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ARMENIA

SOCIAL INVESTMENT AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT and SOCIAL INVESTMENT AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

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List of Acronyms

ASIF -	Armenia Social Investment Fund
ATDF -	Armenia Territorial Development Fund
EIA -	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESMP -	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESMF -	Environmental and Social Management Framework
EMC -	Environmental Monitoring Center
OM -	Operational Manual
REI -	Regional Environmental Inspectorates
RETF -	Recipient Executed Trust Fund
RoA -	Republic of Armenia
RPF -	Resettlement Policy Framework
RAP -	Resettlement Action Plan
SDC -	Swiss Development Cooperation
SILD -	Social Investment and Local Development
SILD TF -	Social Investment and Local Development Trust Fund

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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 the World Bank-financed Social Investment and Local Development (SILD) Project and a supplemental Trust Fund (TF) Project financed by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). ESMF is also for the attention of participating local communities, engineers, environmental consultants, and other stakeholders. Specifically, the ESMF is intended to ensure that environmental and social concerns are duly taken into account in the process of micro-projects'/sub-projects' design, selection, approval, and implementation in accordance with the environmental and social legislation in Armenia and the World Bank's safeguard policies.

ESMF lays out procedures and implementation arrangements for ensuring good environmental and social performance of SILD and SILD TF projects. 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 ATDF staff on the environmental and social screening, appraisal, and monitoring to be applied to the micro-projects. Each micro-project/sub-project 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 community cluster-based sub-project cycles. It contains formats of environmental and social checklists which are an important tool for environmental and social review of micro-project/sub-project proposals.

2. Environmental and Social Legislation and the Institutional Framework

2.1 Environmental Legislation:

Since independence, the RoA has adopted a number of laws regulating environmental protection. Article 10 of the Constitution of the RoA guarantees the protection of the environment by the State, as well as the rational use and renewal of natural resources. The legal framework -- which reflects, *inter alia*, the deliberations of the World Summit in Rio on Environment and Development -- consists of the Law on Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and a number of other laws which are listed below.

- **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) (a prior code was adopted in 1992)**

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 safeguarding the protection of water resources for future generations. The Water Code addresses the following key issues: responsibilities of state/local authorities and public, development of the National Water

Policy (2005) and National Water Program (2006), water cadastre and monitoring system, public access to the relevant information, water use and water system use permitting systems, trans-boundary water resources use, water quality standards, hydraulic structures operation safety issues, protection of water resources and state supervision.

- **RoA Mining Code (2011)**

The code defines principles and rules of mining in the RA, the relations related to the preservation and use of deposits, conditions and requirements of efficient use, complex use and preservation of deposits, security of mining and protecting the environment from its negative impacts, as well as protection of rights of the state, citizens and users of deposits. According to the Code, natural deposits areas under the exclusive ownership of the State. They may be given out for use for a certain period of time, and cannot be privatized. The law also determines conditions, requirements and peculiarities of the natural resources and deposits. It also establishes payment principles, compensation, monitoring, and limitation for mining activities.

- **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 amount of concentrations and physical negative impact as well as norms of permissible pollution from movable and unmovable sources.

- **RoA Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (1995)**

The Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), passed in 1995, provides legal basis for implementation and introduction of State expertise of planned activities and concept frameworks as well as presents the standard steps of the EIA process. The Law establishes general legal, economic, and organizational principles for conducting mandatory State EIA of various types of projects and concepts of sectoral development.

On September 26, 2014 a number of amendments to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) were passed. This implied, among other changes, expansion of the list of activities subject to the EIA and environmental expert review as compared to the previous iteration of the law, and shortening of the excessive time periods established previously for various stages of the environmental review process.

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

The Law On Ensuring Sanitary-Epidemiological Security of the RA Population was adopted in 1992, which 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 (Department of Historic and Cultural Monuments Preservation) 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 RA 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 RA 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 regulates legal and economic relations connected to the collection, transfer, maintenance, development, reduction of volumes, prevention of negative impact on human health and environment. 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 Republic of Armenia, 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 Republic of Armenia.

- **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 into four categories, National parks, State Reserves, Natural museums and the forth category is divided into three separate types: areas of international, republican and local importance.

- **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.

2.2 Social Legislation

In the RoA, the legal framework for land takings and resettlement issues mainly consist of the following legal acts:

- i. The Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (adopted in 1995 amended in 2005),
- ii. The Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia (adopted on 05.05.1998, entered into force from 01.01.1999, published in Official Bulletin No 1998/17 on 10.08.1998),
- iii. The Law on Alienation of Property for the Needs of Society and State (adopted on 27.11.2006, entered into force from 30.12.2006, published in Official Bulletin No 2006/64 on 20.12.2006),
- iv. The Land Code of the Republic of Armenia (adopted on 02.05.2001, entered into force from 15.06.2001, published in Official Bulletin No 2001/17 on 15.06.2001),
- v. The Law on Real Estate Valuation Activity (adopted on 04.10.2005, entered into force from 26.11.2005, published in Official Bulletin No 2005/71 on 16.11.2005),
- vi. The Code of Civil Procedure (adopted on 17.06.1998, entered into force from 01.01.1999, published in Official Bulletin No 1998/20 on 09.09.1998),
- vii. The Code of Administrative Procedure (adopted on 28.11.2007, entered into force from 01.01.2008, published in Official Bulletin No 2007/64 on 19.12.2007)

- **RoA Law on Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Men and Women (May 20, 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.

3. World Bank Safeguard Policies Triggered

SILD and SILD TF projects trigger 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 projects are classified as environmental Category B. Micro-projects and sub-projects 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 to be performed under the projects will be pretty similar and insignificant, and most of them are already known. The present ESMF describes the main types of expected environmental and social impacts of the two 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 Environmental and Social Management Plans (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). Finalized ESMPs will be included into bidding documents and become integral part of contracts for the provision of works.

OP/BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement is triggered. The type and location of micro-projects/sub-projects that SILD and SILD TF projects may finance are not yet known, and the type and scale of civil works and subsequent resettlement are still to be determined. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) was prepared for SILD Project and then updated for the purposes of SILD SDC RETF. 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. It is assumed that under Component 1 of SILD Project no micro-projects will involve land acquisition (permanent or temporary).

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.

4. Institutional Framework

At the national level, the Ministry of Nature Protection has the mandate for environmental protection, the sustainable use and regeneration of natural resources and the improvement of the environment. These functions are carried out through the following agencies:

- (i) The State Environmental Inspectorate and its 11 Regional Environmental Inspectorates who perform the enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to air and water pollution, land use, biodiversity conservation and forest protection;
- (ii) The State Environmental Expertise, which is a body responsible for Environmental Impact Assessment;
- (iii) The Environmental Monitoring Center (EMC), which is responsible for air and surface water quality monitoring; and
- (iv) Hydromet, which is responsible for monitoring water flow, water balance and water level fluctuations, organization of research in the field of environmental pollution and weather forecasting.

At the regional level, a marz carries out the following functions:

- (i) participates in the development of national environmental programs and make provisions for their implementation within a marz;
- (ii) enforces environmental legislation within a marz;
- (iii) supports specially protected areas, natural resource utilization, and executes measures against illegal hunting, fishing, and logging; and
- (iv) works in cooperation with environmental NGOs.

ATDF will carry overall responsibility for applying safeguard policies to the projects' implementation. ATDF will carry out environmental screening of micro-project/sub-project proposals, will classify them by environmental categories, assess potential environmental and social impacts of micro-projects/sub-projects and define adequacy of the proposed mitigation measures. ATDF will assess social risks and resettlement needs of micro-projects/subprojects and work out recommendations for mitigation of such risks. ATDF will ensure that all compensations are provided and RAPs are implemented to the satisfaction of the World Bank prior to mobilization of contractors to work sites.

5. Environmental and Social Policies Applied to the SILD and SILD TF Projects

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

The complex development projects, in difference from the majority of micro-projects, may consist of several synergic micro-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, ASIF will check that none of them are classified as historical and/or cultural property of the RoA. Civil works contractors of ASIF 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 and SILD TF projects trigger OP/BP 7.50 *Projects on International Waterways*. Some irrigation schemes operated in Armenia abstract water from trans-boundary rivers and/or their tributaries. Discharge from a number of waste water collection systems enters surface water bodies that flow into international waterways. SILD and SILD TF projects may support renovation / rehabilitation of community level water supply, sanitation, and irrigation systems

which are not known upfront and will be identified on the rolling basis during the projects' implementation. Hence there is a likelihood of financing works on the infrastructure that intakes or discharges water into international waterways. However the projects' implementation will not cause measurable impact on the quality and/or quantity of water in trans-boundary water bodies because due to small size of individual investments, vast majority of all physical works under SILD and SILD TF projects will be confined to the repair of the existing infrastructure. For water, wastewater and irrigation systems this would exclude increase in their design capacity of water intake and/or discharge. Rehabilitation works on water-related infrastructure will be aimed at cutting water loss due to leakages and overflows from damaged/clogged passages and malfunctioning of dilapidated hydraulic structures. The projects will not finance any new construction on water, wastewater and irrigation infrastructure. Therefore, while OP/BP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways is triggered, communication between the riparian states on the project interventions is deemed unnecessary. A memorandum granting a waiver on notification was endorsed by ECAVP on January 15, 2015. It covers SILD TF project as well.

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 ESMPs 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 due diligence applied to individual micro-projects depends on the nature, scale, and potential impact of a proposed micro-project. It is anticipated that majority of SILD and SILD TF projects-funded community micro-projects/sub-projects will fall under category B. ESMPs will be developed for such micro-project/sub-project using an Environmental Management Checklist for Small Construction and Rehabilitation Activities, suggested by the World Bank (Annex 3). Category C micro-project/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/sub-projects.

All Category B micro-projects/sub-projects will be included in the monitoring program and random checks of some Category C micro-projects/sub-projects will also be required. A simple field environmental monitoring checklist is developed as a user-friendly tool for recording findings from on-site visits (Annex 4).

6. Environmental and Social Review at Various Stages of the Micro-project/Sub-project Cycle

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

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

6.1 Environmental and Social Review at the Preliminary Appraisal Stage

The goals of the preliminary environmental assessment are to:

- collect evidence that a proposed community based micro-project 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 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 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/sub-project financing or clear a Category B micro-project/sub-project for further processing, provide recommendations on the outline of ESMP for Category B micro-projects/sub-projects.
- Environmental classification of micro-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/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 proposal and the field visit of ATDF environmental specialist to a micro-project/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 site shall also be created at this stage, with special attention to detail for micro-projects implying new construction.

6.2 Environmental and Social Review at the Final Appraisal Stage

Micro-projects classified as category B will require environmental review at the Final Appraisal Stage. The goals of the environmental 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 proponent the proposed Environmental Monitoring Plan;
- Provide environmental clearance for financing a category B micro-project/sub-project.

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

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

6.3 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 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 monitoring checklists; and (iii) provision of thematic inputs to Project progress reports covering status of environmental compliance micro-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-specific environmental monitoring plans and be optimized considering geographic location micro-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, environmental check-ups may be conducted by an environmental specialist 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 monitoring of micro-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 in order to ensure that problems are duly addressed. If identified in compliance is significant, ATDF shall formally communicate findings of environmental 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.

7. Potential Sensitive Receptors and Possible Hazards

- 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 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 stabile.
- 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 case 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 works planned under project are as follows:

- Nuisance to communities residing in the immediate proximity to works sites, that
- 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 projects administered by ATDF (formerly ASIF) 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 ATDF's dedicated M&E Specialist.

- To mitigate other social risks, SILD and SILD TF projects will emphasize participatory decision-making and beneficiary feedback mechanisms. The supported micro-projects will each have a Project Implementation Committee (PIC), 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 ASIF 3 project, under SILD Project, a quota (x%) is being applied to enhance the participation of women in PICs. The PIC model will also be extended and appropriately tailored to territorial development projects, where bodies similar to PICs will be formed under the name of Subproject Initiative Groups (SIGs).
- SIGs are responsible for preparation and submission of sub-project proposal, sub-projects planning and implementation. Besides preparation and submission of the application the Initiative Groups act as focal for the population of eligible communities to provide feedback on the subproject and its components' importance, priority and efficiency, or voice their concerns on the subproject implementation, works quality, and the collaboration with ATDF, contractors, and other stakeholders. The initiative groups are responsible for providing regular information to the community on the sub-project progress, for calling community meetings when required, and for providing sub-project documents to the members of the community upon request.
- The beneficiary feedback and grievance redress mechanisms for SILD and SILD TF projects include telephone feedback line to ATDF, e-mail address, website tool for grievance submission and established procedures at ATDF to review grievances if they cannot be resolved. Also, a grievance officer will be appointed in each PIC for SILD Project-financed micro-projects and in each SIG for SILD TF-financed sub-projects. A grievance focal point will be the first point of contact for any community members with questions/feedback or grievances.

8. Impact Mitigation

Measures proposed 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 include:

- Prior to commencement of works and at the early stage of construction, ATDF should ensure that all required licenses and permits are in place, including those to be obtained by ATDF and its contractors.
- Work sites should be properly demarcated and fenced; warning signs installed; and safe pedestrian and traffic movement allowed around work sites.
- Working hours should be observed; 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.

- 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 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.
- Construction waste should be disposed in especially allocated locations agreed with local municipalities.
- Micro-projects and sub-projects implying new construction shall 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 may have to be developed following the guidance of construction contractor will be instructed to take activity on hold in case of chance finds during earth works, to immediately notify the client, and to resume works only upon receiving formal notification from the client.
- Upon completion of physical activity on site, the area should be cleared from any remaining materials and waste, and harmonized with the surroundings.
- Dumping and accumulation of construction waste and construction materials in and around a work site should be prevented by designating locations for on-site piling of waste and materials. Works contractors should have formal agreement with local authorities for the final disposal of all types of waste;
- Air pollution with dust and emissions should be prevented by watering of access roads and construction sites as appropriate. Vehicles and machinery should be kept in good technical condition in order to prevent excessive emissions. Idling of engines should be disallowed.
- Additional measures planned to maintain air quality would 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.) should be covered to minimize dust emissions during transportation;
- World sites should be fenced and demarcated, dumping and/or stockpiling of construction material and waste outside the delineated work sites should be disallowed;
- Local traffic management regime should be introduced if congestion is likely;
- Information (announcement in local newspaper, TV, posts in public places) on the project activities and opportunities to participate should be provided to all interested parties (veterinarians, food business operators) including women and youth;
- Affected communities should be informed on the project grievance redress mechanisms and modalities; grievance submission procedures should be accessible (including to the poor and those in remote communities) and provide all beneficiaries contact details for ATDF and other contact persons support grievance redress.

9. 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 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.

According to the law on Environmental Impact Assessment, some types of activities are subject to EIA. 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 previous version of present ESMF was disclosed through the web page of ATDF in Armenian and English languages and a public consultation meeting was held at ATDF's office on November 10, 2014 to discuss it with stakeholders. The ESMF was then finalized and the minutes of the consultation meeting were attached. Present updated version of the ESMF is re-disclosed in-country and through the World Bank's electronic database.

Consultation on the Micro-project and Sub-project-specific ESMPs

All draft site-specific 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.

Annex 1.**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 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		
A	B	C
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 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 Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) developed?

Yes _____ No _____

Does ESMP 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 CHECKLIST
FOR SMALL CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION
ACTIVITIES***

General Guidelines for use of ESMF checklist:

For low-risk topologies, such as school and hospital rehabilitation activities, the ECA safeguards team developed an alternative to the current ESMF format to provide an opportunity for a more streamlined approach to preparing ESMFs for minor rehabilitation or small-scale works in building construction, in the health, education and public services sectors. The checklist-type format has been developed to provide “example good practices” and designed to be user friendly and compatible with safeguard requirements.

The ESMF 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 or Environmental Management Framework (EMF) 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

INSTITUTIONAL & ADMINISTRATIVE			
Micro-project / Sub-project number and title			
Municipality, community			
Scope of site-specific activity			
Institutional arrangements (WB)	Task Team Leader: (Erkin Mamadaliev)	Safeguards Specialist: Darejan Kapanadze Sophia Georgieva	
Implementation arrangements (RoA)	Implementing entity: ATDF	Works supervisor: ATDF	Works contractor: (tbd)
SITE DESCRIPTION			
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?			
LEGISLATION			
National & local legislation & permits that apply to project activity			
PUBLIC CONSULTATION			
When / where the public consultation process will take /took place			
ATTACHMENTS			
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 provider (contractor), and the attachments will be provided later, prior to mobilization of a selected works provider to a work site

PART B: SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION

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

¹ 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.

² 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)
0. General Conditions	Notification and Worker Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The local construction and environment inspectorates and communities have been notified of upcoming activities (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) (c) All legally required permits have been acquired for construction and/or rehabilitation (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. (e) Workers' PPE will comply with international good practice (always hardhats, as needed masks and safety glasses, harnesses and safety boots) (f) Appropriate signposting of the sites will inform workers of key rules and regulations to follow.
A. General Rehabilitation and /or Construction Activities	Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) During interior demolition debris-chutes shall be used above the first floor (b) Demolition debris shall be kept in controlled area and sprayed with water mist to reduce debris dust (c) During pneumatic drilling/wall destruction dust shall be suppressed by ongoing water spraying and/or installing dust screen enclosures at site (d) The surrounding environment (sidewalks, roads) shall be kept free of debris to minimize dust (e) There will be no open burning of construction / waste material at the site (f) There will be no excessive idling of construction vehicles at sites
	Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Construction noise will be limited to restricted times agreed to in the permit (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
	Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 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.
	Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Waste collection and disposal pathways and sites will be identified for all major waste types expected from demolition and construction activities. (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. (c) Construction waste will be collected and disposed properly by licensed collectors (d) The records of waste disposal will be maintained as proof for proper management as designed. (e) Whenever feasible the contractor will reuse and recycle appropriate and viable materials (except asbestos)
B. Individual wastewater treatment system	Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The approach to handling sanitary wastes and wastewater from building sites (installation or reconstruction) must be approved by the local authorities (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 (c) Monitoring of new wastewater systems (before/after) will be carried out (d) Construction vehicles and machinery will be washed only in designated areas where runoff will not pollute natural surface water bodies.
C. Historic building(s)	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. (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.

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
D. Acquisition of land	Land Acquisition Plan/Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. (b) The approved Land Acquisition Plan/Framework (if required by the project) will be implemented
E. Toxic Materials	Asbestos management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) If asbestos is located on the project site, it shall be marked clearly as hazardous material (b) When possible the asbestos will be appropriately contained and sealed to minimize exposure (c) The asbestos prior to removal (if removal is necessary) will be treated with a wetting agent to minimize asbestos dust (d) Asbestos will be handled and disposed by skilled & experienced professionals (e) If asbestos material is to 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. (f) The removed asbestos will not be reused
	Toxic / hazardous waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) 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) The containers of hazardous substances shall be placed in a leak-proof container to prevent spillage and leaching (c) The wastes shall be transported by specially licensed carriers and disposed in a licensed facility. (d) Paints with toxic ingredients or solvents or lead-based paints will not be used
F. Affected forests, wetlands and/or protected areas	Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. (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 (c) Adjacent wetlands and streams shall be protected from construction site run-off with appropriate erosion and sediment control feature to include but not limited to hay bales and silt fences (d) There will be no unlicensed borrow pits, quarries or waste dumps in adjacent areas, especially not in protected areas.
G. Disposal of medical waste	Infrastructure for medical waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special facilities for segregated healthcare waste (including soiled instruments "sharps", and human tissue or fluids) from other waste disposal; and ▪ Appropriate storage facilities for medical waste are in place; and ▪ If the activity includes facility-based treatment, appropriate disposal options are in place and operational
H Traffic and Pedestrian Safety	Direct or indirect hazards to public traffic and pedestrians by construction activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signposting, warning signs, barriers and traffic diversions: site will be clearly visible and the public warned of all potential hazards ▪ 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. ▪ Adjustment of working hours to local traffic patterns, e.g. avoiding major transport activities during rush hours or times of livestock movement ▪ Active traffic management by trained and visible staff at the site, if required for safe and convenient passage for the public. ▪ Ensuring safe and continuous access to office facilities, shops and residences during renovation activities, if the buildings stay open for the public.

PART D: MONITORING PLAN

Activity	What (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	Where (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	How (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	When (Define the frequency / or continuous?)	Why (Is the parameter being monitored?)	Who (Is responsible for monitoring?)
CONSTRUCTION PHASE						
1.						
2.						
...						
n.						
OPERATION PHASE						
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 permit for operating concrete/asphalt plant					
Contractor holds agreement for final disposal of waste					
Contractor holds agreement with service provider 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					

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 restrains 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 Andreyan: 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 RA 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 Mkrtchyan	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







