



# REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

## SOCIAL INVESTMENT AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

November 2014  
(updated in January 2020)

## **List of Acronyms**

<b>ATDF</b>	Armenia Territorial Development Fund
<b>ASIF</b>	Armenia Social Investment Fund
<b>BP</b>	Bank Procedures
<b>EIA</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>ESMP</b>	Environmental and Social Management Plan
<b>ESMF</b>	Environmental and Social Management Framework
<b>GRM</b>	Grievance Redress Mechanisms
<b>MoE</b>	Ministry of Environment
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organisation
<b>OHS</b>	Occupational, Health and Safety
<b>OP</b>	Operational Policy
<b>PAPs</b>	Project Affected Persons
<b>PIAs</b>	Project Implementing Agencies
<b>RoA</b>	Republic of Armenia
<b>RPF</b>	Resettlement Policy Framework
<b>RAP</b>	Resettlement Action Plan
<b>SILD</b>	Social Investment and Local Development
<b>SILD AF</b>	Social Investment and Local Development project's Additional Financing
<b>SNCO</b>	State Non-commercial Organisation

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Project Description.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Environmental and Social Legislation and the Institutional Framework.....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Environmental Legislation:.....	5
3.2 Social Legislation.....	8
<b>4. World Bank Safeguard Policies Triggered .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>5. Institutional Framework.....</b>	<b>10</b>
5.1 Rationale for Preparation of Resettlement Policy Framework .....	11
5.2 Objective and Principles of the Resettlement Policy Framework .....	12
<b>6. Environmental and Social Policies Applied to the SILD Project.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7. Environmental and Social Review at Various Stages of the Micro-project and Sub-project Cycle.....</b>	<b>14</b>
7.1 Environmental and Social Review at the Preliminary Appraisal Stage.....	14
7.2 Environmental and Social Review at the Final Appraisal Stage .....	15
7.3 Environmental and Social Review at the Implementation Stage.....	15
<b>8. Potential Impacts and Risks .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>9. Impact Mitigation.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>10. Public Consultation and Coordination.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>11. Environmental and Social Management Plan .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>12. Environmental and Social Monitoring and Reporting .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Annex 1. PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW CHECKLIST.....	24
Annex 2. FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW CHECKLIST .....	28
Annex 3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN CHECKLIST.....	29
Annex 4. FIELD ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MONITORING CHECKLIST .	38
Annex 5. MINUTES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING (2014 YEAR) .....	41

## **1. Introduction**

This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is designed for use by the staff of Armenia Territorial Development Fund (ATDF) for the purposes of implementing Social Investment and Local Development (SILD) Project, including activities supported with Additional Financing (AF), as well as by local communities and Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs), engineers, environmental consultants, and other stakeholders. Specifically, the Guidelines are intended to ensure that environmental and social concerns are duly taken into account in the process of micro-projects' or subprojects' design, selection, approval, and implementation in accordance with the environmental and social legislation of Armenia and the World Bank's safeguard policies. ESMF was initially developed, disclosed, discussed with stakeholders and finalized in November 2014. Present document is an update of the original ESMF prepared upon provision of the AF to the SILD Project.

ESMF lays out procedures and implementation arrangements for ensuring good environmental and social performance of SILD Project. It describes existing environmental and social regulations and standards of the Republic of Armenia (RoA) relevant to the Project and makes reference to institutions at the local and national levels responsible for issuing permits, licenses, and enforcing compliance with environmental standards.

ESMF also provides detailed guidelines for the SILD Project staff and the Project proponents on environmental and social screening, appraisal, and monitoring to be applied to the micro-projects and subprojects. Each micro-project and subproject will be individually screened and reviewed by ATDF to identify any expected negative impacts and propose respective mitigations measures.

The main part of the ESMF lays out the requirements for environmental and social assessment at various stages of the community based micro-project and subproject cycle. It contains formats of environmental and social checklists which are an important tool for environmental and social review of micro-project or subproject proposals.

## **2. Project Description**

The project development objective is to improve the quality of, as well as the use of and access to community and intercommunity infrastructure.

The project includes three components:

*Component 1 - Support to Socioeconomic Development and Capacity Building at the Local Level.* This component will be expanded to finance micro-projects in additional communities. The AF would continue to finance micro-projects that target vulnerable communities to address priority basic needs. Community investment microprojects are chosen using a two-stage poverty targeting strategy, with the first level defining broad allocations for marzes, and the second level identifying needy communities. Through the microproject process, SILD conducts the following activities: (a) rehabilitates and develops community infrastructure and services (public, social, economic, and environmental); (b) builds institutional and financial capacity at the community level to develop and implement these projects and services; and (c) provides consultancy and technical assistance to local partners, such as public information centers and community councils. The menu of microprojects to be financed under this component includes: (i) renovation and rehabilitation of key social, publicly owned infrastructure covering education (kindergarten, primary, secondary, and special schools) and health (primary health care clinics); (ii) multipurpose community centers; (iii) social service centers for vulnerable groups; (iv) water supply systems; (v) sanitation systems; (vi) minor irrigation works; (vii) rural electrification; (viii) school heating systems; (ix) and rehabilitation of gymnasiums and playgrounds. Depending on the priority needs identified by selected communities, new small-scale construction projects could also be financed. This

component also finances goods, primarily in the form of furniture and equipment, for the rehabilitated infrastructure. To follow up on lessons learned from the implementation of SILD so far, the AF would strengthen community participation practices.

*Component 2 - Support to Intercommunity Social and Economic Development Initiatives.* Original Component 2 supports the process of enlargement of administrative units, known as enlargement/consolidation of communities. The subprojects under Component 2 are therefore larger in size (US\$300,000-400,000). Similar to the original SILD Project, the AF will have no sub-components to Component 2. As technical reviews during implementation of the SILD Project have established that there is a drive to strengthen participation/promotion by communities, the AF would support strengthening community participation procedures, and would earmark two windows of financing. The First Window (at least 80% of this component total cost) would expand the coverage into new enlarged communities to support the process of consolidation. The Second Window (up to 20% of total component cost) would provide financing for second generation innovative sub-projects in new communities or in communities, which have already benefitted from the component under the original SILD Project, SILD Trust Fund project, or USAID project. Communities that have already successfully implemented one sub-project, would be given the opportunity for a second sub-project of a different type. Matching funding from the Government, the subvention program, or other sources could be sought for these second-generation sub-projects. All participating communities – especially the second-generation participants – would be required to demonstrate stronger participatory element and would be rewarded for innovative proposals. Within this component, 75% of component cost will be covered by the IBRD financing, 5% co-financed by communities, and 20% by the Government.

*Component 3 – ATDF Institutional Strengthening and Project Management.* ATDF's operating costs are funded at 30% by the World Bank under the SILD Project. This component would provide funds for operating costs of the project after the funds allocated for that purpose under the original loan have been exhausted. It is expected that the remaining funds under the original project would be sufficient for the first 18 months of AF operation after June 2020 (if operational costs remain unchanged). Funds for training and study tours would also be allocated under this component, as well as additional analytical work and evaluations. This component would also support the maintenance of the MIS, and training and capacity building in using the operations systems in the new communities.

### **3. Environmental and Social Legislation and the Institutional Framework**

#### ***3.1 Environmental Legislation:***

Since independence, the RoA has adopted a number of laws regulating environmental protection.

##### **- RoA Land Code (2001)**

The Land Code defines the main directives for management use of the state lands, included those allocated for various purposes, such as agriculture, urban construction, industry and mining, energy production, transmission and communication lines, transport and other purposes. The Code defines the lands under the specially protected areas as well as other reserved lands. It also establishes the measures aimed to the lands protection, as well as the rights of state bodies, local authorities and citizens towards the land.

- **RoA Water Code (2002)**

The main purpose of the Water Code is to provide the legal basis for the protection of the country's water resources, the satisfaction of water needs of citizens and economic sectors through effective management of water resources and ensuring protection of water resources for future generations. The Water Code regulates the following aspects: the responsibilities of state/local authorities and the public; the development of the national water policy and national water programme; the water resources register and monitoring system; public access to the relevant information; water use and permitting systems; transboundary water resources use; water quality standards; and the protection and State supervision of water resources.

- **RoA Law on Atmospheric Air Protection (1994)**

The objective of the Law is to provide the cleanness of the atmospheric air, elimination and prevention of the negative impact on the atmospheric air, as well as regulation of public relations in this field. The Law defines norms of permissible concentrations and physical negative impact as well as norms of permissible pollution from movable and unmovable sources.

- **RoA Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise (2014)**

The Law provides legal basis for state environmental impact expertise of proposed activity or concept document as well as presents the standard steps of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process in Armenia. It establishes the general legal and organizational principles for conducting mandatory EIA of various types of activities and concept documents of sectoral development. The proposed activities are classified into three categories reflecting different levels of environmental impact assessment according to severity of possible environmental impacts.

**RoA Law on Ensuring Sanitary-epidemiological Security of the RoA Population (1992)**

The Law sets legal, economic and institutional bases for ensured sanitary and epidemiological safety of the population, as well as other guaranties provided for by the State to exclude influence of adverse and hazardous factors on human organism and ensure favourable conditions for vital capacity of the present and future generations.

- **RoA Law on Environmental and Nature Use Charges (1998)**

This Law regulates calculation of payments for various types of nature protection and nature utilization activities (hereinafter payments), the order of their processing, liability in case of violation of the law, and other relations.

- **RoA Law on Flora (1999)**

The law defines RA state policy in the field of maintenance, protection, usage and regeneration of flora. The law defines objectives of flora examination, state monitoring, state inventory, requirements and approaches of red book preparation on flora, conditions, peculiarities, limitations of allocation of flora objects for purposeful usage, basis of termination of the right to use, provisions on flora maintenance, and economic encouragement of usage and implementation of supervision.

- **RoA Law on the Protection and Use of Fixed Cultural and Historic Monuments and Historic Environment (1998)**

This Law provides the legal and policy basis for the protection and use of such monuments in Armenia and regulates the relations between protection and use activities. Article 15 of the Law describes procedures for, among other things, the discovery and

state registration of monuments, the assessment of protection zones around them, and the creation of historic-cultural reserves. Article 22 requires the approval of the authorized body (Agency for the Protection of Monuments of History and Culture) before land can be allocated for construction, agricultural and other types of activities in areas containing monuments.

- **RoA Law on Rates of Nature Protection Payments (2006)**

This Law sets rates for nature protection payments and the mechanism of their calculation. The law specifies the rates of the payments for emission of harmful substances to the air from the cars, tracks used and owned by RoA individuals and legal entities. Higher rates are set for Yerevan and specially protected areas. The law defines the rates of the payments for emission of harmful substances and combinations to the water basin.

- **RoA Law on Fauna (2000)**

The law defines RoA state policy in the field of maintenance, protection, usage and regeneration of fauna. The law defines the objectives of survey of the fauna, State monitoring, state inventory, requirements and approaches of red book preparation on fauna, conditions, peculiarities, limitations of allocation of fauna objects for purposeful usage, basis of termination of the right to use, provisions on fauna maintenance, and economic encouragement of usage and implementation of supervision.

- **RoA Law on Wastes (2004)**

The law provides the legal and economic basis for collection, transportation, disposal, treatment, re-use of wastes as well as prevention of negative impacts of waste on natural resources, human life and health. The law defines objects of waste usage, the main principles and directions of state policy, the principles of state standardization, inventory, and introduction of statistical data, the implementation of their requirements and mechanisms, the principles of wastes processing, the requirements for presenting wastes for the state monitoring, activities to decrease the amount of the wastes, including nature utilization payments, as well as the compensation for the damages caused to the human health and environment by the legal entities and individuals, using the wastes, as well as requirements for state monitoring and legal violations.

- **RoA Law on Environmental Oversight (2005)**

This Law regulates the issues of organization and enforcement of oversight over the implementation of environmental legislation of the RoA, and defines the legal and economic bases underlying the specifics of oversight, the relevant procedures, conditions and relations, as well as environmental oversight in the RoA.

- **RoA Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas (2006)**

This Law defines legal basis and relations of state policy for development, restoration, maintenance, reproduction and use of natural complex and separate objects, as well as ecosystems of specially protected natural areas of the Republic. According to the law, specially protected natural areas are divided (i) into four categories: State Sanctuaries, National Parks, State Reserves and Natural Monuments; and (ii) into three separate types: areas of international, national and local significance.

- **RoA Law on Compensation Rates for Damage Caused as a Result of Environmental Infringements to Flora and Fauna (2005)**

This Law defines the rates of damage compensation caused as a result of environmental infringements to flora and fauna, as well as the calculation and collection procedure of these tariffs.

## **International Agreements**

In addition to the above presented list and summaries of laws, numerous strategies, concept frameworks, and national programs related to the nature protection have been developed as well as a number of international agreements and conventions have been signed and ratified by the RoA, including the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus, 1998).

### ***3.2 Social Legislation***

#### **- The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (1995, amended in 2015)**

The Constitution of Armenia was adopted by a nationwide Armenian referendum on July 5, 1995. The Constitution established Armenia as a democratic, sovereign, social, and constitutional state. Power is vested in its citizens, who exercise it directly through the election of government representatives. Decisions related to changes in constitutional status or to an alteration of borders are subject to a vote of the citizens of Armenia exercised in a referendum. There are 117 articles in the 1995 constitution. On November 27, 2005, a nationwide constitutional referendum was held and an amended constitution was adopted. The constitution was amended again in a national referendum on December 6, 2015 that changed the political structure from a semi-presidential system to a parliamentary republic.

#### **- The Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia (1999).**

The Civil Code determines the legal status of the participants in civil commerce, the bases for the origin and the procedure for the exercise of the right of ownership and other property rights, of exclusive rights to the results of intellectual activity (intellectual property), regulate contractual and other obligations and also other property relations and personal non-property relations related to them.

#### **- The Law on Alienation of Property for the Needs of Society and State (2006, amended in 2014 and 2018)**

The most important legal act dealing with the issues of land/property takings and resettlement issues is the Law on Alienation of Property for the Needs of Society and State. The Law stipulates the cases when the alienation of the property needs to be executed and the procedure how the alienation should be conducted.

#### **- The Land Code of the Republic of Armenia (2001)**

This Code establishes the legal basis of enhancement of state regulation of land relations, development of various forms of business of managing on the earth, increase of fertility of soils, efficiency of land use, protection and improvement favorable for life and human health of the environment and protection of land rights.

#### **- The Law on Real Estate Valuation Activity (2005)**

This Law defines the permissible grounds for real estate appraisal in the Republic of Armenia and regulates the relationships relating to real estate appraisal process. For the purposes of this Law, real estate valuation objects are real estate: plots, subsoil, isolated water objects, forests, perennial seedlings, underground and above ground buildings and other property attached to land, that is impossible to separate from the land without causing damage to that property or leading to the change of intended purpose.

- **The Code of Civil Procedure (2018)**

This Code establishes the procedure of civil proceedings in the Court of First Instance of the RoA, the Civil Court of Appeal of RoA and the Civil and Administrative Chamber of the Court of Cassation of RoA.

- **The Code of Administrative Procedure (2014)**

This Law establishes procedure for exercising the right of judicial protection of physical and legal persons against statutory legal and administrative acts, actions or inaction of state and local government bodies and their officials in the Administrative Court of RoA, the Administrative Court of Appeal of RoA and the Civil and administrative Chamber of the Court of Cassation of the RoA, as well as the procedure for examining the applications of administrative bodies and officials against physical and legal persons.

- **RoA Law on Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women (2013)**

On May 20, 2013 the Parliament of Armenia adopted the Law on Gender Equality, with 108 votes for and one against. This law regulates gender equality in all spheres of public life and protects women and men from gender discrimination. However in the end summer 2013, campaigns broke up against the use of the word “gender” in the law, the rationale being alleged association with paedophilia and bestiality that this work carries in the national perception. Groups of activists also claimed that using the word “gender” as a base for the law would mean giving “unwarranted benefits to sexual minorities.” As a reaction to the public opinion, the Government introduced amendments to the law that eliminate the term “gender equality” and use the term “equal rights to men and women” instead.

Armenia is a party to the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and pursues a policy of non-discrimination against women.

#### **4. World Bank Safeguard Policies Triggered**

The Project triggers OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment, because physical works for rehabilitation and construction of buildings will be financed. Based on the principles of this Policy, the SILD Project is classified as environmental Category B. Up to forty ISSCs will be selected, and detailed designs for their refurbishing will be developed on the rolling basis. Therefore, not all of these decisions will be made and not all designs be prepared by appraisal. However, the environmental and social risks related to the works at all of these ISSCs will be pretty similar and insignificant, and most of them are already known. Because of the above, the present ESMF is developed, which describes the main types of expected environmental and social impacts of the expected Project investments, and provides a generic set of their mitigation measures. ESMF also provides guidance for screening upcoming investment proposals, so that no activity gets supported if, by chance, it is associated with higher risks than a Category B Project should finance. Site-specific ESMPs will be prepared for individual investments once detailed designs get ready for them. Present ESMF carries a suggested template of an ESMP Checklist for Small Construction and Rehabilitation Activities (attachment I).

OP/BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement is being triggered on a precautionary basis as the type and location of new activities under the SILD Project are not yet known, and the type and scale of civil works and land acquisition are still to be determined. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has therefore been prepared and will be followed by all Project activities. The RPF will be consulted with stakeholders and disclosed publicly. Site-specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) will be prepared and implemented prior to commencement of works at any site where resettlement, land use or acquisition is required. However, no

micro and projects involving land acquisition (permanent or temporary) or resettlement will be approved.

The primary objective of the WB OP 4.12 is to explore all alternatives to avoid, or at least minimize, involuntary resettlement. Where resettlement is unavoidable, the living standards of displaced persons should be restored or improved relative to those conditions that prevailed prior to the Project. The policy applies to the taking of land and other assets when land acquisition results in the loss of shelter, the loss of all or part of productive assets, or access to them, and the loss of income sources or other means of livelihood. This policy also applies to other activities resulting in involuntary resettlement that in the judgment of the Bank, are (a) directly and significantly related to the Bank-assisted project, (b) necessary to achieve its objectives as set forth in the project documents; and (c) carried out, or planned to be carried out, contemporaneously with the project.

The SILD Project triggers the World Bank OP/BP 4.01 Environmental Assessment and OP/BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement. The present ESMF is developed in conformity with the guiding principles of the OP/BP 4.01. Following the requirements of this policy and the outline provided in the present ESMF, site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) will be prepared, disclosed, and opened for comments from stakeholders prior to tendering of works. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be developed as prescribed by OP/BP 4.12 to provide basis for handling any possible cases of land take, and temporary or permanent restriction of access to land or infrastructure by their formal and informal users. If resettlement needs arise for an individual work site, then a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will be developed according to the RPF and implemented prior to mobilization of contractor to this work site.

## **5. Institutional Framework**

This section briefly presents the roles of entities that may be involved in SILD project (including activities supported with AF) primarily but not exclusively from an environment perspective.

### **Armenian Territorial Development Fund**

ATDF bears overall responsibility for oversight and monitoring of all activities under this ESMF. ATDF will guide, supervise and report on progress in the components, and will handle environmental and social issues requiring action and coordination at the central government level.

ATDF will carry out environmental screening of subproject proposals, will classify them by environmental categories, assess potential environmental and social impacts of subprojects and define adequacy of the proposed mitigation measures. ATDF will also assist PIAs with the development of environmental management and monitoring plans for subprojects as required.

The responsibility for the assessment of social risks associated land acquisition/resettlement issues and recommendations for mitigation of such risks will be the responsibility of the social specialist working within ATDF. The ATDF's social specialist will receive baseline information with the help of civil engineers of the Project and carry out visual inspection of work sites. During implementation of ESMF, the ATDF social specialist will directly coordinate these works. Final responsibility for initiation and implementation of all activities relating to resettlement policy will be implemented by ATDF.

### **Ministry of Environment**

Ministry of Environment (MoE) elaborates and implements the policies of the RoA in the areas of environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources and is represented

by the Minister and the Staff of the Ministry. Within the system of the Ministry there are also State Non-Commercial Organizations (SNCO) and Institutions.

*Environmental Impact Expertise Centre SNCO* of the MoE conducts environmental assessments of design documentation for construction, reconstruction, extension and maintenance of industry related production units, auxiliary facilities and infrastructure, including waste utilization sector, according to the requirements of national legislation and ratified international agreements and issues experts' conclusions.

*Environmental Impact Monitoring and Information Center SNCO* of the MoE monitor water and air quality in different areas of the country through its network of observation points.

*ARMSTATEHYDROMET SNCO* conducts regular monitoring of meteorological and hydrological conditions of Armenia through its network of meteorological and hydrological stations.

### **Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure**

The main mandate of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MoTA&I) is the development and implementation of territorial policy of the RoA; elaboration of the State policy for community service provision; ensuring parity in territorial development; oversight on the implementation of social-economic development programs performed by the governors; and quality assurance of the performance of territorial bodies (Governors) of the government. MoTA&I also monitors community budget performance; handles complaints by the citizens regarding the activities of territorial and local self-government bodies; liaises with mass media within the frames of the Public Information Policy of the Ministry; and works out State policy for maintaining the National Archive.

**Inspectorate for Nature Protection and Mineral Resources** under the GoA with its 11 regional offices oversees the implementation of legislative and regulatory standards on natural resources protection, use and renewal.

**At the regional level**, regional authorities carry out the following functions:

- (i) participate in the development of national environmental programs and make provisions for their implementation within a region;
- (ii) enforce environmental legislation within a region;
- (iii) support specially protected areas, natural resource utilization, and execute measures against illegal hunting, fishing, and logging; and
- (iv) work in cooperation with environmental NGOs.

### ***5.1 Rationale for Preparation of Resettlement Policy Framework***

World Bank funding for the Project will be provided subject to the condition that each Project component should conform (among others) with the WB Operational Policy (OP) on Involuntary Resettlement 4.12 (WB OP 4.12). WB OP 4.12 indicates that an RPF needs to be prepared if the extent and location of resettlement/ Project impacts cannot be known prior to Project Appraisal, as in the case of this Project. RPF will also outline the requirements and process for preparing and approving Resettlement, Action Plans, if needed. Review and analysis of written documentation on the SILD Project components as well as on the experience of ATDF was made to identify the most likely range of potential impacts and formulate the most appropriate and reasonable set of mitigation measures. However, unforeseen impacts may arise from certain project activities. Some of the impacts may

also require other and more adapted mitigation measures than the ones described in this report. Therefore, the findings and recommendations of the RPF will be adapted / adjusted if needed during Projects implementation and reported accordingly.

### ***5.2 Objective and Principles of the Resettlement Policy Framework***

The RPF aims to prevent and/or mitigate the potential negative social impacts of implementation of project activities associated with land use or land acquisition. The objective of the RPF is to outline brief description of the Project and components for which land acquisition and resettlement are required. The RPF outlines the legal framework for the Project including both RoA legislation and WB OP4.12 requirements and proposes measures to bridge the gaps between the policies. The RPF specifies eligibility criteria for defining various categories of Project Affected Persons (PAPs); specifies compensation approaches for lost assets as well as methods of valuing the affected assets. The RPF describes the process for preparing and approving resettlement plans; clarifies institutional, implementation and monitoring arrangements for resettlement activities; specifies grievance redress mechanisms; consultation mechanisms with PAPs, and describes the arrangements for funding resettlement. In particular, the RPF is aimed to guide the preparation of the Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) that will ensure that, in the event of any future resettlement, all persons affected by it will be compensated at replacement cost at market value for their losses, and provided with rehabilitation measures so that they are at least as well off as they would have been in the absence of the Project.

The project will follow the principle that involuntary resettlement should be avoided where feasible, or minimized, exploring all viable alternatives in project design. If unavoidable, resettlement activities should be conceived and executed as sustainable development projects, providing sufficient investment resources to enable the persons displaced or adversely affected by the project to share the benefits of the project. Furthermore, displaced persons should be meaningfully consulted and should be involved in planning and implementing resettlement programs. Displaced persons should also be assisted in their efforts to improve their livelihoods and standards of living; or at least to restore them, in real terms, to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing prior to the beginning of Project implementation, whichever is higher. These principles – and resettlement measures stemming from them – apply to the SILD Project and all its components, whether or not the scale, magnitude and complexity of resettlement issues requires preparation of resettlement plans.

## **6. Environmental and Social Policies Applied to the SILD Project**

The SILD Project invests in community infrastructure micro-projects as a short-term solution to the crisis by addressing priority social needs generating immediate temporary work opportunities. SILD Project triggers the World Bank safeguard policy OP/BP 4.01 *Environmental Assessment* and falls under Environmental Category B. Micro-projects supported from the proceeds of this Project may be of environmental categories B or C. No category A micro-projects will be financed.

Most micro-projects are expected to rehabilitate the existing infrastructure. Some micro-projects may require extension of the existing constructions.

The complex development projects, in difference from the majority of micro-projects, may consist of several synergic sub-projects and will be aimed at substantial socio-economic development of the community or area. They have to be (a) well-justified in terms of achievement of real development objectives of the community or area, (2) linked and anchored to the mid-term development program of the corresponding territory (region (marz) or new territorial unit in the future). This approach will support the Government's initiative of formation of the "growing poles" in territories to reduce territorial development disparities.

While reviewing micro-project proposals for rehabilitation of public buildings, ATDF will check that none of them are classified as historical and/or cultural property of the RoA. Civil works contractors of ATDF will be obligated to immediately take activities on hold and notify the client if any chance finds are encountered in the course of earth works. ATDF will contact relevant national authority to ensure that a due course of action is taken. Contractor may resume works upon formal notice from ATDF.

Provided that water damage to freshly refurbished buildings occurred in the past, screening of micro-project proposals aimed at rehabilitation of the existing buildings will include review of results of inspection of the structural damages to the building, which shall carry information on the resistance to water damage. In case existing faults or high risks of water damage are revealed through the inspection, fixing of such problems and provision of proper insulation shall be included into the bill of quantities of the planned works.

SILD Project does not trigger OP/BP 7.50 *Projects on International Waterways*. If a potable water supply micro-project is selected for financing, ATDF must ensure that the new schemes are designed to abstract water exclusively from wells and small surface springs. Rehabilitation of the existing water supply and irrigation schemes will be allowed if that does not alter the designed water intake parameters. Therefore, no micro-project will affect quality or quantity of water streams in the international waterways.

Communities and municipal governments will be the key stakeholders of community infrastructure micro-projects. Stakeholders will be consulted on a case-by-case basis, depending on the nature of a proposed micro-project, in the course of proposal screening, planning mitigation measures to address potential environmental impacts, and during micro-project supervision. Typically, ATDF promotion staff, appraisal engineers, and an environmental specialist will hold discussions on-site with the community and the municipality in preparing and reviewing environmental assessments and ESMFs if and when required. When possible, experts within the municipality will participate directly in the preparation of environmental assessments and plans. Communities must obtain all necessary clearances from the municipality prior to the final approval of any micro-project proposal. Construction contractors will be responsible for obtaining licenses and permits required for their activities.

The coverage and depth of the environmental and social due diligence applied to individual micro-projects or sub-projects depends on the nature, scale, and potential impact of a proposed micro-project. It is anticipated that majority of SILD Project-funded community micro-projects will fall under category B. ESMPs will be developed for such micro-project or sub-project using an Environmental and Social Management Checklist for Small Construction and Rehabilitation Activities, suggested by the World Bank (Annex 3). Category C micro-project or sub-project will not require environmental management planning. Adherence to the general good construction practice will be sufficient for ensuring high quality and safe delivery of works under such micro-projects or sub-projects.

All Category B micro-projects and sub-projects will be included in the monitoring program and random checks of some Category C micro-projects and sub-projects will also be required.

A simple field environmental and social monitoring checklist is developed as a user-friendly tool for recording findings from on-site visits (Annex 4).

## **7. Environmental and Social Review at Various Stages of the Micro—project and Sub-project Cycle**

The three stages of the environmental review during the micro-project and sub-projects cycle are:

- Preliminary Appraisal Stage,
- Final Appraisal Stage,
- Implementation Stage.

### ***7.1 Environmental and Social Review at the Preliminary Appraisal Stage***

The goals of the preliminary environmental and social assessment are to:

- collect evidence that a proposed community based micro-project or sub-projects does not violate existing environmental regulations, is not detrimental for the natural and/or social environment, and is not expected to have irreversible, multiple, or broad environmental impacts;
- identify type and magnitude of potential adverse environmental and social impacts;
- classify a micro-project or sub-project by environmental category (B or C);
- identify existing or likely need for involuntary resettlement and define its nature, identify types of formal agreements, licenses and permits required for micro-project sub-projects implementation, clarify which party shall apply for and which institutional shall issue these documents, check for the presence of agreements/permits to be held by beneficiary community, and specify permits/licenses to be held/obtained by works contractor(s);
- provide environmental clearance for a Category C micro-project and sub-project financing or clear a Category B micro-project or sub-project for further processing, provide recommendations on the outline of ESMF for Category B micro-projects and sub-projects.
- Environmental classification of micro-projects and sub-projects shall follow the principles of the World Bank OP/BP 4.01 *Environmental Assessment*.

Generally, it is expected that micro-projects for the (i) refurbishment and repair of interior of the existing public buildings (replacement of windows, re-plastering, re-painting, etc.), (ii) provision and installation of goods (IT equipment, furniture, etc.), and (iii) upgrading of recreational areas and green zones within municipalities will fall under category C.

Micro-projects and sub-projects designed to undertake: (i) small or medium scale new construction, extension of existing buildings, or their reconstruction, (ii) provision or rehabilitation of infrastructure for the delivery of municipal services (water supply, gas supply, sewage, etc.), and (iii) works in the river beds or water streams (repair of bridges, reinforcement of embankments, etc.) are expected to fall under category B.

Environmental and Social review at the Preliminary Appraisal stage implies the desk-top study of a micro-project or sub-project proposal and the field visit of ATDF environmental and social specialists to a micro-project or sub-project site, with the purpose of verifying

information provided in the proposal and identifying any circumstances which may not appear in the proposal. Photo documentation of the proposed micro-project or sub-project site shall also be created at this stage, with special attention to detail for micro-projects or sub-projects implying new construction.

### ***7.2 Environmental and Social Review at the Final Appraisal Stage***

Micro-projects or sub-projects classified as category B will require environmental and social review at the Final Appraisal Stage. The goals of the environmental and social review at the Final Appraisal Stage are to:

- review and evaluate adequacy of the produced ESMP;
- obtain evidence on the public disclosure of the ESMP and consultation on it held with the affected community;
- discuss and agree with a micro-project sub-project proponent the proposed Environmental and Social Monitoring Plan;
- Provide environmental and social clearance for financing a category B micro-project or sub-project.

Environmental and social review at the Final Appraisal Stage implies the desk-top study of the ESMP and a discussion with a micro-project or sub-project proponent to ensure full understanding of the proponent's responsibility for the adherence to the ESMF. At this stage of appraisal, ATDF environmental and social specialists may consider undertaking an additional visit to a micro-project or sub-project site in case of a special need.

Environmental and Social review, approval, and monitoring procedures at both micro-project or sub-project appraisal and implementation phases shall be mainstreamed into the micro-project cycle and the environmental and social documentation created in electronic and hard copies shall be an integral part of a micro-project or sub-project documentation kept respectively in MIS software and in hard copy filing systems. Appraisal documentation of micro-projects and sub-projects which qualify for World Bank approval must carry environmental and social screening reports when furnished to the World Bank.

### ***7.3 Environmental and Social Review at the Implementation Stage***

Environmental and Social review at the implementation phase will be undertaken through field monitoring of ongoing micro-projects or sub-projects that will imply: (i) development of a plan for field work to ensure full coverage of Category B activities and sporadic checks of Category C activities; (ii) site visits; filling and filing of field environmental and social monitoring checklists; and (iii) provision of thematic inputs to Project progress reports covering status of environmental compliance micro-project or sub-project portfolio, commonly encountered environmental and social challenges, issues encountered within a report period, corrective actions prescribed, and results achieved. Monitoring program shall be built based on the micro-project or sub-project specific environmental and social monitoring plans and be optimized considering geographic location of micro-projects or sub-projects. Additional site visits may be required if problems are encountered under particular micro-projects and follow-up is needed to track conduct of corrective actions prescribed. For Category C micro-projects or sub-projects, environmental and social check-ups may be conducted by environmental and social specialists as well as by engineers travelling to the site for overseeing general progress of works.

ATDF management must be responsive to the outputs of environmental and social monitoring of micro-projects or sub-projects. If a micro-project is in compliance with an ESMF project and corrective action is required, additional resources have to be made available for monitoring of such micro-project or sub-project in order to ensure that problems are duly addressed. If identified in compliance is significant, ATDF shall formally communicate findings of environmental and social monitoring to the works contractor and demand time-bound remedial action in written. In case contractor continues causing environmental damage or significant risk to the environment by violating the national environmental legislation and/or ESMF, then ATDF management shall consider suspension of payments to contractor till corrective measures are, and finally - termination of contract if in compliance persists.

## **8. Potential Impacts and Risks**

In general, the potential adverse environmental and social impacts associated with construction and rehabilitation works carried out in the scope of the project are expected to be minor, short-term and localized. Vast majority of the potential adverse impacts are likely to occur during the construction/rehabilitation period. Long term environmental impacts are expected to be generally neutral, and long-term social impacts are expected to be positive due to improved infrastructures and economic development of the communities.

- Small construction and rehabilitation activities always carry a set of common risks of generating dust, vibration and noise; polluting soil and groundwater from oil and lubricant leakages; polluting soil and water bodies with construction waste; triggering or amplifying soil erosion by improperly performed earth works and/or borrowing; deteriorating landscape and its aesthetic value by failing to reinstate and harmonize construction site with upon completion of works. Waste management is a generic issue due to under-developed regulatory framework and infrastructure. Also, construction companies generally lack corporate culture of applying work-site safety rules.
- An additional risk is associated with new micro-projects or sub-projects supporting new construction and extension of buildings, which is their potential impact on the private ownership and use of land and other property.
- Commonly encountered risks related to the operation of provided/rehabilitated public buildings and infrastructure include poorly organized collection and disposal of household waste; improper maintenance of land plot area around buildings; lack or malfunctioning of storm water drainage systems; leaking roofs and water pipes due to no checks and timely repair; and irregular cleaning of snow from access roads and roofs of the buildings
- Some of the existing buildings suggested for rehabilitation may be located on the plots with high level of ground water, or be prone to geologic activity. The same is true for the plots allocated for new construction. This may cause additional challenges for the design and may increase costs of construction.
- Some of the buildings suggested for rehabilitation may carry significant structural damage and/or be seismically not stable.
- Some of the buildings suggested for rehabilitation may lack or have inadequate connections to utility services, such as power, gas, water, sewage, and garbage collection.
- There may be a potential of chance finds in case of new construction.
- Most of the old buildings in Armenia are covered with asbestos containing roofing materials. Replacement of such roofs will cause health hazards to workers and in case of improper disposal may generate public health risks for a wider set of population. Old buildings may also have asbestos-containing pipes and lead containing paints. Handling

such types of hazardous waste would be a challenge, especially because the country lacks adequate infrastructure for waste disposal

- Construction and rehabilitation works within settlements always carry a set of common risks of generating dust, vibration and noise; polluting soil and groundwater from oil and lubricant leakages; polluting surroundings with construction waste and improper final disposal of construction waste; deteriorating of landscape and its aesthetic value in case of new construction.
- Operation phase impacts are also conventional and are limited to poorly organized collection of household waste; improper maintenance of the land plot area around the buildings, poor drainage of storm water and delayed removal of snow; leaking roofs and water pipes due to irregular checking and repair.

**Potential social impacts of construction/rehabilitation works planned under project are as follows:**

Rehabilitation/construction works may include noise beyond working hours, restricted access to roads and private property, health damage to pedestrians and cars from poorly managed work site, and disruption of local traffic.

- Limited participation of women and youth in training and other components of technical assistance due to lack of information and insufficient of capacity.
- Project social risks relate primarily to potential unequal distribution of Project benefits with regards to access to employment opportunities. In Armenia, female participation (55%) in the labour force is lower than men's (75%) and their unemployment rate is higher (Male: 21.9%, Female: 35%), particularly among youth (Male: 37.4%, Female: 54.7%). While community infrastructure supported by past ATDF projects were often in sectors like education and health where women were well-represented in the workforce (e.g. teachers, nurses etc.), the majority of jobs created by the Project were related to construction where women make up less than 5% of the labour force in Armenia. However, territorial development investments supported by the Project will be expected to diversify job opportunities to sectors such as agro-processing and manufacturing where women make up approximately 55% and 35% of the labour force, respectively. Appropriate monitoring and evaluation (Annex 1) has been devised to measure gender-related inclusion within project activities and will be tracked closely through supervision and quarterly reports by ASIF's ATDF's dedicated M&E Specialist.
- To mitigate other social risks, the project will emphasize **participatory decision-making** and beneficiary feedback mechanisms. Following the ATDF model, SILD Project component 1-supported micro-projects will each have a Project Implementation Committee (PICs), selected by community general meetings. PICs will act as focal points through which local communities provide feedback or voice their concerns on Project implementation, works quality, and collaboration with ATDF, contractors and other stakeholders etc. PICs will be responsible for providing regular information to the community on progress of the Project, for calling community general meetings when required, for maintaining a special board for these purposes, and for availing Project documents to members of the community upon request. While women's participation in PICs was strongly encouraged under ASIF3, under SILD, a quota (20%) will be applied to enhance the participation of women in PICs. The PIC model will also be extended and appropriately tailored to territorial development projects.

Applications for participation in Component 2 are prepared and presented to ATDF by the Subprojects' Initiative Groups set up by the Community Council decisions. The quota for women's participation in the initiative group is not formally fixed yet, but actually according to ATDF data 19 % of Initiative group members are women.

- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) remains a challenge in Armenia although it is barely recognized on a wider public scale. Amongst others, challenges include defining discrimination and gender-based violence in the national legislation and creating an effective multi-sectoral response to GBV. It is difficult to measure the prevalence of violence against women in Armenia largely because of the latency of the issue and high rates of underreporting. According to the UN Global Database on Violence against Women, Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence rate in Armenia is 8% and Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence in the 2017 was 4%. The child marriage rate is 5%. There exist no official national statistics on lifetime non-partner sexual violence.

On December 13, 2017, with the Government decree 1433-A, the Government of Armenia adopted the Law “On the Prevention of Family Violence, Protection of Persons Subjected to Family Violence”, and the Restoration of Family Peace”. Although in 2018 the Government of RaA has initiated some law-enforcement mechanisms, at present there are no coordinated referral mechanisms for GBV prevention in Armenia with clear division of responsibilities, defined procedures for data collection, and documentation and cooperation among authorized entities. After the adoption of the above-mentioned law, the state is obliged to adopt a referral mechanism for provision of services to domestic violence survivors. Aside from the repetition of functions by service providers, there is a significant gap in professional capacity of service providers (social worker, health-care employees, case managers, etc.). In addition to the services provided by the state, there are non-governmental organizations working with women/children /persons subjected to violence. However, there are some regions in Armenia where almost no NGOs are represented (e.g. Vayots Dzor, Ararat, Aragatsotn).

## **9. Impact Mitigation**

Proposed Measures for Mitigating Negative Environmental and Social Impacts of Civil Works and Technical Assistance In order to avoid or reduce the identified and above listed risks, the proposed mitigation measures are:

### **Licenses and permits**

Prior to commencement of works and at the early stage of construction, the Project implementing entity should ensure that all required licenses and permits are in place, including those to be obtained by the project implementing entity and by the construction contractor.

### **Ensuring work site safety**

Work sites should be properly demarcated and fenced; warning signs installed; and safe pedestrian and traffic movement allowed around work sites.

- Construction workers and personnel should have access to safe drinking water and toilets. First aid medical kits should be available on site, as well as fire extinguishing kits. Workers and personnel should be supplied with uniforms and relevant personal safety gear. Use of safety equipment must be enforced.
- Introduce local traffic management regime if congestion is likely.

### **Preventing pollution of soil and water**

- Machinery should be kept in good working condition and idling of engines should be prohibited to reduce noise. Watering of construction sites in dry weather and during operations that generate excessive dust should be required. Construction machinery and equipment should be serviced and fuelled outside construction sites and no hazardous

waste from machinery, such as used tires, oils and filters should be scattered on site. If performed on-site, a non-permeable surface should be provided for fuelling and a stock of absorbents should be kept for addressing accidental spills. Washing of machinery must be forbidden in proximity to surface water bodies. Used automobile oil, stock of fuel and oil, and other hazardous substances must be kept also upon non-permeable surfaces, preferably under shelter and in safe from fire. In case of construction camps include housing for workers, septic tanks or pit toilets should be provided and maintained in a manner preventing direct discharge to surface water bodies and deterioration of sanitary conditions.

### **Preventing air pollution**

Prevention of air pollution with dust and emissions by watering of access roads and construction sites must be done as appropriate. Ensure good operation condition of vehicles and machinery in order to prevent excessive emissions. Also, disallow idling of engines.

- Additional measures planned to maintain air quality include locating concrete mixing plant and stockpiles in isolated areas, as well as confining working vehicles to designated routes only following the established schedule. Trucks loaded with loose construction materials (such as gravel, sand, soil, etc.) shall be covered to minimize dust emissions during transportation;

### **Managing waste**

- Construction materials and waste should be piled in especially allocated spots of the construction site and be periodically out-transported to avoid excessive accumulation.
- Construction materials and waste should be transported under covered hoods of trucks.
- Construction waste should be disposed in especially allocated locations agreed with local municipalities.
- Prevent dumping and the accumulation of construction waste and construction materials in and around a work by designating locations for on-site piling of waste and materials. Ensure that works contractors have formal agreement with local authorities for the final disposal of all types of waste;
- Fence and demarcate work sites, prevent dumping and/or stockpiling of construction material and waste outside the delineated work sites;
- Upon completion of physical activity on site, area should be cleared from any remaining materials and waste, and harmonized with the surroundings.

### **Land Acquisition and Resettlement Issues**

Micro-projects or sub-projects implying new construction will be carefully screened for a potential need for private land take, temporary or permanent restriction of land/property use, and for the existence of any informal land use in the State-owned plots allocated for construction. Depending on the outcome of screening, Resettlement Action Plans will be developed. Construction contractor will be instructed to take activity on hold in case of chance finds during earth works, and to immediately notify ATDF, and to resume works only upon receiving formal notification from ATDF.

- Information on the project and opportunities of participation should be provided (announcement in local newspaper, TV, public places) to all interested parties (veterinarians, food business operators) including women and youth.

### **Grievance Redress Mechanism**

- Inform affected communities of project grievance redress mechanisms and modalities; ensure grievance submission procedures are accessible (including the poor and those

in remote communities) and provide all beneficiaries and beneficiary communities with the required contact details of the Local Focal Point, ATDF and other contact persons support grievance redress mechanism.

- The person affected by the Project (PAP) can raise suggestions/ concerns/ complaints first of all to the Local Focal Point (dedicated grievance staff) that will attempt to resolve complaints at the local level. The Local Focal Point is responsible for proper documentation of the grievances in the register logbook. If the grievance is possible to redress at the local level it will not be addressed to the next levels. If the grievance is not possible to solve at local level the Local Focal Point addresses it to ATDF or supports to the complainer to apply to ATDF by himself/herself.
- ATDF has already established relevant GRM tools for accepting grievances including e-mail address, hot line and web-tool. This contact information will be shared with beneficiaries during community meeting and will be posted at public visible places at micro-project or sub-project site. The GRM contact information will also be available at the field offices of Contractor Company. ATDF web-page also involves information on GRM and beneficiary feedbacks. All contact information will be shared with beneficiaries during community meeting and will be posted in visible places at micro-project or sub-project site. ATDF web-page also involves information on GRM and beneficiary feedbacks. All feedback/grievances submitted through the Website or e-mail will receive an email acknowledgement in return, detailing the response timeline and the requirement for additional information, as well as the contacts of the ATDF Grievance Focal Point for the additional information.
  - All feedback/grievances submitted through the Website or e-mail will receive an email acknowledgement in return, detailing the response timeline and the requirement for additional information, as well as the contacts of the ATDF Grievance Focal Point for the additional information.
  - The ATDF Grievance Focal Point will register the submitted grievance in MIS and review within 2 (two) calendar days, including the information verification, cross-checking, and analysis, and follow-up with the applicant as needed. As necessary, the Grievance Focal Point will involve other relevant units' specialists in this activity. Based on the conducted review, the ATDF Grievance Focal Point will prepare his/her Recommendation Report to the ATDF Executive Director.
  - If the ATDF Grievance Focal Point reports that the grievance is reasonable and can be addressed at ATDF level, ATDF Executive Director reviews the case and within 7 (seven) calendar days will forward it to the relevant ATDF specialist instructing him/her to proceed with the applications in officially assigned manner. The assigned specialist will re-accept the application and undertake the essential measures to resolve the issue in accordance with the procedures of the corresponding Component.
  - Receiving the negative result of the grievance review the Applicant will be free to undertake one of the following decisions: a) accept ATDF's decision as it is and stop the grievance, or b) open a Court Case on the issue in accordance with RoA Legislation c) apply to other state institutions d) apply to ATDF grievance mechanisms

## **10. Public Consultation and Coordination**

The Armenian Laws regulating public consultation and coordination, as well as information availability to the public are listed below:

- The “Fundamentals of the RA legislation on Nature Protection” ensure citizen's right to request complete information concerning the environmental situation and obtain it in time.
- The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise sets forth the process of assessment of environmental impacts.
- The Law on freedom of information ensures accessibility and transparency of information, as well as defines procedures for requesting and issuing of information by various types of legal bodies.

The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise defines type of activities which are subject to environmental impact assessment and environmental expertise. According to this law, a project proponent is responsible for ensuring public awareness of the environmental implications of an activity, which undergoes EIA. Information may be disseminated through various media (TV, radio, newspapers). Local authorities, affected communities and concerned NGOs are consulted on the environmental aspects of a project and their feedback is incorporated into project preparation and implementation phases.

The present ESMF in English and Armenian languages was published on the website of ATDF to solicit public feedback. The timeframe of November 11, 2019 to January 14, 2020 was allowed for ascertaining concerns and obtaining comments/responses via regular mail (full address of ATDF was provided), email, hotline (Public Relations Department) and corporate telephone number. Over the public consultation period no concerns, questions, or comments have been received on the ESMF from any individual or a legal entity. Therefore, this document is considered final in its present iteration.

#### Consultation on the Micro-project or Sub-projects specific Environmental and Social Management Plans

All draft site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), once developed, will be disclosed through the web page of ATDF in Armenian and English languages and several hard copies in Armenian language will be placed in the offices of local governments for convenient access by the project-affected communities. ATDF will consult with PIAs on the most convenient and adequate format and medium for engaging affected communities into commenting on the ESMPs. Received feedback will be incorporated into the final versions of ESMPs and the ESMPs will then be re-disclosed. They will then be included into bidding documents upon tendering of works and included into the contracts for the provision of works.

### **11. Environmental and Social Management Plan**

Environmental and social screening of micro-projects or sub-projects will be carried out by the environmental and social specialists. Once site of the micro-project or sub-project identified for rehabilitation, the environmental and social experts will inspect the area in order to identify environmental and social risks associated with the proposed works in the identified location. At this stage, the environmental classification of the proposed subproject will be undertaken and in an unlikely case of an activity falling under environment Category A, it will be rejected.

For the micro-projects and sub-projects approved by ATDF and the World Bank for further elaboration, the detailed design will be developed and site-specific ESMPs will be produced.

ESMPs, and RAPs, if required, will be produced by environmental and social specialists. ESMPs will be included into tender packages and be attached to works contracts, making their implementation mandatory for works' contractors. In case a works contractor violates requirements of ESMP or otherwise causes environmental damage, ATDF will work out a time-bound plan for damage liquidation and the contractor will be obligated to implement it. Works contracts shall, therefore, carry adequate provisions for imposing environmental damage liquidation upon contractors.

## **12. Environmental and Social Monitoring and Reporting**

SILD Project AF implementation arrangements include those for monitoring compliance with the present ESMF and site-specific safeguards documents prepared for all individual sub-projects, recording information obtained through safeguards monitoring, and mechanisms for reporting on the outcomes of safeguards oversight.

While overall responsibility for safeguards compliance under the Project rests with ATDF, services of an external technical supervisor of works will be used for daily field work. Based on the legislation of the RoA, the supervisor shall be licensed for undertaking this function. In-house staff of ATDF will provide quality assurance of the supervisor's work by reviewing and commenting on supervisor's monthly reports and undertaking field visits for checking adequacy of information provided by the supervisor. ATDF staff will join supervision consultant in field trips to identified problem sites in order to jointly work out remedial action plans. ATDF's environmental and social specialists will be responsible for informing ATDF's management on any significant issues identified through field environmental and social monitoring of works and for suggesting remedial actions.

Supervision consultant will have permanent field presence at all active works sites and will generate monthly field environmental and social monitoring reports by filling out the monitoring forms (Annex 4). These reports will be supplemented with photo material. Special attention will be given to recommendations issued to works contractor on remediating any damage made or otherwise restoring compliance with ESMPs if infringement is recorded. Next month's monitoring report from the same site will carry brief information on if and how the prescribed remedial action was followed. In case of non-compliance with ESMP, ATDF sets a deadline for undertaking corrective action and supervision consultant tracks its implementation. In case of persisting incompliance, ATDF management will apply penalty measures within the frames of the contract. ATDF's environmental and social specialists will be responsible for filing and storing all fields environmental and social monitoring reports obtained from technical supervision and entering formatted data in the MIS operated for the AF to SILD Project. All monitoring information shall be available for the RoA government officials and the World Bank upon demand.

Any occupational, health and safety (OHS) incidents that may occur at the Project sites must be immediately reported to the WB without postponing that till a regular progress report is

due. Towards this end, ATDF must include the requirement to promptly report on OHS incidents into the contracts signed with the contractors of works and work supervision consultants. Once a notice on an OHS incident arrives to the ATDF, it must be instantly communicated to the World Bank with the inclusion of sufficient detail known at the moment of reporting.

ATDF's regular progress reporting on the implementation of Project will include information on safeguards compliance. Special chapter dedicated to environmental and social performance will be part of each progress report submitted to the World Bank. Regular Project progress reports should include information on any OHS incidents that have occurred in the reporting period, along with follow-up action undertaken. If no incidents have occurred, every progress report should state so. It will be produced by environmental and social specialists of ATDF and will contain analytical write-up on the overall status of ESMP's implementation, issues identified, and remedial action taken. ATDF's assessment of the quality of supervision consultant's outputs will be also included.

**PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW  
CHECKLIST**

Micro-project/sub-project title  
\_\_\_\_\_

Micro-project/sub-project  
\_\_\_\_\_

Estimated total cost \_\_\_\_\_

**Land and infrastructure ownership and use**

Ownership of the micro-project/sub-project land plot		
State	Community	Other (specify)
Ownership of the infrastructure to be rehabilitate under the micro-project/sub-project		
State	Community	Other (specify)
Existence of informal (undocumented) use of land plot or infrastructure intended for micro-project/sub-project t intervention		
Yes (describe)		No
Need for Resettlement Action Plan		
Yes (describe)		No

***Physical and natural environment***

Type of settlement			
Urban		Rural	
Type of land plot allocated for the implementation of the micro-project/sub-project			
Residential	Agricultural	Industrial	Natural
Sensitive receptors around the plot allocated for the micro-project/sub-project implementation			
Protected areas	Water bodies	Health institutions	Children's institutions
Potential geohazards of the land plot and infrastructure to be covered by the micro-project/sub-project			
Landslides	Avalanches	Flooding	Other (specify)
Pre-existing health and environmental issues on the land plot or infrastructure to be covered by the micro-project/sub-project			
Water damage to the building	Pollution with industrial and/or household waste	Unsafely installed power supply lines	Other (specify)

*Potential environmental and social impacts*

Type of Impact		Likelihood of Impact	Expected Magnitude of Impact		
			Minor	Moderate	Severe
Soil pollution	Constr.	Yes --- No ---			
	Oper.	Yes --- No ---			
Water pollution	Constr.	Yes --- No ---			
	Oper.	Yes --- No ---			
Air pollution	Constr.	Yes --- No ---			
	Oper.	Yes --- No ---			
Damage to flora and fauna	Constr.	Yes --- No ---			
	Oper.	Yes --- No ---			
Deterioration of landscape and/or aesthetical look	Constr.	Yes --- No ---			
	Oper.	Yes --- No ---			
Damage to public health	Constr.	Yes --- No ---			
	Oper.	Yes --- No ---			
Nuisance for surrounding human settlements/public institutions/businesses	Constr.	Yes --- No ---			
	Oper.	Yes --- No ---			

**Agreements, Permits, Licenses**

Type of a document required	to be present at Preliminary Appraisal		to be obtained/held by works contractor	to be issued by
	Present	Absent		
1.				
2.				
3.				
....				
n.				

**Conclusion of the Preliminary Environmental Assessment:**

Environmental Classification of the micro-project/sub-project		
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Decision		
Micro-project/sub-project rejected	Micro-project/sub-project cleared for further processing (subject to 2nd stage environmental review)	Micro-project/sub-project approved. (environmental review completed)

**Annex 2.**

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL REVIEW CHECKLIST**

*This checklist must be completed for micro-projects /sub-projects classified as category B*

Micro-project/sub-project title \_\_\_\_\_

Micro-project/sub-project # \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated total cost \_\_\_\_\_

Is the environmental management plan (ESMF) developed?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Does ESMF provide a full list of potential impacts and establish adequate measures for their mitigation?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion of the Final Environmental Assessment**

Conclusion	
Micro-project/sub-project rejected	Micro-project/sub-project approved (environmental assessment completed)

***ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN***  
***CHECKLIST***

General Guidelines for use of ESMF checklist:

For low-risk topologies, such as school and hospital rehabilitation activities, the ECA safeguards team developed a simplified checklist format for preparing ESMPs to provide an opportunity for a more streamlined approach to preparing ESMPs for minor rehabilitation or small-scale works in building construction, in the health, education and public services sectors. The ESMP checklist-type format attempts to cover typical core mitigation approaches to civil works contracts with small, localized impacts. It is accepted that this format provides the key elements of an ESMF to meet World Bank Environmental Assessment requirements under OP 4.01. The intention of this checklist is that it would be applicable as guidelines for the small works contractors and constitute an integral part of bidding documents for contractors carrying out small civil works under Bank-financed projects.

The checklist has three sections:

Part 1 includes a descriptive part that characterizes the project and specifies in terms the institutional and legislative aspects, the technical project content, the potential need for capacity building program and description of the public consultation process. This section could be up to two pages long. Attachments for additional information can be supplemented when needed.

Part 2 includes an environmental and social screening checklist, where activities and potential environmental issues can be checked in a simple Yes/No format. If any given activity/issue is triggered by checking “yes”, a reference is made to the appropriate section in the following table, which contains clearly formulated management and mitigation measures.

Part 3 represents the monitoring plan for activities during project construction and implementation. It retains the same format required for ESMFs proposed under normal Bank requirements for Category B projects. It is the intent of this checklist that Part 2 and Part 3 be included into the bidding documents for contractors, priced during the bidding process and diligent implementation supervised during works execution.

## **CONTENTS**

- A) General Project and Site Information**
- B) Safeguards Information**
- C) Mitigation Measures**
- D) Monitoring Plan**

## PART A: GENERAL PROJECT AND SITE INFORMATION

<b>INSTITUTIONAL &amp; ADMINISTRATIVE</b>			
Micro-project/sub-project number and title			
Municipality, community			
Scope of site-specific activity			
Institutional arrangements (WB)	Task Team Leader: Ivan Drabek	Safeguards Specialist: Environmental - Hmayak Avaqyan, Social – Vera Dugandzic	
Implementation arrangements (RoA)	Implementing entity: ATDF Environmental Specialist – Asya Osipova Social Specialist – Knarik Griqoryan	Works supervisor: ATDF	Works contractor: (tbd)
<b>SITE DESCRIPTION</b>			
Name of institution whose premises are to be rehabilitated			
Address and site location of institution whose premises are to be rehabilitated			
Who owns the land? Who uses the land (formal/informal)?			
Description of physical and natural environment around the site			
Locations and distance for material sourcing, especially aggregates, water, stones?			
<b>LEGISLATION</b>			
National & local legislation & permits that apply to project activity			
<b>PUBLIC CONSULTATION</b>			
When / where the public consultation process will take /took place			
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>			
Attachment 1: Site map/photo			
Attachment 2: Construction permit (as required)			
Attachment 3: Agreement for construction waste disposal			

Others – as required
----------------------

Information on works supervisor, works contractor, and the attachments will be provided later, prior to mobilization of a selected works contractor to a work site

**PART B: SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION**

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL /SOCIAL SCREENING</b>			
	<b>Activity/Issue</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Triggered Actions</b>
Will the site activity include/involve any of the following?	1. Building rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, then see Section <b>A</b> below
	2. New construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, then see Section <b>A</b> below
	3. Individual wastewater treatment system	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, then see Section <b>B</b> below
	4. Historic building(s) and districts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, then see Section <b>C</b> below
	5. Acquisition of land <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, then see Section <b>D</b> below
	6. Hazardous or toxic materials <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, then see Section <b>E</b> below
	7. Impacts on forests and/or protected areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, then see Section <b>F</b> below
	8. Handling / management of medical waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, then see Section <b>G</b> below
	9. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, then see Section <b>H</b> below
	10. Social risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, then see Section <b>I</b> below

<sup>1</sup> Land acquisitions includes displacement of people, change of livelihood encroachment on private property this is to land that is purchased/transferred and affects people who are living and/or squatters and/or operate a business (kiosks) on land that is being acquired.

<sup>2</sup> Toxic / hazardous material includes but is not limited to asbestos, toxic paints, noxious solvents, removal of lead paint, etc.

## PART C: MITIGATION MEASURES

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES (provide costs where applicable)
<b>0. General Conditions</b>	Notification and Worker Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The local construction and environment inspectorates and communities have been notified of upcoming activities</li> <li>(b) The public has been notified of the works through appropriate notification in the media and/or at publicly accessible sites (including the site of the works)</li> <li>(c) All legally required permits have been acquired for construction and/or rehabilitation</li> <li>(d) The Contractor formally agrees that all work will be carried out in a safe and disciplined manner designed to minimize impacts on neighboring residents and environment.</li> <li>(e) Workers' PPE will comply with international good practice (always hardhats, as needed masks and safety glasses, harnesses and safety boots)</li> <li>(f) <u>Appropriate signposting of the sites will inform workers of key rules and regulations to follow.</u></li> </ul>
<b>A. General Rehabilitation and /or Construction Activities</b>	Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) During interior demolition debris-chutes shall be used above the first floor</li> <li>(b) Demolition debris shall be kept in controlled area and sprayed with water mist to reduce debris dust</li> <li>(c) During pneumatic drilling/wall destruction dust shall be suppressed by ongoing water spraying and/or installing dust screen enclosures at site</li> <li>(d) The surrounding environment (sidewalks, roads) shall be kept free of debris to minimize dust</li> <li>(e) There will be no open burning of construction / waste material at the site</li> <li>(f) <u>There will be no excessive idling of construction vehicles at sites</u></li> </ul>
	Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Construction noise will be limited to restricted times agreed to in the permit</li> <li>(b) During operations the engine covers of generators, air compressors and other powered mechanical equipment shall be closed, and equipment placed as far away from residential areas as possible</li> </ul>
	Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) <u>The site will establish appropriate erosion and sediment control measures such as e.g. hay bales and / or silt fences to prevent sediment from moving off site and causing excessive turbidity in nearby streams and rivers.</u></li> </ul>
	Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Waste collection and disposal pathways and sites will be identified for all major waste types expected from demolition and construction activities.</li> <li>(b) Mineral construction and demolition wastes will be separated from general refuse, organic, liquid and chemical wastes by on-site sorting and stored in appropriate containers.</li> <li>(c) Construction waste will be collected and disposed properly by licensed collectors</li> <li>(d) The records of waste disposal will be maintained as proof for proper management as designed.</li> <li>(e) Whenever feasible the contractor will reuse and recycle appropriate and viable materials (except asbestos)</li> </ul>
<b>B. Individual wastewater treatment system</b>	Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The approach to handling sanitary wastes and wastewater from building sites (installation or reconstruction) must be approved by the local authorities</li> <li>(b) Before being discharged into receiving waters, effluents from individual wastewater systems must be treated in order to meet the minimal quality criteria set out by national guidelines on effluent quality and wastewater treatment</li> <li>(c) Monitoring of new wastewater systems (before/after) will be carried out</li> <li>(d) <u>Construction vehicles and machinery will be washed only in designated areas where runoff will not pollute natural surface water bodies.</u></li> </ul>
<b>C. Historic building(s)</b>	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) If the building is a designated historic structure, very close to such a structure, or located in a designated historic district, notification shall be made and approvals/permits be obtained from local authorities and all construction activities planned and carried out in line with local and national legislation.</li> <li>(b) It shall be ensured that provisions are put in place so that artifacts or other possible "chance finds" encountered in excavation or construction are noted and registered, responsible officials contacted, and works activities delayed or modified to account for such finds.</li> </ul>

<b>D. Acquisition of land</b>	<b>Land Acquisition Plan/Framework</b>	<p>(a) If expropriation of land was not expected but is required, or if loss of access to income of legal or illegal users of land was not expected but may occur, that the Bank’s Task Team Leader shall be immediately consulted.</p> <p>(b) <b>The approved Land Acquisition Plan/Framework (if required by the project) will be implemented</b></p>
<b>E. Toxic Materials</b>	<b>Asbestos management</b>	<p>(a) If asbestos is located on the project site, it shall be marked clearly as hazardous material</p> <p>(b) When possible the asbestos will be appropriately contained and sealed to minimize exposure</p> <p>(c) The asbestos prior to removal (if removal is necessary) will be treated with a wetting agent to minimize asbestos dust</p> <p>(d) Asbestos will be handled and disposed by skilled &amp; experienced professionals</p> <p>(e) If asbestos material is be stored temporarily, the wastes should be securely enclosed inside closed containments and marked appropriately. Security measures will be taken against unauthorized removal from the site.</p> <p>(f) <b>The removed asbestos will not be reused</b></p>
	<b>Toxic / hazardous waste management</b>	<p>(a) <b>Temporarily storage on site of all hazardous or toxic substances will be in safe containers labeled with details of composition, properties and handling information</b></p> <p>(b) The containers of hazardous substances shall be placed in an leak-proof container to prevent spillage and leaching</p> <p>(c) The wastes shall be transported by specially licensed carriers and disposed in a licensed facility.</p> <p>(d) <b>Paints with toxic ingredients or solvents or lead-based paints will not be used</b></p>
<b>F. Affected forests, wetlands and/or protected areas</b>	<b>Protection</b>	<p>(a) All recognized natural habitats, wetlands and protected areas in the immediate vicinity of the activity will not be damaged or exploited, all staff will be strictly prohibited from hunting, foraging, logging or other damaging activities.</p> <p>(b) A survey and an inventory shall be made of large trees in the vicinity of the construction activity, large trees shall be marked and cordoned off with fencing, their root system protected, and any damage to the trees avoided</p> <p>(c) Adjacent wetlands and streams shall be protected from construction site run-off with appropriate erosion and sediment control feature to include by not limited to hay bales and silt fences</p> <p>(d) <b>There will be no unlicensed borrow pits, quarries or waste dumps in adjacent areas, especially not in protected areas.</b></p>
<b>G. Disposal of medical waste</b>	<b>Infrastructure for medical waste management</b>	<p>(a) In compliance with national regulations the contractor will insure that newly constructed and/or rehabilitated health care facilities include sufficient infrastructure for medical waste handling and disposal; this includes and not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Special facilities for segregated healthcare waste (including soiled instruments “sharps”, and human tissue or fluids) from other waste disposal; and</li> <li>▪ Appropriate storage facilities for medical waste are in place; and</li> <li>▪ If the activity includes facility-based treatment, appropriate disposal options are in place and operational</li> </ul>
<b>H Traffic and Pedestrian Safety</b>	<b>Direct or indirect hazards to public traffic and pedestrians by construction activities</b>	<p>(a) In compliance with national regulations the contractor will insure that the construction site is properly secured and construction related traffic regulated. This includes but is not limited to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Signposting, warning signs, barriers and traffic diversions: site will be clearly visible and the public warned of all potential hazards</li> <li>▪ Traffic management system and staff training, especially for site access and near-site heavy traffic. Provision of safe passages and crossings for pedestrians where construction traffic interferes.</li> <li>▪ Adjustment of working hours to local traffic patterns, e.g. avoiding major transport activities during rush hours or times of livestock movement</li> <li>▪ Active traffic management by trained and visible staff at the site, if required for safe and convenient passage for the public.</li> <li>▪ Ensuring safe and continuous access to office facilities, shops and residences during renovation activities, if the buildings stay open for the public.</li> </ul>
<b>I. Social risk management</b>	<b>Public relationship management</b>	<p>(a) Assign local liaison person within Contractor’s team to be in charge of communication with and receiving requests/ complaints from local population</p> <p>(b) Consult local communities to identify and proactively manage potential conflicts between an external workforce and local people</p> <p>(c) Raise local community awareness about sexually transmitted disease risks associated with the presence of an external workforce and include local communities in awareness activities.</p> <p>(d) Inform the population about construction and work schedules, interruption of services, traffic detour routes and provisional bus routes, blasting and demolition, as appropriate.</p> <p>(e) <b>Limit construction activities at night. When necessary ensure that night work is carefully scheduled, and the community is properly</b></p>

		<p>informed, so they can take necessary measures.</p> <p>(f) At least five days in advance of any service interruption (including water, electricity, telephone, and bus routes), advice community through postings at the work site, at bus stops, and in affected homes/businesses.</p> <p>(g) Address concerns raised through Grievance Redress Mechanism established by the Employer within the designated timeline within the scope of Contractor's liability</p> <p>(h) To the extent possible, work camps should not be located in close proximity to local communities</p> <p>(i) Siting and operation of worker camps should be undertaken in consultation with neighboring communities</p> <p>(j) Ensure that grievances are received, recorded and addressed promptly by contractors and ATDF.</p>
	<b>Labor management</b>	<p>(a) Recruit unskilled or semi-skilled workers from local communities to the extent possible. Where and when feasible, worker skills training, should be provided to enhance participation of local people.</p> <p>(b) Provide adequate lavatory facilities (toilets and washing areas) in the work site with adequate supplies of hot and cold running water, soap, and hand drying devices. A temporary septic tank system should be established for any residential work camp and without causing pollution of nearby watercourses</p> <p>(c) Raise awareness of workers on overall relationship management with local population, establish the code of conduct in line with international practice and strictly enforce them, including the dismissal of workers and financial penalties of adequate scale</p>
	<b>Gender-based violence (GBV)</b>	<p>(a) Share information on GBV risks during public consultations</p> <p>(b) Ensure that GBV grievances are received, recorded and addressed through the project GRM in a confidential manner</p> <p>(c) Refer GBV survivors to existing, identified service contractors and ensure that they are provided services promptly</p>

**PART D: MONITORING PLAN**

---

<b>Activity</b>	<b>What</b> (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	<b>Where</b> (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	<b>How</b> (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	<b>When</b> (Define the frequency / or continuous?)	<b>Why</b> (Is the parameter being monitored?)	<b>Who</b> (Is responsible for monitoring?)
<b>CONSTRUCTION PHASE</b>						
1.						
2.						
...						
n.						
<b>OPERATION PHASE</b>						
1.						
2.						
...						
n.						

*Annex 4*

***FIELD ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MONITORING CHECKLIST***

Micro-project/sub-project number and title					
Municipality, community					
Name of supervisor					
Name of works contractor					
Date of site visit					
Status of civil works					
Documents and activities to be examined	Status				Comments
	Yes	Partially	No	N/A	
Contractor holds license for extraction of natural resources					
Contractor holds agreement for final disposal of waste					
Contractor holds agreement with service contractor for removal of household waste from site					
Work site is fenced, and warning signs installed					
Works do not impede pedestrian access and motor traffic, or temporary alternative access is provided					
Working hours are observed					
Construction machinery and equipment is in standard technical condition (no excessive exhaust and noise, no leakage of fuels and lubricants)					
Construction materials and waste are transported under					

the covered hood					
Construction site is watered in case of excessively dusty works					
Contractor's camp or work base is fenced; sites for temporary storage of waste and for vehicle/equipment servicing are designated					
Contractor's camp is supplied with water and sanitation is provided					
Contractor's camp or work base is equipped with first medical aid and fire-fighting kits					
Workers wear uniforms and protective gear adequate for technological processes (gloves, helmets, respirators, eye-glasses, etc.)					
Servicing and fuelling of vehicles and machinery is undertaken on an impermeable surface in a confined space which can contain operational and emergency spills					
Vehicles and machinery are washed away from natural water bodies in the way preventing direct discharge of runoff into the water bodies					
Construction waste is being disposed exclusively in the designated locations					
Extraction of natural construction material takes place strictly under conditions specified in the license					
Excess material and topsoil generated from soil					

excavation are stored separately and used for backfilling / site reinstatement as required					
Works taken on hold if chance find encountered and communication made to the State agencies responsible for cultural heritage preservation					
Upon completion of physical activity on site, the site and contractor's camp/base cleared of any remaining left-over from works and harmonized with surrounding landscape					

## ***Annex 5. MINUTES OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING (2014 YEAR)***

### Introduction

The round table discussion on Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was organized by ASIF. Along with representatives of ASIF, the meeting was attended by representatives of the state and local self- government bodies and NGO sector.

Copies of the draft RPF and ESMF were publicly posted on ASIF web-page on October 28. Official notification on the public hearing on RPF and ESMF was disseminated on October 31.

Date: November 10, 2014

Venue: ASIF office

Time: 11:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Agenda:

1. Presentation and discussion of the RPF prepared by the ASIF Promotion Specialist  
Speaker – Araksya Isakhanyan
2. Presentation and discussion of the ESMF prepared by the ASIF Environmental and Social Specialist  
Speaker – Asya Osipova

In the opening speech, Razmik Martirosyan, Deputy Director, ASIF welcomed the participants and explained the main reason of the meeting.

The first speaker - Araksya Isakhanyan, Promotion Specialist, ASIF, delivered a presentation on the RPF. The speaker described the main components of the new Social Investment and Local Development Project and explained what strategy and principles will be applied to involuntary resettlement in case it is to be undertaken during the project implementation. Isakhanyan talked about the national institutional and legal basis for carrying out resettlement, as well as about the World Bank's requirements pertaining identification of the cases of involuntary resettlement, preparing and appraising a resettlement action plan, defining and providing compensation, and reporting on its completion.

The second speaker - Asya Osipova, Environmental Specialist, ASIF, presented the main provisions of the ESMF. The speaker talked about the main types of activities subject to environmental impact assessment and explained how the possible negative environmental and social impacts of the project-financed activities will be identified and mitigated. The speaker also updated the participants on the new developments in the area of gender policy.

### Questions raised:

Lala Tevosyan: Can ASIF act as an arbitration body on resettlement issues?

Answer: A Grievance Committee will be established to review and address concerns of the project affected persons (PAPs). The ultimate goal of the Committee will be to resolve all the issues to the mutual satisfaction of involved parties. However, this, by no means restraints citizens/PAPs from exercising their constitutional right of applying to the court.

Emma Tevosyan: According to the provision of the CARMAC project's RPF, NGO participation is envisaged at the final resettlement plan's development stage. Will ASIF follow the same scheme?

Answer: NGOs are expected to play active role starting from the very beginning of resettlement under SILD, from the process of preparation to implementation of any RAPs. NGOs are particularly welcomed to participate in public consultations to be organized in the affected communities to present their views and recommendations on the process, and to assist PAPs during the resettlement process.

Husik Sahakyan: How will ASIF ensure implementation of mitigation measures provided by the ESMF?

Answer: Through daily monitoring and supervision, which is carried out by the ASIF Follow-up Unit (Armen Zargaryan) and the ASIF Environmental Specialist, Asya Osipova. If a Contractor will not comply with the set requirements on social and environmental protection, the Contract will be terminated.

Rafik Andreasyan: Is it true, that even project affected persons who do not have any registration will be compensated for the trees and crops?

Answer: Yes, in accordance with the RPF and the WB policy, a project affected person that has no legal claims to the land, will be compensated for all the improvements done on the land prior to the cut-off date - including buildings, crops, trees etc.

Ruben Terzyan: How the land compensation will be calculated: based on the cadastral or actual land type/land usage?

Answer: The decision will be done in favor of project affected people. If the land's cadastral category is higher than factual (for example it is commercial land, but is used as pasture) then the land will be valued based on the cadastral type. If the land's actual usage type is higher, then cadastral (for example, pasture land is used as orchard), then the actual usage will be used during the land valuation process.

Tigran Khachikyan: Will any of the Project supported activities be subject to Environmental expert review, and if yes, then what steps will be taken?

Answer: For some cases defined by the RoA legislation, an Environmental expert review may be required and activities may be financed only upon issuance of a positive conclusion of RA Ministry of Nature Protection. Such necessity may arise especially for infrastructural subprojects. If this is the case, the procedure required by the national law must be followed, including public consultations on a subproject design. The project will not finance any activity that requires a positive conclusion from the national environmental authority and fails to obtain it.

Lala Tevosyan: Who will be responsible for environmental supervision of the Project?

Answer: Overall responsibility for environmental performance under the SILD Project is with ASIF. Supervision of environmental compliance of the Project-financed activities will be undertaken by component coordinators and environmental and other (social) specialists of ASIF.

Question: What are the main risks related to enlargement of construction sites and rehabilitation of buildings?

Answer: Risks related to ownerships rights (adjacent land and other property), solid waste removal/replacement and storage and preparation of construction sites for construction works.

Question: What if additional environmental information is revealed after approval of a project?

Answer: In such a case the project shall be re-evaluated and corresponding changes shall be made to the design and the budget. All risks shall be thoroughly review and if new mitigations measures are required, they shall be described in the project documentation.

Suggestions and recommendations:

- Lala Tevosyan suggested strengthening provisions on NGO participation in the resettlement process. Corresponding changes were made to Chapter 6. Public Participation, i.e. the and following paragraphs were included in the RPF:  
ASIF shall outline the conditions and the process for ensuring participation of PAPs and NGO sector representatives in the in the development and implementation of activities related to resettlement and land acquisition.

The RAPIU will invite PAPs and NGO sector representatives to participate in public consultations organized by SILD at the initial stage of the process, as well as in public consultations organized by SILD during preparation and implementation of RAPs.

- ASIF Deputy Director, Mr. Martirosyan encouraged participation of local communities to oversee contractors' performance in the aspects that are easy to follow by visual observation. This would include on-site storage and timely removal of waste from the construction sites, maintenance of local roads free from construction materials and waste, and other similar indicators of good performance, which directly affect local communities. He also mentioned that in case issues are identified, project affected people can always contact contractors' management. ASIF will guarantee that contact information on construction and the contractor is posted at the work site. Mr. Martirosyan emphasized that for infrastructural sub-projects Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) must be developed to specify what types of mitigation measures shall be applied during works. These EMPs, while in draft, will be published through the ASIF's web-page and be made available for local communities for comments prior to their finalization.

### **List of Participants**

No	Name, surname	Position	Contact information
1	Ashot Kirakosyan	ASIF Executive Director	010247123
2	Razmik Martirosyan	ASIF Deputy Director	010297005
3	Aram Grigoryan	ASIF ISD head	010245140
4	Amalia Poghosyan	ASIF M&E unit head	010247094
5	Ruben Terzyan	ASIF Appraisal unit head	091402871
6	Asya Osipova	ASIF Environmental specialist	091482861
7	Araksya Isakhanyan	ASIF Promotion specialist	
8	Nune Sarukhanyan	Kanach arahet NGO	091 438225
9	Lala Tevosyan	Ecologist, Armenian Technological Academy NGO	099 220642
10	Emma Mkrtychyan	APIU, Resettlement Consultant	099017030
11	Husik Sahakyan	Village Mayor of Rind, RA Vayots Dzori marz	093417578
12	Vladimir Hovanisyan	Village Mayor of Bnunis, RA Syuniqui marz	093411628
13	Rafik Andreasyan	Village Mayor of Urtsadzor, RA Ararati marz	099425842
14	Tigran Khachiryan	Ministry of Territorial Administration	094680001

## Photos of Public Consultation Meeting

