

# Social Monitoring Report

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Semi-Annual Report

For the period covered July 2022 to December 2022

Project Number: 53118-001

December 2022

## Georgia: Livable Cities Investment Project for Balanced Development

Prepared by the Municipal Development Fund for the Asian Development Bank.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>ADB</b>        | Asian Development Bank   |
| <b>AP</b>         | Affected Person  |
| <b>AH</b>         | Affected Household   |
| <b>EA</b>         | Executing Agency   |
| <b>EARF</b>       | Environmental Assessment and Review Framework                              |
| <b>EHS</b>        | Environmental Health & Safety  |
| <b>EIA</b>        | Environmental Impact Assessment  |
| <b>EIP</b>        | Environmental Impact Permit  |
| <b>EMP/ SSEMP</b> | Environmental Management Plan/ Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan |
| <b>GoG</b>        | Government of Georgia  |
| <b>GRC</b>        | Grievance Redress Committee  |
| <b>GRM</b>        | Grievance Redress Mechanism  |
| <b>IA</b>         | Implementing Agency  |
| <b>IEE</b>        | Initial Environmental Examination  |
| <b>LARF</b>       | Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework                                |
| <b>LARP</b>       | Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan                                     |
| <b>LCIP</b>       | Livable City Investment Program  |
| <b>MFF</b>        | Multi-tranche Financing Facility   |
| <b>MEPA</b>       | Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture                       |
| <b>NEA</b>        | National Environmental Agency  |
| <b>MoESD</b>      | Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development                            |
| <b>OJSC</b>       | Open Joint Stock Company   |
| <b>SC</b>         | Supervision Consultant   |
| <b>SDDR</b>       | Social Due Diligence Report  |
| <b>SPS</b>        | Safeguard Policy Statement   |
| <b>SSMR</b>       | Semi-annual Social Monitoring Report                                       |
| <b>SSEMP</b>      | Site Specific Environmental Management Plan                                |
| <b>TCH</b>        | Tbilisi City Hall  |
| <b>TDF</b>        | Tbilisi Development Fund   |
| <b>WHO</b>        | World Health Organization  |

|  |           |
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Preamble

1. This report represents the Semi-annual Social Monitoring Report (SSMR) for the Projects implemented by TDF under Livable Cities Improvement Project for the period of July-December 2022.
2. The scope of this SSMR has been delineated as follows:
  - Monitoring progress of elaboration and implementation of SDDRs and LARPs for the projects implemented by TDF.
  - Assess the overall progress of implementation of social safeguard activities during the period of July – December 2022.
3. The main objective of social monitoring is to provide an assessment on the progress of implementation of social safeguard commitments by the IA for a designated period of six months.
4. The LCIP subprojects implemented by TDF:
  - (i) Arrangement of Municipal Park of Dighomi Floodplain
  - (ii) Universal Access and Inclusive Mobility to the Tbilisi Metro System
  - (iii) Elaboration of Strategy for Dighomi Floodplain
  - (iv) Rehabilitation of Vera Park
  - (v) Feasibility Study on the Development of Public and Tourist Transport Services on the Mtkvari River in Tbilisi, Development of a Waterfront Development Vision Plan, Scoping Study Legal and Regulatory Framework Inland Water Transport.
  - (vi) Preparation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, SUMP
5. This report is the 2<sup>st</sup> SSMR of the Project since the Project became effective on 07.04.2022

### 1.2 Headline Information

6. Since November 2016, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has supported the Government of Georgia (GoG) to mainstream an integrated and participatory approach to urban development by improving strategic planning of selected urban area clusters to achieve a more balanced regional development by preparing Integrated Urban Action Plans (IUAPs). Building on this, the government has prioritized crucial urban investments for ADB to take forward through feasibility studies and safeguards due diligence. These include integrated solutions that bring co-benefits to the citizens in the development of the urban clusters including water supply, sewerage and sanitation (including off-network solutions), urban transport and mobility (including non-motorized and public transport), solid waste management, economic corridors, cultural and historical heritage conservation, flood control and drainage, urban safety and resilience, among others.
7. The government has proposed to process the Livable Cities Investment Program (LCIP) to improve urban and tourism infrastructure and services across Georgia. The proposed LCIP will enable inclusive and balanced regional development by capitalizing on ongoing investments in connectivity to develop economic clusters as hubs for tourism, and MSMEs, building on the comparative advantages - natural, cultural and human asset of each region. LCIP will pilot the integrated multi-sector investment approach in regional clusters covering cities/ municipalities and its surrounding peri-urban areas stimulating local economic growth, improving livability and balancing urban-rural development. The regional clusters were created to establish critical mass and economic scale for

efficient use of investments. In addition, some twenty-five kindergartens, and six sports complexes in seven regions and twelve municipalities with energy efficient and inclusive design, will have a positive impact on the wellbeing of the youth, children, and community.

## 2. PROJECTS DESCRIPTION AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

### 2.1 Projects Description

8. Below table provides information on categorization of the Projects, required safeguard documentation and status of their elaboration:

Table 1

| <b>N</b> | <b>Project Title</b>   | <b>IR Categorization</b> | <b>Required Social Safeguard Document</b> | <b>Status of design and social safeguards</b>   |
|----------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1        | Arrangement of Municipal Park of Dighomi Floodplain  | B                        | LARP                                      | Draft LARP prepared subject to update according to the future changes into the Park design) Design review and changes are ongoing |
| 2        | Arrangement of Dighomi Floodplain Strategy   | C                        | N/A                                       | N/A   |
| 3        | Rehabilitation of Vera Park  | B                        | LARP                                      | Draft submitted to ADB Detailed design elaboration is ongoing   |
| 4        | Universal Access and Inclusive Mobility to the Tbilisi Metro System  | B                        | SDD/LARP – if required                    | Feasibility study has been elaborated and sent to TCH for approval  |
| 5        | Preparation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, SUMP   | C                        | N/A                                       | N/A   |
| 6        | Tourist Transport Services on the Mtkvari River in Tbilisi, Development of a Waterfront Development Vision Plan, Scoping Study Legal and Regulatory Framework Inland Water Transport | C                        | N/A                                       | N/A   |

#### 2.1.1 Arrangement of Municipal Park of Dighomi Floodplain

9. Tbilisi Development Fund (TDF) of Tbilisi City Hall (TCH) is to commence implementation of infrastructural project in Tbilisi. Arrangement of Municipal Park in Dighomi Floodplains, city of Tbilisi is one of the subprojects to be implemented under the Livable Cities Investment Program. The subproject aims at improving the ecological value and provision of the recreational and civic amenities for city of Tbilisi because of its unique location along the Mtkvari River. As one of two prominent rivers in Georgia, the Mtkvari River should be celebrated and protected. With its multifunctional themed spaces and its unique natural features, the Park is planned to be a preferred public gathering place.

The subproject is expected to support tourism development. Implementation of the subproject will also ensure clearance of more than 8,3 ha of the city area from the waste and garbage

10. The area selected for the development of a new municipal park is located in the Northern part of the Capital, in the so-called `Dighomi Floodplains`. The total land plot area allocated for the new park is 83,265 m<sup>2</sup>.

11. The subproject site is not qualified as protected area according to the Georgian Legislation. It falls under “Recreational Area” per Tbilisi City’s General Land Use Plan, which further divides the recreational area into different zones for planning, development, and management purposes..

12. **Sub-project activities include arrangement of the following zones within the park:**

- I. Cultural-educational zone
- II. Dog walking zone
- III. Sports zone
- IV. Skate park
- V. Recreation terrace zone at the river bank
- VI. Construction of the one-storey amphitheater, media center and café-pavilion
- VII. Two parking areas
- VIII. 380 m long embankment on the right bank of the river Mtkvari from north border of the planning park till Gldani bridge
- IX. Two wastewater biological treatment devices
- X. Landscaping works and planting of the trees on the park area as well.

Figure 1. Location of the Dighomi Floodplain Municipal Park



Figure 2. General Plan of the Dighomi Floodplain Municipal Park



13. The LCIP has been classified as Category B for Involuntary Resettlement (IR) safeguards per ADB SPS, thus social due diligence screening was carried out based on desk review of the project design and other available materials describing baseline environment, as well as field studies, consultation with affected persons and other stakeholders from the project area. As a result of the screening, involuntary resettlement impacts been identified and need for a resettlement plan occurred, which includes assessment of involuntary resettlement impacts.

14. In 2021, draft Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP) was prepared for the Project by Tbilisi Development Fund (TDF) of Tbilisi City Hall (TCH) with support of TRTA consultant in compliance with Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework (LARF) developed for LCIP and agreed between TDF, on behalf of the TCH and the ADB upon the inception of LCIP. Draft LARP was finally approved and disclosed in August, 2021. (<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/53118-001-rpab-03.pdf>)

15. During the IEE and LARP documents disclosures (June 22, 2021 and July 16, 2021) participants, namely representatives of the "Dighomi Floodplain Defender" group raised several environmental issues and recommendations for modification of the design. The issues were recorded and analyzed by TDF with support of ADB safeguard team and decision was made to change the existing design of the Dighomi Floodplain Park. Consideration for modification of the design are provided below:

- Review and Revision of Construction Materials to Reduce Concrete Use
- Replacement of the artificial lake
- Review and Revision of Park Access roads and paths
- Design of Interactive Signage for Park
- Green Buffer for Waste Water Treatment Plant
- Redesign of Positioning of Park Infrastructure and Layout
- Improvement of the Specifications

16. The design review and modification task was assigned to TRTA consultant. Modification of

the design required review and update of the LARP that was also assigned to TRTA team and modified LARP was submitted to TDF in the beginning of month December 2022. After review and approval by TDF, the LARP will be submitted to ADB for review and approval that will happen in February 2023.

17. In January 2022, the supervision company was mobilized and the national social safeguard personnel is already onboard.

18. The draft LARP is based on detail design and includes: (I) information on type and number of affected assets and households, (II) information on affected businesses and respective compensation, (III) information on vulnerable and severely affected households and respective allowances, (IV) summary of consultations carried out, (V) LARP implementation tentative budget and timeline, (VI) information on respective legal framework, compensation calculation principles and livelihood restoration options and, and (VII) grievance redress mechanism. Although the LARP is based on detailed design and final DMS/census, it still needs to be updated to incorporate the results of public consultation on the proposed compensation and mitigation options and seek AP's feedback, as well as disclose the GRM. Besides, some design modifications are also proposed and needs to be considered during the LARP update.

19. The project envisages severe impacts as it will have permanent impacts on lands, trees/crops and other productive assets, will require permanent physical relocation of businesses from project area. The impacts for the project and number of affected HH and persons is provided in table 2 below.

**Table 2 Summary of Land Acquisition and Resettlement Impacts (draft LARP for Dighomi)**

| N | Impact Item   | Number/<br>Area |
|---|---|-----------------|
|   | <b>Total area of land to be affected by resettlement (m<sup>2</sup>) (all municipal-owned), of which:</b>         | 9,368.95        |
|   | -total area of cultivated agricultural land plots (m <sup>2</sup> )   | 800.95          |
|   | -total area of unused /barren -agricultural land plots (m <sup>2</sup> )  | 7,068           |
|   | -total area of occasionally used as pasture land for calves (m <sup>2</sup> )                                     | 1,500           |
|   | <b>Total number of lands to be affected by resettlement (all municipal-owned), of which:</b>                      | 7               |
|   | -total number of cultivated agricultural land plots   | 2               |
|   | -total number of unused /barren -agricultural land plots  | 4               |
|   | -total number of land plots occasionally used as pasture land for calves  | 1               |
|   | -total number of land plots with structures   | 6               |
|   | <b>Total number of affected structures (all non-residential), of which</b>  | 13              |
|   | - In use  | 9               |
|   | - Not in use  | 4               |
|   | <b>Total number of affected households (AH) and persons (AP), of which:</b>                                       | <b>7/35*</b>    |
|   | Number of AHs/APs due to project works on their cultivated agricultural land plots                                | 2/7             |
|   | Number of AHs/APs due to project works on their unused /barren -agricultural land plots                           | 4/23            |
|   | Number of AHs/APs due to project works on their fenced land plots   | 6/30            |
|   | Number of AHs/APs due to project works on the land plot they use for keeping domestic animals (cows, pigs, sheep) | 4/20            |
|   | Number of AHs/APs due to project works on the land plot with structures   | 6/30            |
|   | <b>Number of AHs/APs due to project works effect on their movable structures</b>                                  | <b>7/35</b>     |
|   | - In use  | 5/25            |
|   | - Not in use  | 5/28            |

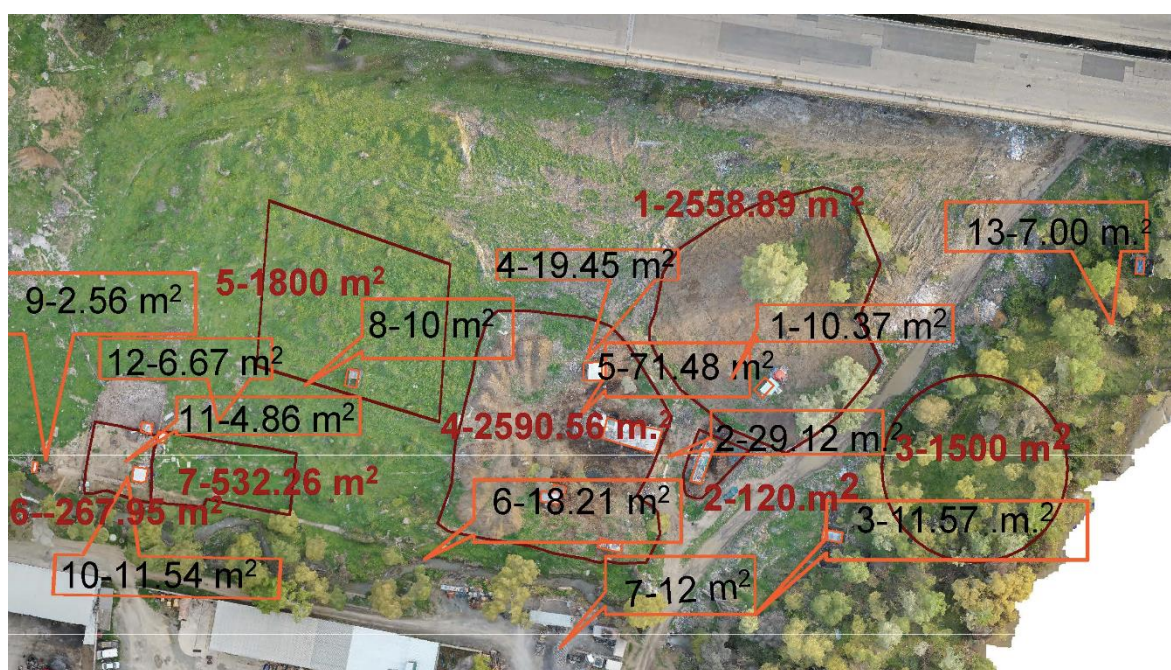


|                          |  |      |
|--------------------------|--|------|
|                          | <b>Number of AHs/APs due to permanent impact on operational business</b> | 5/25 |
|                          | <b>Number of vulnerable households/persons</b>                           | 7/35 |
|                          | <b>Number of severely affected households/persons</b>                    | 5/25 |
|                          | <b>Total number of relocated AHs/APs</b>                                 | 7/35 |
| *Without double counting |  |      |

20. The preparation of the LARP included the results of consultation and participation process. The focus of these consultations effectively ensured that APs and other stakeholders would be well informed of the Project and of the LAR process and could participate in planning. The final LARP and the information booklet in Georgian language will be disclosed on the website of TDF and in English language on ADB website. Information booklet in Georgian language will be also distributed to APs during the implementation. LARP will be reviewed and modified (if required) according to the revised design.

Initial LARP was disclosed to public on July 16, 2021. The modified LARP will be disclosed in February 2023.

Figure 3. Map of the affected land plots and main structures



21. The TDF will implement the LARP, with the support of the TCH. Internal resettlement monitoring will be done by the TDF in close collaboration with ADB project team. TDF social safeguard expert has been engaged to ensure the update of LARP into implementation-ready status, its disclosure as well as its implementation and monitoring activities.

**Table 3. Dighomi Municipal Park LARP Update Timeline**

| <b>N</b> | <b>Activities</b>  | <b>Due Date</b> |
|----------|--|-----------------|
| 1        | Update of LARP   | 14.12.2022      |
| 2        | LARP approved by TDF                                       | 20.02.2023      |
| 3        | LARP disclosure  | 25.02.2023      |
| 4        | LARP implementation completed (contracts and resettlement) | 1.04.2023       |

## 2.1.2 Rehabilitation of Vera Park

22. Vera Park is a functional park within the city created in the middle of 20th century. Vera Park is one of the attractions within the tourist hub of the historic city and is adjacent to Rustaveli metro station, accessible from most historical sites in and around Tbilisi. This park is also located within a range of a more residential community and plays a significant role in being a source of recreation for the local population besides the tourists. Vera Park is on the list of immovable cultural heritage monuments.

23. The proposed sub-project will enhance the quality of the park in the context, nature, environment as well as recent developments around the park and improve the amenities and services within. The scope of the work would involve:

### a. Area Development

- i. Enhanced landscaping of the park and provision of additional plantation/ greenery
- ii. Rehabilitation of fences and gates (on the park perimeter)
- iii. Arrangement of public spaces and installation of associated equipment (playground, attraction, pergolas, benches, etc.)
- iv. An augmentation of thematic interpretation of natural ecosystems, and its presentation

### b. Traffic and Transportation

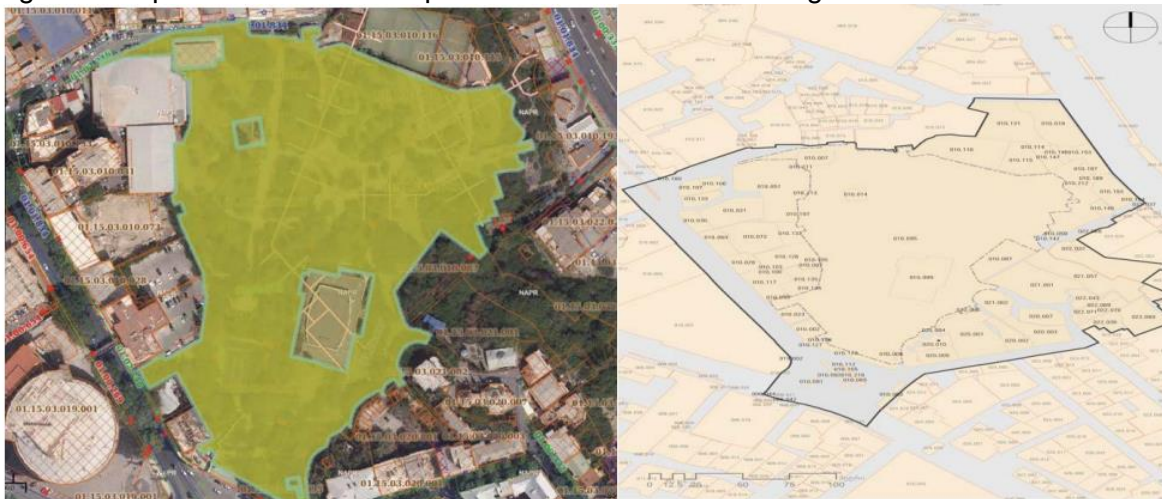
- i. Parking off-site (including underground parking)
- ii. Walkways

### c. Amenities

- i. Arrangements for basic utilities: water management and drainage
- ii. Signages
- iii. Comfort Station (including for persons with disabilities)
- iv. Playgrounds for children v. Sports facilities

24. The Park will be arranged on the territories registered as mixed property with cadastral codes and areas: 01.15.03.010.095 – 39,392.00 m<sup>2</sup> (municipal), 01.15.03.010.089 - 2,339 m<sup>2</sup> (municipal), 01.15.03.010.007 – 532.41 m<sup>2</sup> (private), 01.15.03.010.014 – 270 m<sup>2</sup> (municipal), 01.15.03.010.009 - 55.00 m<sup>2</sup> (mixed-private and state), 01.15.03.010.196 -3 m<sup>2</sup> (municipal) (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. Topo and Cadastral Maps of the area with the buildings



25. The purpose of the project is to rehabilitate Park, within its historical borders with the total area of 42,591.41 m<sup>2</sup>. The project will include rehabilitation of fountain/pool and other Park infrastructure (benches, lighting, dustbins, etc.) and restoration of vegetation. Due to identified areas important for birds it was recommended to register on state property additional unregistered land along the river embankment, before it is used for other purposes that might serve as disturbing factor for birds.

26. Draft Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plan (LARP) prepared for the Project by Construction Supervision Company in January 2022 in compliance with Project LARF.

27. The LARP was draft and based on very initial design and included: (I) preliminary information on type and number of affected assets and households, (II) preliminary information on affected businesses, (III) preliminary information on vulnerable and severely affected households, (IV) summary of initial consultations carried out, (V) LARP tentative implementation timeline, (VI) information on respective legal framework, compensation calculation principles and livelihood restoration options and, and (VII) grievance redress mechanism.

28. The project envisages severe impact as it will have permanent impacts on nonagricultural lands, residential structures, vulnerable persons, and will require permanent physical relocation/stoppage of businesses from project area. The impacts for the project and number of affected HH and persons identified by the initial LARP document is provided in table 4 below

**Table 4: Summary of Land Acquisition and Resettlement Impacts (draft LARP for Vera Park)**

| <b>NN</b> | <b>Impact Item</b>   | <b>Number/Area</b> |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | Total area of land to be affected by resettlement (m2 ) (all municipal-owned), of which: | <b>1,862.00</b>    |
|           | -total area of land unused (m2 )   | 628.00             |
|           | -total area of land used as parking space (m2 )  | 1,234.00           |
| <b>2</b>  | Total number of lands to be affected by resettlement (all municipal-owned), of which:    | 2                  |
|           | -total number of unused land plots   | 1                  |
|           | -total area of land used as parking  | 1                  |
| <b>3</b>  | Total number of affected structures, of which  | 3                  |
|           | - Non residential/temporary structures   | 2                  |
|           | - Residential structures   | 1                  |
| <b>4</b>  | total number of affected households (AH) and persons (AP), of which:                     | 1/2                |
|           | Number of AHs/APs due to project works on their residential structures                   | 1/2                |
| <b>5</b>  | Number of ABs due to project works effect on their movable structures                    | 4                  |
|           | - In use   | 2                  |
|           | - Not in use   | 2                  |
| <b>6</b>  | Number of AHs/APs due to permanent impact on operational business                        | 4/10               |
| <b>7</b>  | Number of vulnerable households/persons  | 1/2                |
| <b>8</b>  | Number of severely affected households/persons   | 1/2                |
| <b>9</b>  | Total number of relocated AHs/APs  | 1/2                |
| <b>10</b> | Total number of relocated ABs  | 4                  |
|           |  |                    |

29. During the reporting period the Consultant has submitted detailed design and the LARP update will be finished in February 2023 for submission to ADB.

30. Internal resettlement monitoring will be done by the TDF in close collaboration with ADB project team. The TRTA local Consultant was engaged to prepare the draft LARP, follow-up with its update and approval. TDF social safeguard expert has been engaged to ensure the update of LARP into implementation-ready status, its disclosure as well as its implementation and monitoring activities. TDF will be supported by safeguards staff of supervision consultant to monitor the social safeguards compliance of the project

**Table 5. Vera Municipal Park LARP Update Timeline**

| <b>N</b> | <b>Activities</b> | <b>Due Date</b>   |
|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>1</b> | Update of LARP    | <b>28.02.2023</b> |

|   |  |            |
|---|--|------------|
| 2 | LARP approved by TDF                             | 14.03.2023 |
| 3 | LARP disclosure                                  | 20.03.2023 |
| 4 | LARP implementation (contracts and resettlement) | 1.05.2023  |

### 2.1.3 Preparation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, SUMP

31. Tbilisi suffers from traffic congestion on major arterials during morning and evening peak hours, and air and noise pollution. The biggest contributor to air pollution is motorized transport. Noise, soot, and vibration also degrade the urban environment and damage Tbilisi's historical heritage. The increased usage of private cars is also impacting the pedestrian infrastructure, as vehicles frequently occupy footpaths. Tbilisi also largely lacks segregated bus ways, and thus operational speeds and customer amenity are hindered by slow bus speeds. The number of road crashes and fatalities is also a problematic area with little improvements in latest years.

32. The objective of this study is the preparation of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) for the Tbilisi agglomeration. The SUMP should build on the Tbilisi Sustainable Urban Transport (SUT) Strategy and other previous studies, assess diverse development scenarios, define investment priorities, and provide a clear roadmap for implementation.

33. The SUMP is aimed at the creation of an effective and inclusive transport system ensuring equal accessibility and sustainable mobility to and within the city. The planning level for the SUMP is the "functioning city" rather than the City's administrative borders and the study needs to analyze the mobility situation including the agglomeration, but also assessing the intercity connectivity and its integration with urban transport systems beyond the agglomeration.

34. The planning principles for the SUMP are based on SUMP EU guidelines (Guidelines: Developing and Implementing a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan) and modern planning approaches.

- Ensuring affordable, safe and sustainable mobility and equal access to urban opportunities for all
- Creation of integrated transport system with well-defined and balanced hierarchy between the modes
- Ensuring integration between different sectors and different levels of decision-making
- Ensuring participation and involvement of all stakeholders throughout the process of SUMP development and implementation
- Ensuring implementation of the plan by assessing the financial, human, technical and institutional capacities
- Setting clear framework for monitoring and evaluation of plan implementation.

35. The contract date was ended on 31st of August. The Consultant failed to implement the sub-project. According to the contract the Consultant was committed to submit 16 deliverables, out of which only 4 was submitted. The City Hall reviewed performance of the consultant and made decision on extension of the existing contract till September 2023.

### 2.1.4 Tourist Transport Services on the Mtkvari River in Tbilisi, Development of a Waterfront Development Vision Plan, Scoping Study Legal and Regulatory Framework Inland Water Transport

36. The study determined the feasibility of water transport services on the Mtkvari River. The work included a detailed analysis of the Mtkvari riverbed and preparation of the associated survey studies on the hydrological, ecological, engineering and transport (navigation) conditions. The work also included the identification and costing of the required associated infrastructure and equipment, including vessels, structures/buildings, quays, launch points, pedestrian access, pipelines, bridges, and electric service lines, located in or crossing the riverbed. The analysis elaborated on the financial and economic justification of the potential investment in transport and touristic development of the Mtkvari River.

37. Under the survey, the Consultant prepared recommendations concerning measures aimed at identification of navigation routes (passenger and touristic) on the Mtkvari River, and namely in the section covering the distance from Ortachala HPS to Zemo Avchala HPS. If required for safe navigation of vessels, the Consultant also produced a conceptual design of riverbed formation.

38. Subject to the findings and viable options identified by the feasibility study, detailed designs of the public transport and touristic development of the Mtkvari River was prepared accordingly. It was expected that the designs would incorporate nature-based solutions and ensure climate-friendly and climate resilient public transport and tourism development on the Mtkvari River.

39. The principal activities and objectives of this Feasibility Study on the transport services on the Mtkvari River are:

- ✓ Determine the ridership potential for tourist and commuter services on the Mtkvari River;
- ✓ Identify routes, within Ortachala HPS - Zemo Avchala HPS section, for navigation of passenger and touristic vessels;
- ✓ Determine locations for arrangement of vessel quays/deployment points;
- ✓ Determine the types of passenger and touristic vessels (considering their overall dimensions and other technical parameters), which will be able to safely navigate on the Mtkvari River in an environmentally sustainable manner;
- ✓ Determine the associated infrastructure requirements (passenger access, piers and quays, boat launches, commercial kiosks and shops, catering facilities, public space, etc.) and provide a preliminary costing of such infrastructure; and
- ✓ Conduct an economic and financial analysis of the proposed services.
- ✓ Also, to draft a vision for the development of Tbilisi's Mtkvari River waterfront between Ortachala and Tamar Bridge which should provide TCH with a framework towards a successful waterfront development in the short, medium and long term.

40. The vision plan forms a firm basis for further market studies, surveys, stakeholder engagement, detailed integrated planning and engineering.

41. Feasibility study report was submitted and approved by TCH in September 2022. Study showed that establishment of Mtkvari River transportation is not feasible.

### **2.1.5 Universal Access and Inclusive Mobility to the Tbilisi Metro System**

42. Tbilisi is the capital of Georgia. With a metropolitan area population of 1.46 million, the area makes up approximately 40% of the national population. The Tbilisi metro system was commissioned in 1966. It now spreads over 27.3 km with 23 stations on two lines. The red line, or "Akhmeteli-Varketili", is 19.6 km long and serves 16 stations. The green line, or "Saburtalo Line", serves 7 stations on an alignment of 7.7 km. It has been recently extended to State University. 21 out of 23 stations are below ground and two are at surface level. Among the underground stations, 18 are deep (tunneled stations) and 5 are shallow. Metro boarding was 374,817 pax daily in February 2020 prior to Covid crisis with a strong distinction between line 1 (78% of network boarding) and line 2 (22%).

43. Yet currently, only a small portion of the Metro system is accessible to people with disabilities, elderly people, and parents with strollers and young children. This makes traveling by Metro as a person from one of these groups, nearly impossible. Additionally, even where the Metro is relatively accessible underground, access to the station entrances can be difficult or even impossible for many people.

44. The ADB is providing financing for upgrading the Tbilisi Metro system for full accessibility at four stations – Akhmeteli Theater, Avlabari, Didube, Delisi, Technical University – as well as for the second access for two stations - Akhmeteli Theatre and Marjanishvili. Additionally, the ADB is providing financing for outdoor accessibility to twelve stations – Ghrmaghele, Nazaladevi, Station Square, Marjanishvili, Rustaveli, Liberty, 300 Aragveli, 3 Isani, Technical University, Delisi, Avlabari, Didube, and Akhmeteli Theatre – while the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will provide financing for indoor accessibility at eight of those twelve stations.

45. Pre-feasibility study was finalized in June 2022. ToR for Consultant for feasibility study and detained design was elaborated and announced October 6, 2022. Express of interest was ended on 4<sup>th</sup> of November and TDF provided submission 1 to ADB on December 2, 2022.

### **2.1.6 Development Strategy for Dighomi Floodplain Rehabilitation**

46. The Dighomi Floodplain is distinguished by a unique ecosystem that is typical for floodplain forest and not usual for the cities. The forest is dominated with the following species: Aspen, Oak, Willow. The floodplain is the habitat for wild flora and fauna, even the Red List species and species of high conservation present in this area, one of the examples is the *Lutra lutra*.

47. The Dighomi Floodplain area covers the otter Island that is nominated to be designated as an Emerald site in frame of Bern Convention. The Tbilisi Otter Island is assessed as Critical Habitat in accordance with IFC PS6 and GD 6.

48. Importance of riparian forest is significant in prevention of natural disasters. They reduce the risk of flooding by absorbing the water and mitigating the impact of the on the landscape. The riparian forest protects river from erosion, reduces contamination and improves the quality of surface water. Biodiversity value of the Dighomi Floodplain is increased by the numbers of lakes that present in the area; they represent habitat of species which are common for wetland environment.

49. During elaboration of Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) report for the Sub-project "Arrangement of Municipal Park in Dighomi Floodplains, Tbilisi Municipality" it was revealed that forest cover of the floodplain has been significantly reduced, and unique ecosystem is being degraded. IEE public disclosure process showed high interest of stakeholder in the Dighomi Floodplain development perspective.

50. TDF, with support of ADB initiated the process of development of the Dighomi Floodplain strategy that will be long-term view of and strategic plan for restoration of the Dighomi floodplain, which need to be aligned to LCIP and linked to sub-projects implemented under the LCIP. The strategic plan shall include short, medium- and long-term development concepts. The core principle of the strategy shall be environment protection and preservation of unique characteristics of the riparian forest.

51. ToR for Development Strategy for Dighomi Floodplain rehabilitation was finalized in September 2022. Invitation for Expression interest was published September 29, 2022. After consultant selection committee short listed 5 companies for further submission of technical and financial proposal. Letter of invitation will be issued in January 2023.

### **2.2 Institutional arrangements**

52. The main institutions that will be involved in implementation of the SSMP and monitoring are the executing agency (EA) - TDF, Project Management Consultant (PMC), the Construction Supervision Consultant (CSC), the Contractor and to a lesser extent the Ministry of Internally Displaced Peoples from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs. EA, PMC and CSC are responsible for ensuring monitoring of the project implementation at the construction stage. Ministry of Internally Displaced Peoples from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs has the authority for periodic inspection but should not be considered as a party responsible for monitoring according to this LARP.

53. Currently, EA and PMC have Social safeguard specialists on board. Environmental and Social Safeguard tasks are assigned to one person at EA. But EA plans to hire Social Safeguard Specialist as soon as the tender for the construction of Dighomi Municipal Park is announced, which is due to take place in the summer of 2023.

## **2.3 Project Activities during Current Reporting Period**

### **2.3.1 The Physical Progress for Implementation of the Project and other Project related Activities**

54. During the reporting period there was no physical activity related to implementation of any subproject.

55. Other project related activities include elaboration of ToRs Development Strategy for Dighomi Floodplain rehabilitation (see paragraph 51) and Feasibility Study and Detailed Design for Universal Access and Inclusive Mobility to the Tbilisi Metro System sub-project (see paragraph 45). First submissions were approved by ADB and invitation for technical and financial expression interests will be announced in January 2023.

56. LARP for Dighomi Floodplain Municipal Park was modified according to the detailed design changes and will be shortly sent to the ADB for review and comments. Vera Municipal Park LARP is under finalization and is expected to be submitted to TDF by the end of February 2023.

### **2.3.2 Design Changes and social safeguards aspects**

57. During the reporting period Dighomi Municipal Park Arrangement sub-project design change took place the process was initiated from IEE document disclosure to community and Dighomi Floodplain Defenders group (see paragraph 16). Design is finalized and submitted to TDF for review. LARP and IEE being modified accordingly.

### **2.3.3 Description of Any Changes to Agreed Construction methods**

58. N/A

## **3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION**

59. During the reporting period no public consultation and information dissemination activities have been implemented as all projects are under the documents elaboration or modification stage.

## **4 GRIEVANCE MANAGEMENT**

60. A grievance redress mechanism (GRM) is established by TDF to allow APs to appeal any disagreeable decision, practice or activity arising during the project implementation. GRM was communicated to APs and stakeholders during the consultations held. So far no written or verbal complaints have been received as implementation of the Projects has not been started.

## **5 OTHER SOCIAL SAFEGUARD ACTIVITIES**

### **5.1 Meetings and Missions**

61. During the reporting period two ADB Safeguard missions took place (13-20 September 2022 and 24 January – 2 February 2023) that was followed the activity review processes and safeguard trainings.

## 5.2 Site inspections/monitoring

62. N/A.

## 6. NEXT STEPS

63. For the next reporting period the following activities will be carried out:

- 1) Approve Dighomi Municipal Park LARP
- 2) Conduct Dighomi Municipal Park LARP disclosure to public
- 3) Start implementation of Dighomi Municipal Park LARP
- 4) Monitor and audit implementation of Dighomi Municipal Park LARP
- 5) Update and approve Vera Park LARP
- 6) Conduct Vera Park LARP disclosure to public
- 7) Start implementation of Vera Park LARP
- 8) Monitor and audit implementation of Vera Park Rehabilitation LARP
- 9) Continue implementation and monitoring of other social activities
- 10) Recruit social safeguard specialist

### **ANNEX I Grievance and Redress Mechanism Established under TDF**

In projects implemented by TDF, grievance resolution is viewed as a two-stage process. The first stage involves locally available means, such as discussing the concern with Deputy Resident Engineer or Contractor, on site focal point from Supervision Consultant / Contractor, or/and writing to local municipality for resolution of grievances on the spot. The grievance redress mechanism shall deal with the issues of e.g. amount of compensation, loss of access roads, etc. as well as the losses and damages caused by the construction works, e.g. temporary or permanent occupation of land by the contractor. Therefore, the GRM shall be in place by the time the TDF starts negotiations with the APs and shall function until the completion of the construction.

### **Grievance Resolution Process**

Stage 1 of Grievance Redress procedures is an informal tool of dispute resolution allowing the APs and the project implementation team to resolve the disagreement without any formal procedures, procrastination and impediments. The international experience of resettlement shows that such informal GRM helps to solve most of the complaints without formal procedures (i.e. without using the procedures specified in the Administrative Code or litigation). This mechanism enables unimpeded implementation of the Project and timely satisfaction of complaints. If the AP is not satisfied, the GRM should assist them in lodging an official complaint in accordance with the procedures of Stage 2 (the plaintiff should be informed of his/her rights and obligations, rules and procedures of making a complaint, format of complaint, terms of complaint submission, etc.).

Stage 2 of Grievance Redress procedures is review of APs' complaint. (GRC) for the whole period of the project implementation. GRC shall review the written complaints of APs, which were not satisfied at Stage 1. At stage 2 the APs' complaint shall be resolved and GRC shall make a decision in compliance with the Administrative Code of Georgia.

The present Procedures are developed specifically for the purposes of Stage 2 process of grievance resolution by the GRC. The purpose of these GRC Procedures is to make TDF more accessible to the Project affected communities and help ensure efficient resolution of project-related complaints.



The complaint shall be filed to the Service Centers of Tbilisi Municipality located in the district administrations and the City Hall, in writing, in Georgian, in person (also through a proxy, on the basis of a proper Power of Attorney) or by mail, using Grievance Form provided in Annex 1.

Upon receipt of the complaint, it will be registered at the Front Office of TDF. The complainant shall be given a receipt as a proof of submission of his/her complaint (both verbal and written) to the TDF. The Front Office shall immediately ensure that the complaint is forwarded to the Fund's management for further redistribution: within 5 working days of their receipt by the reception office, it will forward the appropriate claims to the relevant responsible person. TDF staff will register the complaint in its electronic database. Upon registration in the database the complaint will be assigned a number.

Within 15 working days of registration of the complaint in the database the TDF staff will:

1. Determine if additional information and/or documents necessarily need to be provided by the complainant, and if so, request the complainant in writing to submit such additional information/documents.
2. Obtain relevant and necessary information internally, from TDF's various departments or from project partners.
3. Decide on the date when the complaint shall be presented to the GRC for hearing;
4. Inform the complainant of such date, if necessary; and
5. Update the status of the complaint in the database.

Grievance Redress Committee Hearing shall be held at least once a month. Any complaint must be heard within 70 working days upon its registration at the TDF reception. The agenda of the GRC hearing, with a list of complaints to be reviewed at that hearing shall be set in advance. Such an agenda, together with a brief summary on each complaint shall be sent to each member of the GRC at least 3 working days prior to the date of the GRC hearing. The decision of the Committee will be considered valid if it is attended by more than 50% of the members.

Composition of GRC (Grievance Redress Committee)

| <b>N</b> | <b>Position/Entity</b>  | <b>Role</b>                      |
|----------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1.       | Director of TDF   | Chairman of the Committee        |
| 2.       | Deputy Director of TDF, in the field of public relations        | Deputy Chairman of the Committee |
| 3.       | Deputy Director of TDF, in the field of construction management | Committee Member                 |
| 4.       | Deputy Director of TDF, Program Manager                         | Committee Member                 |
| 5.       | Head of the Legal Department, TDF                               | Committee Member                 |

The process of addressing the complaint by GRC will involve the following steps:

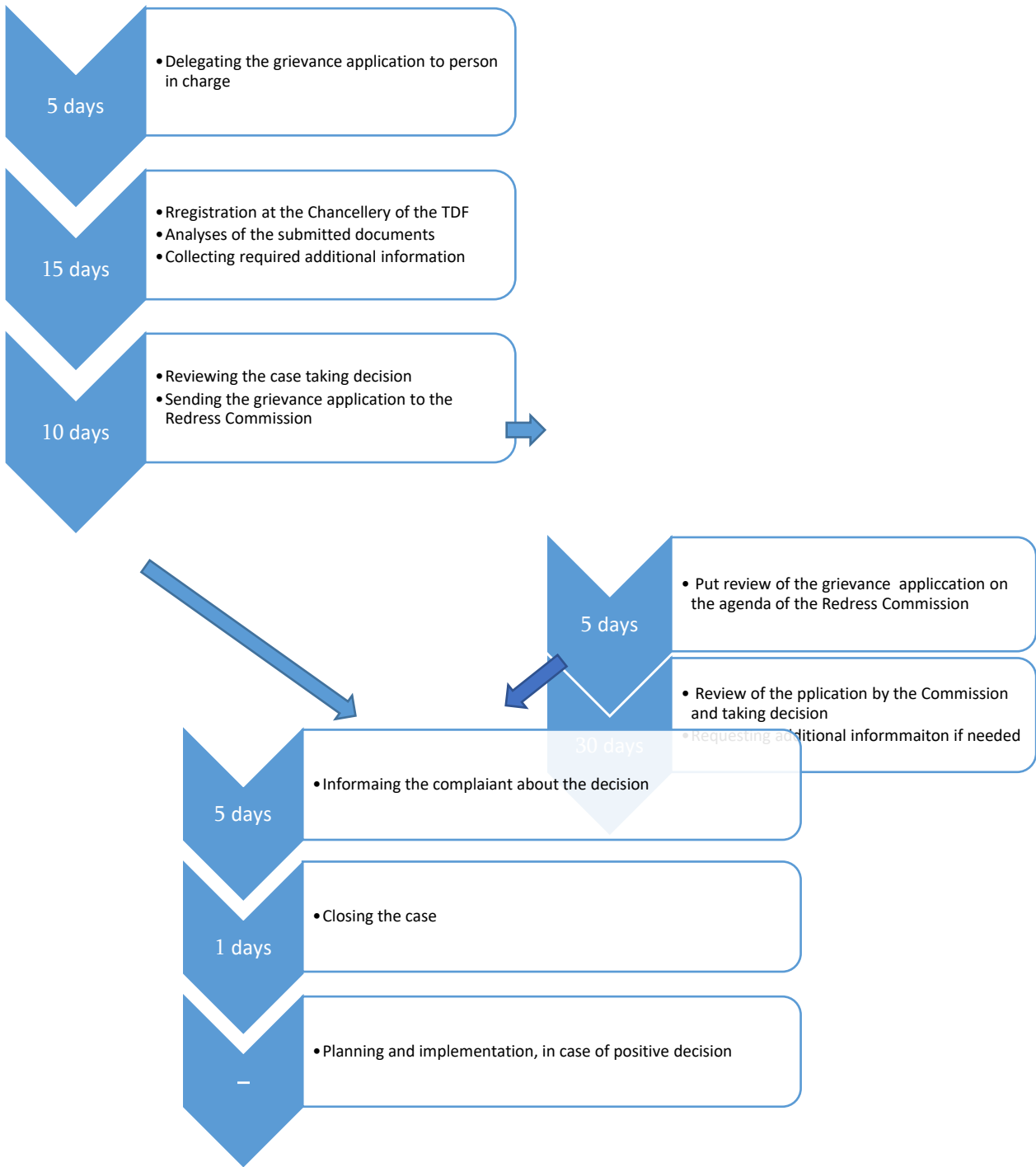
- The staff member responsible for each complaint shall first present a short description/summary of the complaint, and then answer any questions the GRC members may have. Final decision based on the deliberations and discussions is made by the Committee by the majority of votes. If need be, the complainant may be invited to the hearing to present evidence related to the case. Copy of the minutes from the hearing shall be provided to the relevant IFI.
- The decision adopted by the committee shall be signed by the members within five working days of such hearing. The final decision shall contain a timeline of its implementation.

- The information letter (regarding the decision) to the complainant shall be sent in writing within two working days after signing of the resolution by the Executive Director. The response provided to complainant(s) should be informative and include relevant details.
- Safeguards Unit will update the status of the complaint in the database accordingly.
- TDF's appropriate Unit shall be responsible for the follow up and implementation of the GRC decision in accordance with the resolution. Safeguards unit shall report to each following GRC meeting on the progress and status of implementation of the previous GRC meeting decisions.
- Implementation time frame will be case specific but should not normally exceed 100 days. GRC secretary will monitor implementation of the actions.
- When all actions decided at the GRC hearing have been taken, the complaint is considered closed. The GRC will inform the complainant that all actions have been taken and the problem has been resolved and closed, and/or that the complaint has been rejected and is closed. If no response is received from the complainant within three weeks, the complaint shall be considered officially closed.

If the TDF decision fails to satisfy the aggrieved APs, they can pursue further action by submitting their case to the appropriate court of law.

The complaints and grievances will be addressed through the process described below in figure 16.

# Grievance redress process



The GRC established under TDF does not in any way impede APs access to the judicial or administrative remedies of the Country of Georgia.