraph	Covenant	Compliance Status
4	22	<p><u>Safeguards Monitoring and Reporting</u></p> <p><u>The Recipient shall cause Barqi Tojik to do the following:</u></p> <p><u>(a) submit semi-annual Safeguards Monitoring Reports to ADB and disclose relevant information from such reports to affected persons promptly upon submission;</u></p> <p><u>(b) if any unanticipated environmental and/or social risks and impacts arise during construction, implementation or operation of the Project that were not considered in the IEE, the EMP and the RP, promptly inform ADB of the occurrence of such risks or impacts, with detailed description of the event and proposed corrective action plan; and (c) report any actual or potential breach of compliance with the measures and requirements set forth in the EMP or the RP promptly after becoming aware of the breach.</u></p>	<p>Being complied with.</p> <p>Semiannual Social Monitoring Reports have been prepared and disclosed at ADBs website regularly.</p> <p>During the project implementation period no actual or potential breach of that compliance with the measures and requirements set forth in the EMP has been observed.</p> <p>The COVID-19 risk was included in the IEE update and the EMP of the Package 4 Contractor.</p>

Schedule	Paragraph	Covenant	Compliance Status
4	24	<p>Labour Standards</p> <p>The Recipient shall ensure that the core labor standards and the Recipient's applicable laws and regulations are complied with during Project implementation. The Recipient shall include specific provisions in the bidding documents and contracts financed under the Project requiring that the contractors, other provider of goods and services and their subcontractors: (a) comply with the Recipient's applicable labor law and regulations and incorporate applicable workplace occupational safety norms; (b) do not use child labor; (c) do not discriminate workers in respect of employment and occupation by providing, inter alia, equal pay for men and women or people from different ethnic groups for work of equal value, and to the extent possible, employing women and local people, including disadvantaged people, living in the Project area, provided that the requirements for efficiency are adequately met; (d) do not use forced labor; (e) allow freedom of association and effectively recognize the right to collective bargaining; and (f) disseminate, or engage appropriate service providers to disseminate, information on the risks of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, to the employees of contractors engaged under the Project and to members of the local communities surrounding the Project area, particularly women.</p>	Being complied with.
4	25	<p><u>The Recipient shall strictly monitor compliance with the labor standards and provide ADB with regular reports.</u></p>	Being complied with.

Schedule	Paragraph	Covenant	Compliance Status
4	26	<p><u>Gender and Development.</u></p> <p>The Recipient shall ensure that the principles of gender equity aimed at increasing Project benefits and impacts on women in the Project area consistent with ADB's Policy on Gender and Development (1998) are followed during the implementation of the Project, including (a) equal pay to men and women for work of equal value; (b) enabling working conditions for women workers; and (c) taking necessary actions to encourage women living in the Project area to participate in the design and implementation of Project activities.</p>	Being complied with.

35. Status of compliance with the Project EMP attached to the disclosed updated IEE is summarized in Table 8.

Table 8: Implementation Status of EMP during the pre-construction period

Impact/Issue	Required Mitigation Measures	Compliance Attained	Comment on Reasons for Partial or Non-Compliance	Required Action and Target Dates to Achieve Compliance
		Package 4		
Need for clear HSE goals and objectives	Preparation of a Project specific HSE Policy	Yes. Goals and objectives section in the SSEMP		
Need for a strong EHS Management System in place	Constitute a Project HSE organization and nominate a EHS Manager	It is defined in the SSEMP. Yes, there is a Contractor EHS Manager for Package 4, Mr. Bermadov. The 3 regional EHS Supervisors are in place since August 2021.		
Need for a relevant Project Specific Construction HSE Plan	Preparation of a Project Specific Construction HSE Plan	Yes		
Need for a Grievance Redress mechanism established and functional	Establish and implement a Grievance Redress mechanism	Grievance Redress mechanism in place. Grievance Logbooks available at the SSs from 20 December 2021.	No Grievance Logbooks were available at the SSs visited.	10 February 2022
Need for an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan	Preparation of an Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan	Yes. Procedure in place as part of the SSEMP.		
Need for a Traffic Management Plan	Preparation of a Traffic Management Plan	Yes. Procedure in place as part of the SSEMP.		

Table 9: Implementation Status of EMP during the construction period

Impact/Issue	Required Mitigation Measures	Compliance Attained	Comment on Reasons for Partial or Non-Compliance	Required Action and Target Dates to Achieve Compliance
		Package 4		
All environmental impacts and health and safety issues	Elaboration of the monthly ESMP implementation report. Minimum contents: - Project Activities During Current Reporting Period. Percentage of completion of each main activity. - Number of workers employed during the reporting period - Description of Any Changes to Project Design or construction methods - Performed Environmental Safeguard Activities - Status of non-conformities identified in previous reporting periods - Unanticipated Environmental Impacts or Risks - Material Resources Utilization during the current period and cumulative (petrol in liters, generated waste per type in tons (domestic waste and hazardous waste)) - H&S: Community H&S, accidents; Workers H&S, training, performed actions	Although after the meeting held between the Package 4 Contractor and the PMU and the PIC in September 2021 the monitoring of EHS aspects in the monthly reports have been strengthened, they are still missing information on vehicles milage, COVID-19 prevention measures, use of PPE or HSE training performed.		Submission of the report by January 19, 2021
All environmental impacts and health and safety issues	Contractor's internal HSE inspections performed by HSE Manager and site supervisory personnel	Yes. The 3 regional HSE supervisors have been in place since August 2021. The EHS Manager is also in place.		
All environmental impacts and health and safety issues	1.In general, ensure through field inspections that mitigation activities are implemented and executed. 2.Main mitigation activities are presented in Environmental Management Plan and Contractor's Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan.	Yes. Field visits could be performed by the ADB Environmental Consultant. Site visits could not be performed in December 2021 by the PIC Environmental and Social Specialist since the PMU estimated that the timing was not appropriate and the visa could not be processed.		

<i>Impact/Issue</i>	<i>Required Mitigation Measures</i>	<i>Compliance Attained</i>	<i>Comment on Reasons for Partial or Non-Compliance</i>	<i>Required Action and Target Dates to Achieve Compliance</i>
		<i>Package 4</i>		
All environmental impacts and health and safety issues	Mitigation Measures reviewed to cover any unidentified impacts	Yes.		
All environmental impacts and health and safety issues	EHS briefing and training for Contractor's staff completed; field inspections, Contractor's HSE audit and inspection reports	Yes.		
Safety hazards	Contractor's Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan implemented and training given to all workers; field inspections, Contractor's HSE audit and inspection reports	Yes.		
Grievance Redress Mechanism	Grievance Redress Mechanism functional; amount of grievances and processing time of grievances, paid compensations	Yes, Grievance Redress Mechanism functional.		

6 PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND DISCLOSURE

36. In relation to Package 4, face to face public consultations could not be performed since from March 2020 there were in place quarantine measures imposed against the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus in Tajikistan. Alternatively, an information leaflet was composed and an explanatory letter from the PMU was sent to the heads of district environmental protection departments by e-mail through the Environmental Protection Committee under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Director of the PMU Department for Monitoring of the Environmental Protection, Mr. Kholov Aziz, hold a meeting with Mr. Khalilov Daller, a representative of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in order to arrange the distribution by e-mail of the two mentioned documents. No comments were received.
37. The semi-annual social and environmental safeguards monitoring reports (this report) continue to be disclosed through the ADB website.

7 GRIEVANCE AND REDRESS MECHANISM

38. No complaint was filed during the reporting period.

8 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

39. Non-applicable. There are no indigenous people affected by the Project. There are no indigenous people's groups in Tajikistan.

9 GENDER

40. This Project does not include any gender design features. Therefore, the Project was categorized as having "No Gender Elements".
41. On a secondary note, the improvement in the metering at the substations will reduce losses, which will also have as a consequence that more power will be available to meet the increasing demand. Saved time by women on the traditionally household chores assigned to them due to access to more reliable energy will mean higher availability of time that could be devoted by them to paid work, improving then their access to resources and opportunities, and therefore becoming more empowered. Reduced energy shortages will have a positive impact on businesses. The types of businesses that women typically engage in, such as tailoring and sewing, and baking and food production, are associated with high electricity consumption¹.

10 POVERTY AND SOCIAL

42. Energy sector of Tajikistan has some difficulties regarding the existing state of electricity supply systems i.e. obsolete component of the whole system, lack of up-to-date metering infrastructure, instability of voltage faults, as a result of which stable power supply to

¹ Source: ADB Tajikistan Gender Country Assessment, 2016

population and businesses depending on electricity is not always provided, hence making population less able to perform income generating activities.

43. Considering the existing problems with obsolete electric transmission system in Tajikistan and lack of up-to-date metering infrastructure, activities under the new Package 4 include activities that will contribute tackling these issues. Activities under Package 4 will be implemented in 175 substations nationwide. Each business or household that is powered through the target substations will benefit from a higher quality power supply. The construction of foundations, erections of transformers and replacement or installation of meters will be carried out inside the substations, so no disturbance for residents is expected.
44. Another social aspect to look at is the short blackouts due to the project. The connection of the current transformers to the grid will require a disconnection of the substation from the grid for a duration up to 5 hours per substation. The replacement or installation of meters can be done in a short time. Depending on the net topology the disconnection of very few substations will affect the population. The majority of the substation disconnection will not lead to a lack of energy supply for the population.
45. In relation to Package 4, around 50% of the substation disconnections will not lead to a lack of energy supply for the population since they will be supplied from other substations. The other 50% of the substation disconnections that will lead to blackouts are envisaged to happen in Chanubi Electricity Network (Lomonosova Substation), Isfara Electricity Network (Isfara Substation), Istaravshan Electricity Network (Uzlovaya Substation) and Kulyab city (Ismoilova Substation) among others. Details on this will be requested to the Contractor.

11 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Summary

46. No complaints were recorded during the reporting period.
47. The Site-specific Environmental, Health and Safety Plan for Package 4 is in place since 26 April 2021.
48. One issue got closed: the 3 regional EHS supervisors under Package 4 are in place since August 2021.
49. One issue got open and closed in relation to Package 4 during the semester: availability of Complaints Logbooks on site.
50. Two issues remain open and are due by March or April 2022: lack of planning of disconnection (which may mean short blackouts for the utility customers); and lack of communication of the foreseen blackouts to the utility customers.
51. No site visits were implemented by the International Safeguards Specialist of the PIC

within July-December 2021 since Mrs. Patricia Ramos intended to go on mission last December 2021 to perform site visits to the Package 4 Substations and hold follow-up meetings, but the PMU estimated the timing was not appropriate and the visa could not be processed. Mrs. Ramos travelled on mission to Tajikistan in September 2021 and hold coordination meetings with the PMU and Package 4 Contractor.

11.2 Recommendations

52. The following Corrective Action Plan has been prepared to correct the identified non-conformances.

Table 10. Corrective Action Plan

Issues and actions	Responsible party	Criteria	Schedule
1. Package 4 Contractor monthly monitoring reports are lacking safeguards information such as COVID-19 prevention measures or HSE training performed.	Package 4 Contractor	SSEMP and ADB Safeguards Policy.	By 15 February 2022.
2. In relation to Package 4, regarding the terms of provision of disconnection (which may mean short blackouts for the utility customers), there is a lack of planning. Action: a detailed Schedule for the temporary break of electricity supply has to be prepared.	Package 4 Contractor	SSEMP	The schedule was not yet prepared as no equipment for installation received. Contractor is waiting for the delivery of electrical equipment which is expected in January-February 2022. If equipment will be received on mentioned dates, then the schedule should be prepared by March-April 2022
3. Schedule for the temporary break of electricity supply reviewed by Barqi Tojik and then communicated to the customers (radio programs, notices at bills payment kiosks, notices at Barqi Tojik regional offices and other suitable communication actions).	Package 4 Contractor and Barqi Tojik	SSEMP	The schedule was not yet prepared as no equipment for installation received. Contractor is waiting for the delivery of electrical equipment which is expected in January-February 2022. If equipment will be received on mentioned dates, then the schedule should be prepared by March-April 2022

ANNEXES

Annex I: Main parties involved and their updated contact details

Party	Focal point	Contact details of the focal point
Implementing Agency: SE PMUES	Head of the Project Management Unit, Mr. Asrorzoda Nusratullo Sattor	pmu_tj@mail.ru
	Head of the Environmental Sector of the PMU, Mr. Karimov Sirojiddin	pmu_tj@mail.ru
	Chief EHS Specialist at the PMU, Mr. Aziz Holov	pmu_tj@mail.ru
Funding institution: ADB	ADB Regional Environmental Safeguards Consultant. Mrs. Malika Babadzhanova	mbabadjanova1.consultant@adb.org
	ADB National Resettlement Specialist. Mr. Faizullo Kudratov	fkudratov.consultant@adb.org
Project Implementation Consultant: Mercados-Aries International (formerly AF Mercados EMI)	MAI Project Director Mr. Francisco Romero	francisco.romero@mercadosaries.com +34 665024822
	MAI Environmental and Social Specialist, Mrs. Patricia Ramos	patricia.ramos@mercadosaries.com +34 663999667
Package 4 Contractor: JSC "Tojikgidroelectromontaj" (TGEM)	Mr. Yormadov B.A., EHS Responsible Mr. Ikmodiddini Inomuddin, Project Manager Mr. Faridun Bobokalonov. Assistant to the Manager. Mr. Bermadov. EHS Manager.	Unknown +992 98 911 61 14, ikmodiddini.inomuddin@tgem.tj +992 93 524 39 55 tgem_faridun.bobokalonov@mail.ru Bermadov@mail.ru +992989060094

Annex II: Letter sent by the Contractor to the PMU

LETTER

Ref. No/ Иех. №: PKG-4-TGEM&SME-PMU-060
Date/ Дата: December 20th, 2021/20 Декабря, 2021

To: OSHC "Barqi Tojik"
Attn. Mr. M. Ismoilzoda, Chairman
For: SE "PMUES"
Attn: Mr. N. Asrorzoda, Executive Director
CC: Mercados - Aries International

Reply required/
Требуется ответ

For Action/
Для действий

ПИСЬМО

Кому: ОАХК "Барки Тоҷик"
Кас: Председатель г-ну. Исмоилзода М.
Для: ГУ "ЦУПЭС"
Кас: Исполнительный директор
г-ну. Асрорзода Н.
Копия: Mercados - Aries International

For info/
Для информации

Others/
Другие

Subject: Contractor's reply to the comments of the ADB expert on environmental issues, reply to letter No. 16/3258-3983 dated 14/12/2021.

Dear Sirs,

The Contractor expresses its respect and appreciation for your support and collaboration.

The Contractor hereby, having considered your letter No. 16 / 3258-3983 dated 12/14/2021, informs you of the following:

1. At all facilities (substations) where work is being carried out, a first aid kit is organized for each team.
2. All teams were issued environmental documents, such as a Health, Safety and Environmental Protection Plan, a waste movement log and a complaint log.
3. The customer was provided with a monthly report for the months of October and November (DTS-062 dated 17/12/2021).

Attached to the letter:

1. Photo report.

Best regards/ С уважением,

Muhammadiev T.R.
Мухаммадиев Т.Р.

Deputy General Director of JSC "TGEM"/
Заместитель генерального директора ОАО «ТГЭМ»

Page 1 of 3

Тема: Ответ Подрядчика на замечания эксперта АБР по экологическим вопросам, ответ на письмо №16/3258-3983 от 14.12.2021

Уважаемые Господа,

Подрядчик выражает свое уважение и признательность за Вашу поддержку и сотрудничество.

Настоящим Подрядчик, рассмотрев Ваше письмо №16/3258-3983 от 14.12.2021 сообщает Вам о следующем:

1. На всех объектах (подстанциях), где ведутся работы, для каждой бригады организована аптечка первой помощи.
2. Всем бригадам были выданы экологические документы, такие как План по охране здоровья, безопасности труда и охраны окружающей среды, журнал учета движения отходов и журнал регистрации жалоб.
3. Заказчику была предоставлена ежемесячный отчет за октябрь и ноябрь месяцев (DTS-062 от 17.12.2021).

К письму прилагается:

2. Фото отчет.



Страница 1 из 3