WE WANT FAIR COMPENSATION! Salima Solar Power Project, Malawi

The Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), World Bank Group are financing the Salima Solar Power Project in Malawi.

 FMO
 USD 8.2 million loan

 MIGA
 USD 59 million guarantee

The project involves the construction of a



JCM Power is implementing the project through a locally registered company, JCM Matswani Solar Corporation Limited. SUMEC Group Corporation is responsible for building, operating and maintaining the project.

This survey was conducted as part of the Early Warning System to ensure local communities and the civil society that support them, have verified information about projects likely to cause human and environmental rights abuses. Learn more: ews.rightsindevelopment.org

Benefits according to the Company



Increase in renewable energy and energy generation capacity in Malawi



Increase in employment opportunities for local communities



Increase in renewable energy and energy generation capacity in Malawi



Decrease in reliance on emergency diesel-powered generators.

Likely Negative Impacts for Communities



Quotes



"The chiefs and government officials forced us to sell our land. We were told that if we did not comply, our land would be taken for free because the government can do as it pleases." "I allowed my land to be sold because they said my land would be grabbed for free if I did not comply,"

"There is no benefit from the project. Maybe I could benefit if I got employed at the project site, but I understand that they do not employ women who have young children. I have young children."

STATISTICS

In September 2019, the Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation and the International Accountability Project facilitated a community-led process to survey 100+ community members to understand their knowledge of, engagement and participation in the project and their recommendations for mitigating harm.



None were consulted during the design and planning phase of the project



Did not know how to file complaint



reported that the quality of their lives have been made worse by the projectto file complaint 51%

Did not know where to file complaint



reported that they believed their quality of life would worsen.

After participating in the survey process, communities made the following recommendations:

NEXT STEPS



JCM Power should include communities as decision makers and make available important project documents, including the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment report

MIGA and FMO must ensure the project does not harm communities

The Government of Malawi should protect and respect the affected communities' rights.



