

# Social Monitoring Report

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Semiannual Report (January–June 2021)  
July 2021

## Nepal: South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation Mugling–Pokhara Highway Improvement Phase 1 Project

Mugling-Abukhaireni-Pokhara (MAP) Road

Prepared by the Department of Roads, Project Directorate (ADB), for Ministry of Physical Infrastructure & Transport and the Asian Development Bank.

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# 1. Introduction

**1.1 Brief Background on the Project Scope:** The Government of Nepal has requested the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance the upgrading of the Mugling - Pokhara Highway Improvement Project. The road improvement will consist of upgrading and widening the existing road into a four-lane highway. The Mugling - Pokhara road starts at Mugling Bazaar in Ichhakamana Rural Municipality of Chitwan district in province no. 3, passing through various settlements in Tanahun district, and ends at Prithivi Chok, Pokhara of Pokhara Metropolitan City of Kaski district in capital of the Gandaki province (*Pradesh*). The total length of Mugling Ambukhaireni Pokhara road is 89 km. But under the present scope, it is proposed to implement the road section from Abukhaireni, Milan Chowk (Ch.8+250) to Seti Bridge of the Pokhara city. The length of the road section (Ambukhaireni-Pokhara) is about 81 Km.

1.2 The section from Mugling at Ch. 00+000 to Ch.8+250 km near to the Abukhaireni municipality due to the rocky areas, it is difficult to construct two lanes road, Madhyamarshyangdi Hydroelectric Powerhouse and major settlements which are not possible for construction of the four lanes, and may be considered as a separate phase of project. For this section, alternative analysis and assessment is being undertaken by the government. So, this report does not include the Mugling - Abukhaireni section.

**Table 1: Contract Package**

Package	Contractor Name	Contract Agreement Date	Contractor Mobilization Date	Implementation Period
MAP 01	China Communications Construction Company Ltd.	27 January 2021	15 April 2021	15 April 2021 to 14 April 2024
MAP 02	Anhui Kaiyuan Highway and Bridge Co. Ltd., China	17 May 2021	Yet to be decided	-

**Table 2: Resettlement Plan (RP) Category**

Requirement for Category	Ranking
Above 10 percent of productive loss (Fully displaced) belonging to more than 200 persons	Category A
Below 10 percent of productive loss (Fully displaced) belonging to less than 200 persons	Category B
No impacts of any kind by the project	Category C: no need to prepare RP: only DDR is required

1.3 As table 2 presented classification of safeguard category, the table 3 below (Summary of Resettlement Impacts) support the IR category of the project that fall under category A.

**Table 3: Summary of Resettlement Impacts**

Type of Loss	% of Loss	Affected HHs	Family Member	Remarks
Land	More than 10% of total land holding	7	35	
Structures	Fully displaced (more than 10% of total productive assets)	68	340	
Vulnerable People			228	
<b>Total</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>603</b>	

\* Data presented in above table clearly shows that the Project is fall under IR category A.

## 2. Social Safeguard Activities

**2.1 Ongoing Activities:** Procurement of civil works contractor has been completed on 27 January 2021 for package-I. Contractor has already been mobilized at site and started joint survey works. For package-II, contract award has been completed on 17 May 2021. Procurement of Construction Supervision Consultant (CSC) in contract stage. Verification of affected land and structure is under progress. All together 7 staff will be mobilizing in this road section comprising one social safeguard expert and remaining 6 are supporting staffs. There were no social safeguard impact during reporting period as contractor has just been mobilized at site. Verification of some structure is going on. Formal CDC meeting is yet to be initiated for finalizing the compensation rate and distribution works. As per original Resettlement Plan, verification of affected assets is going simultaneously with joint survey in package-I. Recently, PMs of MAP are designated as primary official for preliminary action to acquire the land and compensation distribution. The work will be done starting with the field verification of the remaining structures and formal CDC meeting. Onboard of the CSC will further increase the potential of expediting the compensation work as they will mobilize the resettlement expert. PMs are accelerating the work for rapid verification of the structures. They are continuing the coordination with the Chief District Officer and other stakeholders for RP implementation.

**2.2 External Monitoring Mechanism:** As provisioned in Project Administration Manual (PAM) para 74, "An external monitor consultant will be engaged by DOR to validate the resettlement monitoring information and progress". For the purpose of recruiting External Monitoring Consultant (individual), DOR is working for necessary pre-procurement activities. The procurement work may be initiated after finalization of the necessary documents with prior consent from ADB.

### 3. Social Safeguard Activities

3.1 Following activities carried out in this reporting period:

- Verification of private/public structures is going on. Around 120 structures have been verified and prepared the list based on original Resettlement Plan (RP) in MAP-01.
- The Compensation Determination Committee (CDC) meeting has been conducted (two events) informally in the initiation of Project Manager and discussed about private losses, initiation of compensation distribution etc.
- Project Manager (PM) has officially designated as officer for land acquisition. Compensation Determination Committee (CDC) meeting will be conducted for valuation, land acquisition and compensation process. Project Managers are making coordination with the CDC for conducting meetings.
- Individual level consultation meetings were conducted with affected persons and other stakeholders due to GoN protocol. Further, telephonic consultation has also been conducted with the affected owner in MAP 01 and 02. As soon as GoN protocol is relaxed, mass consultation will be carried out with the concerned stakeholders maintaining record of each meeting.

### 4. Health and Safety Condition at Site

4.1 Nepal has been affected by second wave of COVID-19 pandemic and GoN has declared prohibition order from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 to 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The project has also highly affected by the COVID-19 effect. The planned activities of the contractor were also affected. Despite the abnormal situation, the contractor has been conducted joint survey following the safety protocol for COVID-19 impact. A Project Manager along with his entire family were infected. Now, the GoN has eased the movement and the activities are being performed by the contractor following the SOP. The Resettlement Implementation Plan has also been affected due to the COVID-19 impact and prohibition order by GoN.

**Table 4: Tentative Implementation Plan:**

SN	Activities	Time Frame	Responsibility
1	Establishment of PM field offices	Completed	
2	Verification of affected assets	On going	PD/PM
3	Update Resettlement Plan	20 August, 2021*	PD/PM
4	Joint survey with contractor	On going	PD/PM
5	Formation of CDC	Completed	PD/PM
6	Determination of compensation of affected assets	30 August, 2021	PD/PM

<b>SN</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
7	Publication of land/structure Acquisition Notice	30 August, 2021	DAO, Tanahu & Kaskii
8	Publish notice to collect compensation	10 September, 2021	PD, DAO
9	Distribution of compensation	17 September, 2021	PD, DAO, PM

## **5. Conclusion**

5.1 Contract has awarded for both the packages and joint survey is under progress. PMs are designated as a primary officer for land acquisition purpose, however formal CDC meeting is yet to be commenced due to COVID-19 pandemic impact. The GoN has imposed prohibition order for about 2 months which has directly affected the safeguard activities. Despite this, verification of around 120 structures have been completed against the original RP. Now, the GoN has eased the movement and the project activities are being performed by the contractor following the SOP.