

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Sherabad Solar PV

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Prepared by

Checked by

Approved by

James Askwith
Principal Consultant

Greg McAlister
Associate Director

Iain Bell
Regional Director

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Prepared for:

Masdar

Prepared by:

Greg McAlister
Associate Director

AECOM Limited
7th Floor, Aurora
120 Bothwell Street
Glasgow G2 7JS
United Kingdom

T: +44 141 248 0300
aecom.com

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Acronyms

| Acronym | Definition |
|---------|--|
| AOI | Area of Influence |
| CLO | Community Liaison Officer |
| EEA | Ecological Effect Assessment |
| EHS | Environmental, Health and Safety |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| ESDD | Environmental Social Due Diligence |
| ESIA | Environmental and Social Impact Assessment |
| GIIP | Good International Industry Practice |
| GW | Gigawatt |
| ha | Hectare |
| HV | High Voltage |
| IFC | International Finance Corporation |
| LRP | Livelihood Restoration Plan |
| m | Metre |
| mm | Millimetre |
| MV | Medium Voltage |
| MW | Megawatt |
| OTL | Overhead Transmission Line |
| PAP | Project Affected Person |
| PS | Performance Standard |
| PV | Photovoltaic |
| RUz | Republic of Uzbekistan |
| SCA | Social Compliance Audit |
| SEE | State of Environmental Expertise |
| SEP | Stakeholder Engagement Plan |

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

This document constitutes the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for a proposed 456.7 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic power plant in the Surkhandarya region in the Republic of Uzbekistan (RUz) (the 'Project').

It presents the broad approach and key steps to be undertaken by the Client, to plan and manage stakeholder engagement activities throughout various stages of the Project implementation.

This SEP is a 'live' document, which will be periodically revised in course of the Project lifecycle, when required. The current version covers engagement activities to be undertaken during the undertaking of the national Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and international Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) processes, as well as the construction phase of the Project.

1.2 Objectives of Engagement

This SEP sets out the process for undertaking engagement and consultation with stakeholders. Consultation with stakeholders is essential to obtaining the Project's social 'Licence to Operate' and facilitating the successful completion of the baseline socio-economic and environmental surveys. Stakeholders include local communities potentially affected by the survey activities and other stakeholders not directly affected but who have an interest in these activities or who could affect their progress. These could include national and local authorities, neighbouring projects, and/or non-governmental organisations.

The SEP aims to establish the process and tools to:

- Identify and map stakeholders who have influence on the Project or who the Project influences, and identify and record key issues and concerns that stakeholders may have about the Project.
- Identify whether there are any vulnerable communities/groups, and if so engage with them in meaningful informed consultation.
- Build trusting relationships with local stakeholders based on a transparent and timely supply of information, open dialogue, and provision of opportunities for stakeholders to voice opinions and concerns for informing Project design and mitigation measures, and minimising impacts on local resources and/or stakeholders.
- Keep stakeholders regularly informed about the Project's activities, explaining the nature of the construction and operation stages, overall Project duration, and any changes that could generate new impacts or increase the existing ones, and opportunities for grievance and engagement.
- Demonstrate how national requirements, good international industry practice (GIIP) and IFC guidelines and corporate requirements have been addressed in the national EIA and/or EHIA.
- Build positive stakeholder relationships and ensure ongoing stakeholder participation.
- Implement a viable grievance mechanism; and
- Maintain a record of all consultations and grievances using a Stakeholder Database and Grievance Mechanism Database (or similar).
 - The purpose of the stakeholder database is to document and record all stakeholder interactions to date
 - The grievance database specifically documents grievances recorded during and after the implementation of the project

1.3 Structure of the Document

This document also provides a time schedule for consultations, which may be subject to revisions during project initiation, design and implementation. The resources available to implement the SEP are also described in this document.

The SEP contains the following sections:

- Chapter 2 – Project description.
- Chapter 3 – Roles and responsibilities.
- Chapter 4 – Regulatory Policy and Framework.
- Chapter 5 – Stakeholder identification and analysis.
- Chapter 6 – Stakeholder engagement program.

- Chapter 7 – Tools, techniques and record management.
- Chapter 8 – Grievance mechanism.

2. Project Description

2.1 Key Elements and Activities

The solar project site is located in the Sherabad district of Surkhandarya province. The new transmission line will run across Sherabad, Kizirik and Jarkurgan districts of Surkhandarya province, while the existing Surkhan substation is located in the Jarkurgan district. The overhead transmission line will run for 51 km from the on-site substation to the existing Surkhan substation.

The PV Plant will occupy approximately 631 hectares (6 km²) of land and will be enclosed by a 2.5 meter high fence. It is proposed to locate the necessary infrastructure in the eastern part of the plot, immediately adjacent to the substation and 220kV overhead line to which the PV power plant will connect. The site is accessible via the existing M37 highway and minor road leading to the substation and compound area; minor upgrades to short sections of unsealed road after the junction with the M37 and within the site will be required to accommodate heavy construction vehicles entering the site.

The layout/shape of the project footprint is subject to operational requirements, to be finalised with the EPC contractor, and hence will be confirmed close to the commencement of the construction phase.

It is expected that during construction phase approximately 900 personnel will be working on site in peak times. The size of the operational workforce will depend on the final operation and maintenance concept; however, it is anticipated that around 25 workers will be employed by the Project during operation.

The key components of the solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant are:

- PV modules, which will produce direct current.
- Mounting structures, which the PV modules will be installed on.
- Inverters and medium voltage (MV) transformers, converting direct current into alternating current.
- On-site high voltage (HV) substation and transformer, which convert the electricity from MV to HV.
- Overhead line infrastructure to transport the electricity to the existing 220kV overhead line.
- Other equipment such as switchgear, grounding, and lighting protection.

Such information is based on preliminary information and design provided by the Proponent.

The anticipated lifespan of the Project is approximately 25 years, after which the PV generating facility will be decommissioned, and the site reinstated back to the previous land use (agriculture).

A full project description is provided in the project ESIA.

2.2 Schedule

At the time of writing (Dec 2022), the Project design is being finalised by the EPC contractor. Construction will start once all the required permits and licences have been granted by the authorities. Construction of the PV power plant will take approximately 18 months to complete and will be timed to avoid winter months due to difficult weather conditions. A further one and a half months will be required to commission and test the installation before the PV power plant can start supplying the grid in the first quarter of 2024.

2.3 Project Area of Influence

The Project Area of Influence (AoI) that has been preliminary defined based on the anticipated environmental and social (E&S) impacts and availability of the ESH receptors broadly includes the following:

- Immediate Project site and the approaching roads, where physical disturbance of environmental and social receptors (including the neighbouring communities) might take place as a result of the presence of Project equipment and traffic movement.
- Area up to 5 km radius surrounding the Project site (depending on availability of environmental and social receptors and impacts identified) which could theoretically be affected by dust/noise, visual/landscape changes, glare, hindered access to places and indirect socio-economic impacts.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

This section presents an organisational structure to support Masdar in delivering stakeholder engagement activities. Roles presented relate to activities and responsibilities, rather than individuals, and may be filled by existing Masdar staff, potential new Masdar staff, or Masdar’s consultants.

Effective stakeholder engagement requires clear lines of communication and effective coordination within the Project, between the Project and partners, and with stakeholders.

Key participants in the management of stakeholder engagement include:

- Masdar In-country Project team, with technical support from Masdar Operations and Technology group; and
- Project consultants and contractors.

The Masdar in-country Project Team will be responsible for stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the Project. The Project’s Environmental & Social consultant will assist the in-country Project Team with engagement activities during the ESIA process, as per the pre-agreed allocation of roles.

Table 3-1 sets out the key roles and responsibilities required to manage the stakeholder engagement process for the Project.

Table 3-1: Key Internal Stakeholder Tasks and Responsibilities

Responsibility Task

| Masdar | |
|--|---|
| In-country Project Stakeholder Engagement (SE) Manager | <p>Ensuring that there is a clear and well-defined strategy to guide stakeholder engagement activities and that the staff, resources and systems are in place to enable the strategy and this SEP to be implemented. Tasks would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure this SEP is updated on a regular basis, as when appropriate; • Planning, implementing and conducting day-to-day ongoing management of stakeholder engagement, including grievances; • On-going maintenance of records of formal and informal stakeholder engagement activities; • Organisation, logistical arrangements and attendance at stakeholder meetings; • Preparation of information for dissemination to stakeholders in accessible formats; • Ensure that the Grievance Mechanism is implemented. |
| PROJECT’S ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL CONSULTANT | |
| ESIA Social Lead <i>(to be involved up to the point of the EIA/ESIA disclosure)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing support to Masdar’s in-Country Project Stakeholder Engagement (SE) Manager; • Supporting Masdar with organisation, logistical arrangements and attendance at stakeholder meetings; • Documenting stakeholder engagement activities. |

4. Regulatory Policy and Framework

Stakeholder engagement for the Project will comply with RUz national legislative requirements, Masdar corporate policy on communication and engagement, and international best practice, where feasible.

This section details the legal, regulatory, and company requirements pertaining to stakeholder engagement. It further outlines the standards for international good practice in stakeholder engagement which have informed the development of this document.

4.1 National EIA Consultation Requirements

National legislation in the RUz states that the public should be informed about the Project and have an opportunity to comment on the information provided.

The Operator shall report to the State Committee for Nature Protection (SCNP) of RUz and appropriate Public Authorities of the RUz about the measures taken. Requirements to the content, development procedure and examination of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) documents are governed by the following legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

- Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No 754-XII dated 09.12.1992 «On Environment Protection»;
- Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No 73-II dated 25.05.2000 «On Environmental Impact Audit»;
- Regulation «On State Ecological Expertise in the Republic of Uzbekistan», approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No 491 dated 31.12.2001.
- Regulation «On further Improvement Environmental Impact Assessment Mechanism», approved by the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No 541 dated 07.09.2020.
- EIA documents consisting of the following stages are being developed for designed facilities in accordance with the given requirements:
- DEIA - Draft Environmental Impact Assessment, which shall be developed in the conception stage of planned or anticipated economic or other activity prior to the beginning of project financing (1 stage of EIA);
- EIA - Environmental Impact Assessment, which shall be developed if, based on the results of DEIA State Environmental Expertise (SEE), it was ascertained that additional surveys, on-site investigations, special analyses, simulation experiments and development of well-founded environmental actions are required (2 stage of EIA). Necessity of EIA development shall be defined by State Committee on Nature Protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan based on the results of DEIA state environmental expertise.
- EEA - Ecological Effect Assessment, which shall be developed prior to commissioning of the project and shall be final stage of EIA procedure for designed facilities (3 stage of EIA). (considering, that these standards and experience do not contradict the legislation) on safety and EP. Operator has ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certification.
- Project developer takes all reasonable measures in accordance with these laws and standards in order to minimize any potential violations of general balance of environment, including, but not limited to, land surface, subsoils, air, lakes, rivers, flora and fauna, crops and other natural resources. Sequence of actions is determined in the following order: life protection, EP and property protection.

4.2 Public Hearings

Public hearings cover results of the EIA (and Preliminary EIA, where necessary) of proposed economic activities that may have a significant impact on the environmental and human health.

It is anticipated that public hearings are held in relation to projects that may directly affect the environment and human health and to draft environmental protection action plans. Public hearings provide participants equal rights to express their opinions based on documentary materials on the issue containing public information. Participants of public hearings include:

- Interested members of the public.
- Public and non-governmental organisations and associations.
- Local executive and representative bodies, governmental bodies authorised to make relevant decisions.
- Mass media.

If applicable the Project developer should assist the local authority in arranging public hearings. The Project developer should interact with local executive authorities regarding the date and venue of the public hearings. The public announcement should be

published 20 days prior to the date of the public hearings. The announcement should also specify contact details of offices where members of the public may review the EIA documents prior to the public hearings event.

The public hearings will be held irrespective of the number of participating members of the public. During the hearings, any participant will have the right to express his or her opinion and raise questions to the speakers. The results of the public hearings will be documented in minutes. The Project developer and EIA consultants will review the results and may decide to improve the Project documents to incorporate public opinion. The Project developer will be responsible for the financing, technical, and information support of the public hearings, as agreed between the Project developer and the respective environmental authority.

4.3 International Standards

The IFC Performance Standards (PS) set out the requirements for undertaking stakeholder engagement throughout the Project lifecycle and requires formal evidence of stakeholder engagement at specific stages of Project development, including key stages within the ESHIA process, e.g. ESIA Scoping, draft ESIA preparation, and commencement of operations.

IFC PS 1 'Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts (2012)' sets out the requirements relating to stakeholder engagement and the EIA process, particularly in relation to 'Affected Communities'. Further guidance is available in the IFC documents 'Good Practice Manual: Doing Better Business through Effective Public Consultation (1998)' and 'Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook for Companies doing Business in Emerging Markets (2007)'.

A summary of IFC Performance Standard 1 engagement requirements is presented in Table 4-1. These will be applied by the Project as a benchmark of GIIP.

Table 4-1: Stakeholder engagement requirements as set out in IFC Performance Standard 1

| Issues | Key Requirements |
|---|--|
| Stakeholder analysis and planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Project affected stakeholders, including vulnerable groups¹ • Develop and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan |
| Disclosure of information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide stakeholders with access to information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purpose, nature and scale of the Project - Duration of proposed Project activities - Any risks, potential impacts and mitigation measures - Proposed stakeholder engagement process - Grievance Mechanism |
| Consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation will be in line with the degree of potential project impacts and will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Begin early and continue throughout the Project lifecycle - Be based on prior disclosure and dissemination of information - Focus on those directly affected - Be free of outside interference and external manipulation - Enable meaningful participation - Be documented |
| External communications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement and maintain a procedure for external communications that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registers communication - Screens and assesses issues raised - Tracks and documents responses - Adjusts the management programme |
| Grievance Mechanism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Grievance Mechanism to receive and facilitate resolution of Affected Communities' concerns and grievances about the Project. • The Grievance Mechanism should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resolve concerns promptly - Use a transparent and culturally appropriate consultative process |
| Ongoing reporting to affected communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide periodic progress updates, specifically with regard to issues or grievances communities have raised • Communicate any updates of the management programme • Report to the community with frequency that is proportionate to the concerns of affected communities but not less than annually. |

Source: IFC Performance Standards, 2012

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a principal lender of the Project. In order to comply with International Best Practice Guidelines, application of the ADB Safeguard Policy Statement will be applied to Project development and implementation. This is consistent with IFC policy and integrates previous ADB policies and safeguard requirements on environment, involuntary

¹ Vulnerable stakeholders are defined as those who may be differently or disproportionately affected by the Project due to pre-existing disadvantaged status, or whose situation may mean that they are hard to reach, and/or require differentiated measures in consultation and disclosure activities to allow their effective participation.

resettlement, and indigenous peoples. ADB safeguard policies are designed to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse environmental and social impacts.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is another lender of the Project, and in its Environmental and Social Policy (2019), has outlined its impact mitigation requirements and the accompanying Performance Requirement (PR) 10: The Project will therefore aim to be compliant with the requirements of this policy. Specific requirements for the consultation process of PR10 include:

- All projects financed by EBRD shall be structured to meet the requirements of the EBRD Environmental and Social Policy (2019) which includes ten Performance Requirements (PRs) for key areas of environmental and social sustainability that projects are required to meet, including PR10 on Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement.
- In addition, EBRD's Independent Project Accountability Mechanism (IPAM), as an independent last resort tool, aims to facilitate the resolution of social, environmental and public disclosure issues raised by Project-affected people and civil society organisations about EBRD financed projects among Project stakeholders or to determine whether the Bank has complied with its ESP and the Project-specific provisions of its Access to Information Policy; and where applicable to address any existing non-compliance with these policies, while preventing future non-compliance by the Bank.
- The EBRD's ESP defines stakeholder engagement as an on-going process which involves the following elements:
 - (i) stakeholder identification and analysis;
 - (ii) stakeholder engagement planning;
 - (iii) disclosure of information;
 - (iv) meaningful consultation and participation leading to the client's incorporating into its decision-making process the views of the affected parties on matters that affect them;
 - (v) an effective grievance procedure or mechanism, and
 - (vi) ongoing reporting to relevant stakeholders.
- The process of stakeholder engagement should begin at the earliest stage of project planning and continue throughout the project life.
- An essential element in the stakeholder engagement process, to ensure meaningful and effective consultation process, is the careful identification of all involved stakeholders and the examination of their concerns, expectations, and preferences. Special attention should be paid to the identification of vulnerable stakeholders. The engagement with these stakeholder groups needs to be planned and managed with special care.

Furthermore, the EBRD requires that the project developer establish and maintain an effective grievance mechanism, ensuring that any stakeholder complaints are received, handled, and resolved effectively, in a prompt and timely manner. The Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB) are an additional lender of the Project. In order to comply with international lenders requirements, the Project will be compliant with the AIIB Environmental and Social Framework. Within this framework, there is an Environmental and Social Standard 2: Land Acquisition and involuntary Resettlement. This standard will be applied to the Project, therefore Masdar are required to undertake the following actions relevant to stakeholder engagement:

- Consultations should take place associated with livelihood restoration and land acquisition which should be meaningful and welcoming of communities and non-government organisations where applicable. Any persons classed as displaced from land acquisition should be consulted in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the future LRP. This process should take into consideration anyone classed as vulnerable and put in place additional measures to ensure there is a means for open participation from all stakeholder groups.

The Project must also comply with the requirements of The European Investment Bank (EIB), who are another principle lender of the Project. The EIB has as part of their Environmental and Social Standards 2022 document Standard 2 – Stakeholder Engagement, therefore the Project should comply with the requirements of this standard. Another principle standard of this document, is Standard 6, which is on Involuntary Resettlement. As part of the land acquisition and involuntary resettlement process, the standard outlines particular requirements for stakeholder engagement and disclosure as part of this process. This includes the following:

- The promoter should identify and meaningfully engage in a transparent manner with all PAPs regularly throughout resettlement planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.
- The promoter should inform PAPs regarding options and rights on resettlement and disclose all relevant information in a timely, accessible manner, provided in the local language. There should also be special attention paid in circumstances of illiteracy, or where education differs according to age, gender or economic status.

- Vulnerable groups and any groups disproportionately affected by the resettlement process should be paid special attention by the promoter and special provisions should be applied to Indigenous Peoples.

5. Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

5.1 Stakeholder identification

In accordance with international standards (Section 4.3) and Masdar’s corporate standards, this SEP must ensure that relevant stakeholders have been identified and consulted.

Stakeholder identification is conducted based on available primary and secondary data information, a review of available Project documentation, input from the Project consultants, as well as being informed by the results of site visits.

The stakeholder list will be continuously updated throughout the life of the Project.

Table 5-1 outlines the stakeholder groups and potential key stakeholders, as well as their specific relevance to or interest in the Project that have been identified during the ESIA scoping stage.

Table 5-1: Summary of Key Potential Stakeholders following Identification and Analysis

| Stakeholder Group | Stakeholders | Interest/Relation to the Project |
|---|---|---|
| Institutional-based Stakeholders (regional – Surkandarya) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Khokim of Surkhandarya region Chief of the Main Department Chief specialist of the Investments department of Surkhandarya region Khokim of Sherabad district Deputy Khokim of Sherabad district on investment, innovation, support of privatized enterprises, free economic and small industrial zones as well the development of tourism Head of District Irrigation Department Chief Engineer, Cadastral officials of Sherabad district Chief Inspectorate of State Committee for Nature Protection of Surkhandarya Region Chief Specialist of the Centre for Ecological Expertise Head of Agriculture Department Head of Investment Department of the Sherabad Khokimiyat Deputy Head of Khokim on women issues Local Grid representative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approvals for and assistance in Project activities within each of the authorities’ remit (land issues, water use, energy, investment support, etc.) Support with providing various baseline information on the area of Project implementation (from the rural district level to the republican level) Potential assistance in interaction with other authorities and local population/organisations |
| Institutional-based Stakeholders (local) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman of the mahalla committee Bogobod | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with identification of impacted people including informal farmers and herders Identification of vulnerable people and groups Land use types in the project area Current community governance structures and grazing activities Support interactions with local people |
| Local communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bogobod Tong Yulduzi Yangi Er Mekhrigiyo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential perceivable impacts of the Project (dust, noise, glare, visual, water- and land use-related, load on communal infrastructure) Potential opportunities (employment, community development) |
| Project Affected Parties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers and other individuals directly affected by land acquisition. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential perceivable impacts of the Project (dust, noise, glare, visual, water- and land use-related, load on communal infrastructure) Potential opportunities (employment, community development) |
| Vulnerable Groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young families (where the parents are under 30) who have lost both parents Children and young people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential perceivable impacts from land acquisition of the project which may be worse due to vulnerable status |

| Stakeholder Group | Stakeholders | Interest/Relation to the Project |
|---|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families with disabled parents or children A widower A single parent family A single retired person An elderly person (over 65 years old) Women in the family Anyone farming or investing in the land without a legal title People in poor health Households under the poverty line Households in financial difficulty Households with a member who is addicted to drugs or alcohol | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential opportunities (employment, community development) |
| Specialist from the Women's Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist on women issues in Bogobod makhalla. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They have a programme to integrate women, including but not limited to vulnerable categories (e.g. domestic violence, etc.), in the job market. They offered support to the future concessionaire to help recruit women for the project. |
| Local Land Users (involved in passage through the Project site, etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers Herders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potentially impacted due to disturbed access to the commonly used grazing lands and existing tracks |
| Media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be confirmed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential communication channels/means of the Project information disclosure |
| Research/Educational Organisations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be confirmed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research in the fields of water management, environment and construction, potential support with providing baseline information on these matters Graduates may potentially be interested in/suitable for employment on the Project |
| Land administration authorities | Pasture designation unit of khokimiyat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibility for land management. Notification and assessment of potential impacts including accidental damages to utility assets and public infrastructure around the Project construction zones. |
| Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs). | NGOs or CSOs at local or international level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interest in the Project regarding issues such as biodiversity or effects on vulnerable groups |

As identified in the above Table, Vulnerable groups have been identified for the stakeholder engagement programme. Vulnerable groups are those individuals or groups who may be directly and differentially or disproportionately affected by the Project's negative impacts and/or less able to participate in and benefit from the Project's positive impacts because of their disadvantaged or vulnerable status. This status may stem from ethnicity, property, level of income, economic situation, gender, language, religion, national or social origin, age, culture, literacy, physical or mental disability, and dependence on unique natural resources (IFC, 2021). Based on the above definition, the following groups within the Project social area of influence are considered vulnerable:

- Young families (where the parents are under 30) who have lost both parents
- Children and young people
- Families with disabled parents or children
- A widow
- A single parent family
- A single retired person
- An elderly person (over 65 years old)

- Women in the family
- Anyone farming or investing in the land without a legal title
- People in poor health
- Households under the poverty line
- Households in financial difficulty
- Households with a member who is addicted to drugs or alcohol

These categories should however be used as a guide and it is possible that some people may be vulnerable because of very specific circumstances which might not fit into the above list.

A more detailed vulnerability analysis among project affected people, is included in the LRP. A range of measures will be explored to ensure engagement with vulnerable groups including but not limited to:

- Differentiated measures of engagement such as group meetings, one to one interviews, presentations or phone calls.
- Ensuring they are represented at meetings and committees associated with the Project.
- Ensuring accessibility (especially for disabled individuals) to Project meetings or finding alternative arrangements.
- Ensuring participation of family members.
- Ensuring women and spouses are represented.
- Translating to local languages.
- Explaining and simplifying information.
- Use of imagery for illiterate individuals.

5.2 Stakeholder Analysis

As well as identifying potential stakeholders, it is also necessary to determine the level of engagement priority that should be afforded to Project stakeholders. Stakeholder priority can be determined by understanding each stakeholder's influence and impact in relation to the Project. This is termed "stakeholder mapping", the process for which is outlined below.

5.3 Assessing Stakeholder Impact

Stakeholder impact is defined as the extent to which the interests of a stakeholder are affected by a project. These impacts can be either positive or negative and lead to either an improvement or deterioration in their conditions. For the purposes of this exercise, all stakeholders will be assigned into one of three impact significance categories to help inform the stakeholder mapping process: high, medium, and low. These terms are defined as follows:

- **High impact** – The Project potentially has a significant beneficial or adverse impact on the interests of a stakeholder. The impact is generally considered to be high when the number of people affected is large (e.g. greater than 50), the duration of the impact is over the long-term (perceived for over a year), extends over a large area (i.e. regional, international and transboundary), and/or the stakeholders are highly sensitive to the impact.
- **Medium impact** – The Project potentially has a moderate beneficial or adverse impact on the interests of a stakeholder. The impact is considered to be medium when a small number of people are affected (e.g. greater than 10, less than 50), the duration of the impact is over the medium-term (perceived for a few months), is experienced on a regional scale, and/or the affected stakeholders are moderately sensitive to the impacts.
- **Low impact** – The Project potentially has a minor beneficial or adverse impact on the interests of a stakeholder. The impact is minor when the number of people affected is relatively small (e.g. less than 10), the impact is temporary, short term (perceived from few days and up to 2-3 months), or can be fully mitigated, scale of impact is local or on-site, and/or the stakeholders are not considered sensitive to the impact.

5.4 Assessing Stakeholder Influence

Influence in the stakeholder mapping context refers to the extent to which the stakeholder or group of stakeholders is/are able to influence the Project (including Masdar's reputation) through affecting key aspects such as design and permitting decisions.

Influence may be formal or informal, for example, informal influence through a personal connection to a politician or formal influence through the issue of government approvals and determinations.

All stakeholders will be assigned to one of three influence categories to help inform the stakeholder mapping process: high, medium and low. Categorisation is based on analysing three key elements related to influence: power, capacity and legitimacy.

These categories are by their nature subjective. However, through this analysis it is possible to establish the following broad definitions and categories of influence:

- **High influence** – The stakeholder or stakeholder group is considered highly influential when it has the capacity to halt the Project or significantly influence Masdar's reputation, such as powerful civil society groups and individuals who can affect Project-related decision-making.
- **Medium influence** – The stakeholder or stakeholder group has a moderate capacity to exert influence over the Project or Masdar's reputation, such as a lobby group, small associations, national, and international NGOs.
- **Low influence** – The stakeholder or stakeholder group is isolated and has limited capacity to exert influence over the Project or Masdar's reputation. For example, stakeholders who may lack the institutional legitimacy or social capacity to affect the Project such as elderly, children, vulnerable, and disadvantaged members of the community. Isolated communities that are geographically distant are considered to have low influence, but a group of these communities connected through social media or associations can be considered as having moderate influence.

6. Stakeholder Engagement Programme

As part of the ESIA and LRP study, AECOM is carrying out a stakeholder engagement programme. The programme comprises several stakeholder engagement activities which aim to:

- Build and maintain stakeholder relationships.
- Gather information on the local environmental and social issues.
- Continue to disclose Project information (including any access restrictions, employment and procurement opportunities, and community health and safety issues).
- Monitor and evaluate stakeholder engagement.
- Provide stakeholders the opportunity to provide feedback.
- Manage grievances.

This section presents a summary of the stakeholder engagement programme, namely in two parts: previous engagement activities and future engagement activities.

The details of the stakeholder engagement programme as well as the applicable regulatory framework, the stakeholder identification and analysis process, and details of the Grievance Mechanism (GM), will be documented here. The SEP (and the engagement programme) is a 'live' document that will be updated as the Project progresses.

Issues identified during the stakeholder engagement process have been recorded in the assessment of impacts and appropriate mitigation has been developed where appropriate.

6.1 Previous Engagement Activities

6.1.1 Suntrace Initial Environmental Examination

German consulting firm Suntrace undertook the Initial Environmental Examination for the current Project from November 2019 – October 2020 and as such have already conducted some preliminary stakeholder engagement. It is important to understand the depth and breadth of these consultations prior to conducting any further engagement to build up a picture of which stakeholders have been consulted, what has been discussed, and crucially which stakeholders have thus far not been consulted. This will enable AECOM to tailor the stakeholder engagement programme for the ESIA to the project context.

6.1.1.1 Methods

Initial consultations with local stakeholders in the project area of influence were conducted in November 2019 before the commencement of any project activity to inform them of the proposed project and obtain feedback (Suntrace, 2020). The second round of consultations were conducted in December 2019 and January 2020 when the technical and local environment consultants / specialists conducted a number of field visits for primary and secondary data collection. Table 6-1 outlines the details of the individuals met during this second round of consultation.

Table 6-1: List of Individuals Consulted in Stage 2 of Suntrace's Environmental Examination

| No. of Individual | Gender, age, occupation, place of residence | Date | Location |
|-------------------|--|-----------|---|
| 1 | Man, 42 years, shepherd, Kuktash settlement. | 7/3/2020 | Karakyr upland- Solar plant site |
| 2 | Man, 30 years, shepherd. | 7/3/2020 | Karakyr upland- Chapanchi Mekhriyo settlement, Solar plant site |
| 3 | Man, 45 years, shepherd. | 7/3/2020 | Karakyr upland- Chapanchi Mekhriyo settlement, Solar plant site |
| 4 | Man, 60 years, shepherd. | 11/3/2020 | Karakyr upland-Muzrabat settlement |
| 5 | Man, 23 years, shepherd. | 11/3/2020 | Karakyr upland |
| 6 | Man, 60 years, Head of Buyuk Ipak Yuli settlement. | 10/3/2020 | Kampyrtepa, IBA Amudarya floodlands |
| 7 | Man, 63 years, shepherd. | 11/3/2020 | Karakyr upland- Yangier settlement |
| 8 | Man, 44 years, shepherd | 11/3/2020 | Karakyr upland-Yangier settlement, Solar plant site |

| No. of Individual | Gender, age, occupation, place of residence | Date | Location |
|-------------------|--|-----------|--|
| 9 | Man, 44 years, shepherd. | 11/3/2020 | Karakyr upland-Solar plant site |
| 10 | Woman, 47 years, Head of Bogobod settlement, (this settlement locates to the North from Solar site). | 11/3/2020 | Karakyr upland-Solar plant site |
| 11 | Man, 57 years, famer. | 12/3/2020 | Karakyr upland-Solar plant site, Bogobod settlemen |
| 12 | Man, 65 years, Senior huntsman in Surkhandarya region, chief hunter at Aktepa hunting area (IBA Aktepa and three lakes). | 9/3/2020 | Dzharkurgan (transmission line |

Source: (Suntrace, 2020)

6.1.1.2 Outcomes

The outcomes of these engagement activities yielded an understanding and appreciation of local and regional environmental and social issues. The main environmental issues identified during stakeholder consultations included increases in dust in the dry season and waste dumping associated with construction.

Social issues identified and discussed during stakeholder consultations included:

- The proposed site is not used for animal grazing; the locals have other designated areas for grazing their livestock.
- However, the area in and around the proposed transmission line is used for the livestock / animal grazing.
- Overall, the proposed project was highly welcomed by the interviewed stakeholders / villagers.
- The stakeholders / villagers expressed dire necessity of the project for their overall development of the villages in the area, including improved access to electricity, particularly during the harsh winters and hot summers and improved quality of life.
- The local stakeholders / villagers hope to gain temporary employment during construction stage and a number of permanent employment positions at the solar PV plant.
- The stakeholders expressed concerns regarding the potential of damage to existing roads during construction and safety concerns due to presence of transmission towers during the operation stage.

6.1.2 AECOM ESIA

During the preparation of the ESIA an initial site visit was undertaken by the in-country project team which included some further stakeholder engagement activities. The site visit was conducted between 21st and 24th October 2021. This was followed up by additional site visits for the ESIA and LRP.

6.1.2.1 Methods

Stakeholder engagement is an important process at all ESIA stages however, it is particularly helpful to engage with relevant stakeholders during the early stages of the ESIA as their inputs can be considered in the assessment of impacts and the design of mitigation, management, and enhancement measures. A preliminary list of project stakeholders was identified prior to the site visit. Stakeholders identified include individuals, groups, and organizations that may be affected by or may influence project development, either positively or negatively. The list of project stakeholders will be continuously revised (expanded or reduced as necessary) throughout the ESIA study. The stakeholders identified and engaged with throughout the site visit are in Table 6-2.

Table 6-2: Stakeholder groups engaged during site visit

| Stakeholder Group | Stakeholders |
|---|---|
| Local Government Representatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Khokim of Surkhandarya Region on Investments • Khokim of Sherabad District • First Deputy Khokim of Sherabad District • Cadastre of Sherabad • Head of Ecology of Surkhandarya region • Head of department of investments, Sherabad Khokimiyat • Chair of Bog'obod makhalla • Specialist on women issues of Bog'obod makhalla |
| Community Organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemetery director |
| Community Representatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bog'obod makhalla women • Leaders of Yangi er, Tong Yulduzi, Mehrgiyoh Makhallas |

| Stakeholder Group | Stakeholders |
|------------------------|---|
| Land Users | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers from Sherabad along the OHL route • Farmer using land west of project area • Farmer 1 using land adjacent and within the project area • Farmer 2 owning the land within the project area |
| Community Members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bog'obod School №41 administration and teachers |
| Specialists, Academics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Grid Representative • Head of Surkhandarya Geology department |

At the start of each engagement session a brief overview of the Project was provided and the rationale for engaging with the specific stakeholders was explained. The format of the engagement varied depending on the number of stakeholder's present and the environment (i.e. on the project site or in a meeting room). The selected engagement methodologies included:

- **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs):** this methodology was used to engage one-to-one with local government representatives who are used to engaging with in this manner. This methodology was also used to engage with specific land users who would be impacted by the project in different ways.
- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** this methodology was used to engage with specific groups of stakeholders who were likely to have similar concerns, priorities, and perceptions of the project and its likely impacts. This included community members, women, community leaders, and teachers.

The KIIs and FGDs both followed a semi-structured format with standard list of questions for each stakeholder. Stakeholders were then given the opportunity to ask questions of the ESIA Consultants. The project site map was used as visual aid where necessary.

6.1.2.2 Outcomes

Throughout the site visit a range of stakeholders a range of stakeholders were engaged with including local government , local schools (Figure 6-2), community leaders (Figure 6-3), and farmers (Figure 6-4). Notes were taken during each stakeholder meeting. Key issues discussed at each meeting are presented below.

6. Stakeholder Engagement Programme



Figure 6-1 Meeting with the women of Bog'obod makhalla



Figure 6-2. Meeting with teachers and administration of School №41



Figure 6-3. Meeting with mahalla leaders and cemetery representatives of Muzrabad district



Figure 6-4. Meeting with farmers

Table 6-3. ESIA and LRP Engagement Activities

| Stakeholder Category | Stakeholder Engagement Methods | Location/ Timeline | Purpose | Consultation Disclosure Materials | Mean of Advance Notification | Responsibility |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Scoping/ESIA PHASE | | | | | | |
| Local government representatives, community organisations, community representatives, land users, community members, specialists, academics | Face to face group meetings | 21 st and 24 th October 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project information List of stakeholders Environmental and social baseline | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| Local government representatives: Region on investments, Khokim of Sherabad district, first deputy Khokim, Kadastr | Face to face group meetings | 21 st October 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mission tasks, stakeholders meeting list Overview of the region economic indicators List of farmers and land users Current lease agreements Farming land data availability Future public consultations | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| Head of local departments: Ecology, investments, geology | Face to face group meetings | 21 st /22 nd October 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project development stage consultation Rich biodiversity in region and red book species Future public consultations Confirmation of no exploration plans in project area and TL route | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| Makhalla Chairs: Bog'obod | One to one interview | 21 st October 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project background Employment opportunities Project information sharing in the community | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| Leaders of Yangi er, Tong Yulduzi, | Group meetings | 23 rd October 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment opportunities Opportunities for those who migrated to Russia but want to return Cemetery importance and access for local area | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |

| Stakeholder Category | Stakeholder Engagement Methods | Location/ Timeline | Purpose | Consultation Disclosure Materials | Mean of Advance Notification | Responsibility |
|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Mehrgiyoh Makhallas | | | | | | |
| Director of cemetery | One to one interview | 23 rd October 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cemetery importance, access and requirement for a buffer zone as it is growing | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| Farmers | Group meetings or one on one interview | 21 st /23 rd /24 th October 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmers live along OHTL route Grow wheat, cotton, fruits which they export Future consultation about final design of TL and location of towers Employment opportunities for residents and returning economic migrants Some farmers trained on basics of electricity by district employment Clarity on project borders Compensation and livelihood restoration assistance e.g. offer of other land if loss of land occurs due to project | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| Makhalla women | Group meetings | 23 rd October 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job opportunities Project background Issue of lack of local transport Lack of water and agricultural activities Lack of gas pipe in village | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| Specialist of on women issues of Bog'obod makhalla | One to one interview | 23 rd October 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment rates amongst local women Existing employment for women including seasonal work Discussion of how government support vulnerable women and 9 categories of this Database of unemployed and vulnerable women Employment opportunities for unemployed or vulnerable women in project | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| School administration and teachers | Group meetings | 23 rd October 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project background Community opportunities | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| Local grid representative | One to one interview | 22 nd October 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project consultation plans Route design for OHTL | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| Stakeholder meetings at Bog-iobod Mahalla | Group meetings | 1 st December 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of existing state of mahallas including infrastructure, utilities, schools, roads Questions raised by attendees regarding construction timings, project design, price of energy produced, where will electricity go, | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |

| Stakeholder Category | Stakeholder Engagement Methods | Location/ Timeline | Purpose | Consultation Disclosure Materials | Mean of Advance Notification | Responsibility |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Mekhrigie Mahalla | | | | | | |
| Stakeholder meetings at Yangi Yer Mahalla | Group meetings | 2 nd December 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project information Key stages Reasons for meeting Questions raised by attendees regarding principle of PV technology, affect on fish farms nearby, drinking water issues, employment opportunities, specialist requirements, will road remain accessible between cemetery and site Data collection regarding the Mahalla | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| Tong Yulduzi stakeholder meeting | Group meetings | 2 nd December 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project information Key stages Reasons for meeting Concerns and questions regarding radiation, principle of PV technology Mahalla data collection | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| Meeting with farmers (1 and 2) | One to one interviews | 2 nd December 2021 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use Previous electricity supplies Plans to install water pipes Discussions regarding alternative plots of land and livelihood restoration assistance | N/A | Telegram channel/phone | GBI |
| SCA and LRP PHASE | | | | | | |
| Disclosure of LRP process Community leaders from all three districts, Khokimiyat representative from all three districts. | Face to face community meeting | 15 th – 16 th August | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented a map of the project area and OTL Explanation of who might be affected by the land acquisition (Leaseholders, informal farmers, herders, other community members who access the site) Explanation of the types of impact including permanent land take, temporary land take and the conditions associated with the sterilization zone. Explanation of the Land Acquisition Process and key date of surveys and construction. Explained the principles of the LRP process, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compensation will be issued for all land and assets lost or damaged After the survey date, new crops, buildings or land sold will not be recorded or compensated Highly impacted households will receive additional livelihood support | Disclosure PowerPoint Presentation | Advertisement in Telegram Group | GBI |

| Stakeholder Category | Stakeholder Engagement Methods | Location/ Timeline | Purpose | Consultation Disclosure Materials | Mean of Advance Notification | Responsibility |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|----------------|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vulnerable households will be supported The community will be consulted and participate in decision making All complaints and grievances will be recorded and addressed Upcoming surveys and engagements Contact details for the grievance mechanism | | | |
| Socio-Economic Survey Interview with all impacted Leaseholders | One on one interviews | 29 th August – 2 nd Sept Various Locations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering demographic information Gathering socio-economic information Gathering livelihood information | N/A | Advance notice by phone | GBI |
| Valuation Meeting with all impacted Leaseholders | One on one interviews | 29 th August – 2 nd Sept Various Locations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering information for valuation | Grievance Mechanism Leaflet Cut-off date form | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance notice by phone | GBI |
| Socio Economic Survey interview with cluster farmers | One on one interviews | 8-9 th of September 2022 Various Locations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering demographic information Gathering socio-economic information Gathering livelihood information | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance notice by phone | GBI |
| Deputy Khokimiyat for Sherabad | Face to face group meeting | 17 th September Khokimiyat Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LRP process Future engagement activities (Lenders visit and LRP verification) Current land use types in the project area Current challenges with farming and livelihoods Known and potential impacts on stakeholders from the project Identification of impacted people, including informal farmers and herders. Identification of vulnerable people and groups Current governance structures and community activities (Such as herding rotations) Potential options for livelihood restoration and support | N/A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance notice by phone | AECOM & GBI |

| Stakeholder Category | Stakeholder Engagement Methods | Location/ Timeline | Purpose | Consultation Disclosure Materials | Mean of Advance Notification | Responsibility |
|---|--------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Deputy Khokimiat on Women and Family Issues | Face to face group meeting | 17 th September Khokimiyat Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of women • Government support to vulnerable women • The “Iron Notepad” • Issues faced by women in farming • Farmworkers and women in seasonal work | N/A | • Advance notice by phone | AECOM & GBI |
| Deputy Khokimiat on Youth | Face to face group meeting | 17 th September Khokimiyat Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of youth • Government support to vulnerable youth • The “Iron Notepad” • Issues faced by women in farming • Farmworkers and women in seasonal work | N/A | • Advance notice by phone | AECOM & GBI |
| Head of Regional Agricultural Department Representative of Cadastre Department | Face to face group meeting | 17 th September Khokimiyat Office Regional Agricultural Department Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current land use types in the project area • Current challenges with farming and livelihoods • Known and potential impacts on stakeholders from the project • Identified discrepancies with the land order and Masdar Map | N/A | • Advance notice by phone | AECOM & GBI |
| Cotton Farming Cluster | Face to face group meeting | 17 th September Khokimiyat Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gathered data regarding how the cotton farm operates • Understanding how employees/farming families might be impacted by the OTL • Confirmed that all negotiations must go through the cluster farm as the employer • Agreed that a legal MoA could be established between Masdar and the cluster to protect the livelihood of the employees | N/A | • Advance notice by phone | AECOM & GBI |
| Bogobod Makhallas Community Members Community Leaders | Face to face group meeting | 17 th September Khokimiyat Office | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LRP process • Future engagement activities (Lenders visit and LRP verification) • Current land use types in the project area • Current challenges with farming and livelihoods • If herders currently use the land • Confirmed where preferred herding areas are to the north of the site • Discussing how many of Mahallas are women who are also seasonal workers in the cotton farms | N/A | • Advance notice on Telegram channel | AECOM & GBI |

| Stakeholder Category | Stakeholder Engagement Methods | Location/ Timeline | Purpose | Consultation Disclosure Materials | Mean of Advance Notification | Responsibility |
|--|--------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Informal Farmer Representative of Cadastre Department | Face to face group meeting | 18 th September Solar PV Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed the project and how it might be impacted Discussed ways to avoid his farm and his house Gathered information about his socio-economic circumstances Discussed his alternative land and how he accesses water on the land he farms informally Discussed his perceptions of the project | N/A | • N/A | AECOM & GBI |
| Neighbouring Farmer Representative of Cadastre Department | Face to face group meeting | 18 th September Solar PV Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed the progress of the project Re confirmed that his land will not be impacted | N/A | • N/A | AECOM & GBI |
| Son of Farmer with leasehold SB070 Representative of Cadastre Department | Face to face group meeting | Residence of Farmer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed how his land in the Solar PV area is currently being used and it was explained that he does not use the land | N/A | • N/A | AECOM & GBI |
| Leaseholder SB070 | One to one interviews | Phone call | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed how his land in the Solar PV area is currently being used. He explained that he intends to use the area for herding. | N/A | • N/A | AECOM & GBI |
| Leaseholder SB064 | One to one interviews | Phone call | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed how his land in the Solar PV area is currently being used. He explained that he intends to use the area for herding. | N/A | • N/A | GBI |

A comprehensive stakeholder engagement programme has been completed by Masdar and the Lenders. A section of this programme involved engagement of Project stakeholders including central and local government authorities, affected communities and their informal leadership. Table 6-4 outlines the stakeholder engagement schedule, stakeholder group, participants and the modes of consultation. A priority of these engagements was ensuring adequate representation of women and marginalized groups. The agenda for stakeholder engagement covered previous engagement, land access and affected livelihoods, other socioeconomic considerations, environmental considerations, construction resources and utilities, and E&S monitoring. A summary of the feedback provided from these sessions can be found in the Appendix.

Table 6-4. Masdar ESDD Stakeholder Engagement Schedule, Consultation Modes, Target Parties and Participants (from Environmental and Social Due Diligence Report)

| Date | Stakeholder Group | Participants | Consultation Mode |
|--------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 12-13 October 2022 | Sukhandarya Regional Administration (Khokimiyat) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy of the Head of the Secretariat of the Regional Khokimiyat. Specialists from the Regional Departments of Ecology, Investment and Foreign Trade and Cultural Heritage. State Assets Management Agency (SAMA) representatives. Specialists from the ESDD and ESIA consultants. Delegation of the project lenders. | Key Informant Interview (KII) |
| | Administration of Sherabad and Muzrabot Districts (Khokimiyats) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy District Khokim for investment. – Deputy Khokim for construction. Head of Department for Gender and Family Welfare Heads of the State Power Supply Enterprise. Specialists from the District Departments of Agriculture, Water Resources and Irrigation, Cadastre, Construction and Ecology. Deputy Khokim of Muzrabot District. Specialists from the ESDD and ESIA consultants. - Delegation of the project lenders | Key Informant Interview (KII) |
| | Affected communities (makhallas), namely: - Bogishamol - Mekhrigiyo - Yangi er - Bog'obod | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community leaders (elders and chairpersons). Other community members, including vulnerable residents. Specialists from the ESDD and ESIA consultants. - Delegation of the project lenders. | Focus Group Discussion (FGD) |
| 14 October 2022 | Ministry of Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Chief Specialists from the Ministry's Renewable Energy Departments. Legal Advisor. Specialists from the ESDD and ESIA consultants. - Delegation of the project lenders. | Key Informant Interview (KII) |
| | State Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection (SCEEP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available for consultation. | N/A |
| | Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health Service (SEWPHS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not available for consultation. | N/A |

6.2 Future Engagement Activities

The future planned engagement methods are divided into the following categories:

- **Notification methods:** Used to inform stakeholders and the general population of the SEP activities and the project development process
- **Disclosure and consultation methods:** Used to provide information to stakeholders or to engage in a two-way dialogue by which information is shared with the stakeholders and these in turn can express their views and concerns about the project
- **External grievance mechanism:** System to receive and facilitate resolution of the stakeholder's concerns and grievances about project-related issues

Table 6-7 and 6-8 describes the proposed timeline for the stakeholder engagement during the ESIA phase and the tools that are proposed for each stakeholder engagement phase and for each type of stakeholder.

The draft SEP will be updated to account for ongoing engagement during construction and operational phases.

Regarding all future engagement activities, considerations will be made for vulnerable groups. Resources distributed in meetings will be differentiated in a way appropriate to individuals. The stakeholder engagement programme will include activities which specifically target Project Affected Persons (PAPs), as well as disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. The program will also include risk prevention and mitigation measures for Gender Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation Acts (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH).

6.2.1 ESIA Disclosure

All of the Lenders require the ESIA and supporting documents to be disclosed to stakeholders before the commencement of the construction phase of the Project.

The overall aim during the disclosure process is to inform all stakeholders of the outcomes of the ESIA and LRP process and further refine and amend the mitigation measures based on feedback from stakeholders. The objective is to ensure that the needs of project affected people and other relevant stakeholders can be met prior to the commencement of the construction phase of the Project.

In accordance with Lender Requirements, this Project is classified as Category B, and therefore must adhere to specific regulations for this type of Project. The most stringent requirement is from AIIB, which requires disclosure of Environmental and Social information at least 30 calendar days prior to approval by the bank. Therefore, Masdar will be complicit with this policy, which will also satisfy the timelines in the policy of other Lenders of the Project.

All documents will be provided in an accessible manner, such as on the client's website and in appropriate locations around the site for project affected people such as within the local Mahalas offices and school buildings.

Disclosure must occur in a way which is gender sensitive, culturally appropriate and will be available in the local language of Uzbek as well as English.

Alongside the ESIA, the Non-Technical Summaries will also be provided which will provide a summary of the document (also in Uzbek). The following information must be included in summary form to the affected community:

1. Purpose, nature and scale of the Project
2. Duration of proposed Project activities
3. Any risks, potential impacts and mitigation measures
4. Proposed stakeholder engagement process
5. Grievance Mechanism

The following table demonstrates an example framework for recording and addressing questions and concerns raised during the disclosure process prior to construction.

Table 6-5 – Example table to be used to capture comments raised during engagement events during the ESIA process

| Stakeholder category/Group | Stakeholder/Institution | Concerns Raised/Recommendations | Response during Stakeholder Engagement Activity | Follow up and way in which feedback was addressed in the ESIA |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Lenders & International stakeholders | | | | |
| National Government departments and agencies | | | | |
| Regional and Local authorities | | | | |
| Civil Society | | | | |
| Affected communities within the AoI | | | | |
| Project affected people (identified in the LRP) | | | | |

Table 6-6- Disclosure Status/timeline

| Task | Status |
|--|--|
| Prior to ESIA disclosure, the company will ensure that any concerns of project affect people and other relevant stakeholders raised during prior engagement have been addressed. | Already Completed |
| OVOS Public hearings in Tashkent/District offices | Already Completed |
| Lender’s disclosure and publication of English and Uzbek documents on company website for 30 days. Provision of summary ESIA including a summary of human rights and climate change risks and impacts where relevant. | To be completed prior to commencement of construction (with the exception of approved early works) |
| Record and addressing all stakeholder comments, concerns and grievances updating the SEP and other documents where necessary. | To be included in annual monitoring report |

Table 6-7 Planned future consultation by Masdar prior to the ESIA disclosure

| Date | Stakeholder Category | Stakeholder Engagement Methods | Location/ | Date of Notification | Method of notification | Purpose | Person |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|--------|
| LRP Verification | | | | | | | |
| TBC | Community leaders Khokimiyat representative Representative of Cadastral office Representative of the Agricultural Department | Face to face | Sherabad Khokimiyat | TBC | Phone Call & Telegram | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give them leaflet about the project (prior to meeting) • Discuss the identified social impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to grazing areas - Land take for OTL - Access route - Historic impacts • Consult on Livelihood Restoration options • Communicate grievance mechanism (in detail) | GBI |
| TBC | Community leaders and Mahallas | Group Meeting | Bobgobod Mahallas | TBC | Phone Call & Telegram | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give them leaflet about the project (prior to meeting) • Discuss the identified social impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to grazing areas - Land take for OTL - Access route • Present the community benefit options • Communicate grievance mechanism (in detail) | GBI |
| TBC | All farmers along the OTL | Group Meeting | Khokimiyat | TBC | Phone Call & Telegram | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give them leaflet about the project (prior to meeting) • Present the land take • Present the impact in sterilisation zone • Confirm that cash compensation will be given • Confirm amount of cash compensation (if possible) • Communicate grievance mechanism (details) • Ask them to fill in verification survey and sign | GBI |
| TBC | Cluster Farm | Face to face | Cluster Farm | TBC | Phone Call & Telegram | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give them leaflet about the project (prior to meeting) • Discuss the identified social impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to grazing areas - Land take for OTL - Access route • Discus agreement to maintain salaries for affected farms | GBI |
| TBC | Prison Managers | Face to face | Prison | TBC | Phone Call & Telegram | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give them leaflet about the project (prior to meeting) • Discuss the identified social impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to grazing areas | GBI |

6. Stakeholder Engagement Programme

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|---|-----|
| | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land take for OTL - Access route | |
| TBC | Landowners and Herders | Face to face | TBC | TBC | Phone Call & Telegram | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify asset survey and valuation outputs with affected landowners • Informed affected landowners and herders about applicable valuation methods and compensation and resettlement assistance principles • Presenting individual and collective entitlements in a lucid and transparent manner • Objections to outcomes of asset inventory and subsequent valuation will warrant a follow up, participatory asset survey and / or reiteration of contested valuation aspects | GBI |

Table 6-8. Stakeholder Engagement Programme

| Stakeholder Category | Stakeholder Engagement Methods | Location/ Timeline | Purpose | Consultation Disclosure Materials | Mean of Advance Notification | Responsibility |
|---|--|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| ESIA DISCLOSURE PHASE | | | | | | |
| All stakeholder groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclosure online | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | | | All stakeholder groups |
| Placement of paper versions of the ESIA in public places | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> | | | Placement of paper versions of the ESIA in public places |
| Discussion with women's only groups and specialist from the women's committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public hearing event Group Meeting | Location/Date: [TBC] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclose and discuss the results of the ESIA study Alternative meeting to the public hearing | ESIA package | Personal interaction | E&S Consultant (with support from the Client) |
| CONSTRUCTION PHASE | | | | | | |
| All stakeholder groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclosure online Placement of paper versions of the ESIA in public places. Error! Bookmark not defined. Leaflets in public places Media announcements | Location/Date: [TBC] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclose and discuss the construction status and any major events due to take place (component delivery for example) | Notices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media announcements Website announcements. Notice posted in public locations. | Client |
| Local communities along access roads and near to the project site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public hearing event (prior to commencement of construction) | Location/Date: [TBC] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community and road-user safety Explanation of grievance mechanisms Advertise potential employment opportunities | ESIA package | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal interaction Notice posted in public locations | Client |
| Regional Government Agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-to-one meeting | Location/Date: [TBC] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclose and discuss the construction status and any major events due to take place (component delivery for example) | ESIA package | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal interaction | Client |
| Mahalla Offices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-to-one meetings Phone calls | Location/Date: [TBC] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclose and discuss the construction status and any major events due to take place (component delivery for example). | ESIA package | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal interaction Notice posted in public locations | Client |

| Stakeholder Category | Stakeholder Engagement Methods | Location/ Timeline | Purpose | Consultation Disclosure Materials | Mean of Advance Notification | Responsibility |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|--|---|--|----------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement of paper versions of the ESIA in public places Placement of leaflets and grievance forms | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise potential employment opportunities Collect grievance/comment forms | | | |
| All stakeholder groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public event Placement of leaflets in public places Media announcements | Location/Date: [TBC] | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disclose and discuss the construction status and any major events due to take place (component delivery for example) Inform community of potential employment opportunities Collect and provide feedback on potential grievances | ESIA package NTS of the ESIA online | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media announcements Notice posted in public locations | Client |

7. Tools, Techniques and Record Management

7.1 Introduction

This section briefly describes tools and techniques that will/may be used for engaging with stakeholders, including frequently asked questions and answers, and specific tools and techniques that will/may be employed to share information with stakeholders and collect and compile their feedback.

7.2 Tools and Techniques for Engaging with Stakeholders

A variety of tools and techniques can be used to disclose Project information and collect engagement data. The key tools and techniques that can be used for the Project are summarised in **Table 7-1**.

Table 7-1: Tools and Techniques for Information Disclosure and Collection

| Aim | Tool/Technique | Description |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| Share and disclose information | Public meeting | Allows disclosure of information to a wide range of stakeholders. Project information can be made available in printed format and Masdar staff can provide verbal explanations. Should not be used as the sole means of information disclosure but consider combining with a technique that can reach less vocal and mobile stakeholders (e.g. poster/flyers/leaflets, letters, and media). |
| | Poster/Flyer/Leaflet | Use posters, flyers or leaflets to keep all stakeholders informed about the status and progress of the project. A means to reach stakeholders who are less likely to participate in a public meeting. A poster/flyer/leaflet can also be used to explain the grievance mechanism. |
| | Letter | A means to disseminate project information. Can also be used as a feedback mechanism to update stakeholders on how their comments have been considered. Combine with flyer and consider including a Comment Form. |
| | Media (radio, print, TV) | Television and print media can be used nationally. Useful to disclose information regarding permitting, and employment and any specific project progress updates. |
| Collect and compile information and feedback | Focus group discussion (FGDs) | Can be used to explore perceptions on specific issues in depth. |
| | In-depth informal interview | Useful technique to build rapport with stakeholders and to learn their individual perspectives on the Project. This is a time-consuming process and usually reserved for key stakeholders. |
| | Comment Form | A means to learn information from stakeholders individually and to allow less vocal stakeholders to share their views on the Project. Should be used at public meetings. |
| | Grievance Form | To collect information from a specific stakeholder relating to a specific project activity or activities and provide the stakeholder with a record of receipt/acknowledgement of their grievance. |

Source: Adapted from 'Techniques for Effective Public Participation', International Association for Public Participation, 2011

The notification methods outlined below can be used for announcing information disclosure and consultation activities.

7.3 Signboards and Posters

Signboards and posters are useful to notify local communities and other affected stakeholders of consultation activities. These methods will be deployed two weeks in advance of a specific activity (e.g. public consultation), if possible, to allow for word of mouth dissemination of the relevant information.

7.4 Community Liaison Officer

Masdar will employ a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) who will:

- Communicate with the stakeholders.
- Manage the project grievance mechanism, responding to the grievant in the first instance and maintain contact with grievant throughout the process, investigating and close out of grievances within input from community leaders.

- Manage the compensation process, including the issuing of compensation documents and payments and storage and of all confidential information.
- Receive and fill in grievance forms and reporting to the E&S team.
- Maintain stakeholder engagement plan and database including minutes of meetings.
- Communicate with the community about upcoming activities, meetings and trainings.
- Prepare posters, press releases, media release and other external engagement for the LRP where appropriate.

7.5 Disclosure and Consultation Methods

Disclosure of relevant project information will help Affected Communities and other stakeholders understand the risks, impacts and opportunities of the project. Providing stakeholders with complete, accurate and understandable information is essential to allow meaningful participation. Where appropriate, all written project information will be disclosed in English and Uzbek. Consultation methods provide a mechanism for stakeholders to provide feedback and share their concerns, complaints or suggestions about the Project.

7.6 Online Disclosure

Online disclosure allows for quick and free access to documents for all stakeholders that have internet. Documents disclosed online will be disclosed at a website created for this purpose by Masdar.

7.7 Disclosure of hard copies

Disclosure of printed documents at key locations (e.g. local government buildings). Hard copies will be provided free of charge, and there are visuals accompanying the documents to aid all levels of literacy. The following documentation, as a minimum, will be provided in English and the local language (Uzbek);

- ESIA.
- Non-technical summary of the final ESIA approved by the national authorities and the IFC, and conditions of approval established in the permits, if any).
- Consultation Meetings (MoMs).
- Executive Summary of independent, external compliance audits.
- Project Leaflets

7.8 Consultation through open meetings

Open meetings allow for stakeholders to share their views and opinions, promoting transparency as all stakeholders can see that the same information is shared with everybody and community members can learn about the position of their representatives. Any individual that goes to a meeting will be allowed to attend and share his/her concerns.

An initial presentation will disclose all relevant information to the attendees, in a visual and oral manner, to ensure that illiterate attendees get all the information. A significant amount of time in the meeting has to be allowed for the stakeholders to express their views. Every point raised by the stakeholders will be replied to and all comments, questions and answers will be minuted.

If any assistance is required to attend a public meeting, Masdar will take the necessary measures to ensure that they can attend or to provide the relevant information and gather their feedback.

All meetings will be conducted in Uzbek. Consultation meetings will be conducted for the ESIA phase and at regular intervals by the CLO (such as every 2 months during construction and yearly during operation).

7.9 Recording and Tracking of SEP

Transparent documentation of engagement activities will enable Masdar to track stakeholders' perceptions and concerns regarding the development of the Project and facilitate the identification of additional stakeholders and stakeholder groups for Masdar to undertake engagement.

In addition, monitoring results, both qualitative and quantitative, will be disclosed to stakeholders on at least a quarterly basis.

Suggested monitoring and evaluation activities are outlined below:

- Monitor media coverage of Masdar.

- Keep records of all engagement activities including meetings attended, community meetings, focus group discussions, etc.
- Keep copies (electronic or hard copy) of all communication material.
- Conduct stakeholder interviews to gauge level of satisfaction.
- Develop and assess performance in terms of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). Some suggested KPIs include:
 - Number of engagement activities facilitated quarterly - by stakeholder group and engagement type;
 - Number of attendees at stakeholder engagement activities (expected vs actual); and
 - Number of grievances received per quarter.
- Revise plans and activities.

8. Grievance Mechanism

A key requirement of the IFC is the establishment and communication of an effective and adequate Grievance Mechanism. Effective implementation of a Grievance Mechanism is crucial to the management of grievances from the local community and other stakeholders. It is an integral part of the SEP and engagement process and should be reflective of the scale of impacts and expected risks of the Project.

8.1 Overview

Local people need a trusted way to voice and resolve concerns linked to a project's operations. A locally based grievance resolution mechanism provides a promising avenue by offering a reliable structure and set of approaches where local people and the company can find effective solutions together. Masdar will develop and implement a grievance mechanism which:

- Increases the likelihood that small disputes can be brought to a conclusion relatively quickly before they become deep-seated grievances
- Keeps ownership of the dispute in the hands of local people
- Offers an early, efficient, and less costly way to address concerns
- Promotes a more stable business climate for companies that reduces risk and enhances accountability to the host community.

A successful grievance mechanism can help achieve the following goals:

- Open channels for effective communication
- Demonstrate that a company is concerned about community members and their well-being
- Mitigate or prevent adverse impacts on communities caused by company operations
- Improve trust and respect
- Provide structures for raising, addressing, and resolving issues that reduce imbalances in power
- Promote productive relationships
- Build community acceptance of a company's "social license" to operate.

AECOM, on behalf of Masdar, has developed a grievance mechanism for the Project in accordance with IFC's Performance Standards and Guidance Notes which present various principles and good practice measures on grievance mechanisms. These include:

- Establish a procedure for receiving, recording or documenting and addressing complains that is easily accessible, culturally appropriate, and understandable to affected communities.
- Inform the affected communities about the mechanism during the company/community engagement process.
- Consider when and how to seek solutions to complaints in a collaborative manner with the involvement of the affected community.
- Address concerns promptly, using an understandable and transparent process that is readily accessible to all segments of the affected communities—and at no cost and without retribution.
- Ensure full participation of both genders and vulnerable groups.
- Take into consideration customary and traditional methods of dispute resolution when designing the system.
- Assign consistent, experienced, and qualified personnel within the company with responsibility for receiving and responding to grievances.
- Establish a redress mechanism so those who feel their grievances have not been adequately addressed have recourse to an external body for reconsideration of their case.
- Document grievances received, and responses provided and report back to the community periodically.
- Provide periodic reports on issues that the grievance mechanism has identified as of concern to those communities.

The Performance Standards and Guidance Notes emphasize that a grievance mechanism should help Masdar understand the community's perception of project risks and impacts so as to adjust its measures and actions to address the community concerns.

The objective of Masdar’s grievance procedure is to ensure that all comments and complaints from people directly affected by the Project, including local communities, farmers and their families are processed and considered in an appropriate way. Furthermore, the grievance mechanism should contain the corrective actions needed to be implemented in relation to complaints received with guarantees that the complainant is being informed of the outcome. The means by which stakeholders may make comments and complaints must be appropriate to their culture. At all times, Masdar will accept comments and complaints concerning the Project in both verbal and written formats.

8.2 Principles

The United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGP) on Business and Human Rights lists several “effectiveness criteria” for the successful implementation of a Grievance Mechanism. The UNGP states that it should always be:

- **Legitimate:** it must have a clear transparent and sufficiently independent governance structure to ensure that no party to a grievance process can interfere with the fair conduct of that process.
- **Accessible:** it must be publicised to stakeholders who may wish to access it and provide adequate assistance for aggrieved parties who may face barriers to access, including language, literacy, awareness, finance, distance, or fear of reprisal.
- **Predictable:** it must provide a clear and known procedure, with time frames for each stage; clarity on the types of process and outcome it can (and cannot) offer and means of monitoring the implementation of any outcome.
- **Equitable:** it must ensure that aggrieved stakeholders have reasonable access to sources of information, advice, and expertise necessary to engage in a grievance process on fair and equitable terms.
- **Rights-compatible:** it must ensure that its outcomes and remedies accord with internationally recognised human rights standards.
- **Transparent:** it must provide sufficient transparency of process and outcome to meet the public interest concerns at stake and should presume transparency wherever possible.

8.3 Examples of Grievances Typically Encountered

The following table provides examples of the types of grievances that are typically encountered on a major construction project such as this.

Table 8-1: Types of Grievances

| Type | Complainant(s) | Examples | Risk Level |
|---|--|---|-------------|
| Relatively minor and onetime problems related to company operations | An individual or family | A company truck damaging a community member’s fence; a one-time disrespectful encounter between a company employee and a community member | Low |
| Relatively minor but repetitive problems related to company operations | An individual or family or small group of people | Livestock getting loose because company employees fail to close gates | Low/Medium |
| Relatively minor but repetitive and widespread problems | Multiple individuals, families, or larger groups | Company-related road traffic raising dust that settles on clothes hung out to dry | Medium |
| Significant and larger repetitive problems | Community groups, nongovernmental or community-based organizations, or local governments | Company blasting allegedly causing structural and/or aesthetic damage to building | Medium/High |
| Major claims that company activities have resulted in significant adverse impacts on larger populations of people | Community groups, nongovernmental or community-based organizations, or local governments | Company operations adversely impacting a community’s water supply, making it unsafe for drinking, livestock, and/or irrigation | High |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|------|
| Major claims over policy or procedural issues | Non-governmental organizations, community groups or community-based organizations, or local governments | A company's noncompliance with its own policies; failure to follow guidelines of multilateral lenders for adequate consultation to achieve prior and informed consent; inadequate resettlement and compensation of affected populations | High |
|---|---|---|------|

8.4 Community Expectations

When local people present a grievance, they generally expect to receive one or more of the following:

- Acknowledgment of their problem
- An honest response to questions about company activities
- Modification of the conduct that caused the grievance
- Some other fair remedy (options include: an apology /compensation)

In voicing their concerns, they also expect to be heard and taken seriously. Finally, Masdar, contractors, or government officials must encourage people that they can voice grievances and work to resolve them without retaliation. Stakeholders are to be informed that the grievance mechanism can be used to submit complaints anonymously.

8.5 Responsibilities

The grievance mechanism implementation team shall be comprised of the HSE Managers from Masdar and/ the EPC Contractor and the CLO. Clear lines of responsibility and accountability will be established within the implementation team.

It is important that all members of the team are adequately trained in stakeholder engagement.

It is important that the CLO be a local person, who is fluent in both English, Russian and Uzbek and familiar with the local customs.

Table 8-2 – Responsibilities for managing grievances

| Entity | Responsibilities for managing grievances |
|--|--|
| Company E&S Manager | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the CLO has the necessary resources and personnel required to meet the commitments of the Grievance Mechanism (GM). Support the resolution of grievances by conducting investigation of serious grievances and proposing appropriate resolutions to those grievances. • Ensure that grievances raised are used to improve the Project's environmental and social performance in the future, so that similar grievances do not re-occur over time. • Monitor the effectiveness of the grievance process and make alterations to improve its effectiveness where required. |
| Company Community Liaison Officer (CLO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the GM and distribute copies of the GM leaflet and forms. • Provide practical assistance to people seeking to raise a grievance, so that they are able to complete a Grievance Form. • Send information to the Company E&S Manager, copies of completed Grievance Forms so that the Grievance Register can be updated. • Support the investigation and resolution of grievances in close coordination with other concerned parties, including the person/group raising the concern. |
| EPC Contractor Representatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To direct any grievances made by a person or group in contact with a member of the EPC Contractor's workforce, to the Company CLO for formal recording, investigation and resolution. • To provide their full support during the process of the Company investigating and resolving any grievances that occur. |

Any person or organisation may send comments and/or complaints in person or via post, email, or facsimile using the contact information provided in Table 8-3.

Table 8-3: Responsible Persons and Contact Details

| Pre-Construction Phase | Construction Phase |
|--|---|
| Masdar Khurshid Karamatov, Community Liaison Officer e-mail: kkaramatov@masdar.ae | Masdar To be confirmed |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Community Liaison Officer (CLO) Saida Yusupova, Community Liaison Manager e-mail: Saidayusupova@gmail.com Contact phone number: (+99893) 522-00-70 (+99890) 319-77-21</p> | <p>Community Liaison Officer (CLO) To be confirmed</p> |
|---|--|

In addition to the above contact details, a mailbox will be provided at the site entrance to allow local people to raise grievances in a more informal way.

Grievance boxes will also be placed in each surrounding project community. This is most likely to be at the local community building (TBC).

The lenders to the project also have in place their own Independent Accountability Mechanisms Network (IAMs). This provides an avenue for complainants to still voice any concerns regarding the Project if the Grievance Mechanism put in place by Masdar is not functional.

8.6 Implementation of the Grievance Mechanism

It is important to reiterate that the aim of the grievance mechanism is to establish a system to receive and facilitate resolution of the stakeholder’s concerns and grievances about the project’s environmental and social performance. The grievance mechanism has the Affected Communities as its primary beneficiaries. It seeks to resolve concerns promptly, using an understandable and transparent consultative process that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible at no cost and without retribution to the party that originated the issue or concern. The mechanism will not impede access to judicial or administrative remedies. The stakeholders will be informed and consulted about this grievance mechanism during the stakeholder engagement process undertaken for the ESIA. The grievance mechanism will be actively publicised during the lifecycle project.

The grievance mechanism for the project will comply with the following principles:

- Clarify at the outset what is the purpose of the procedure;
- Assure people that there will be neither cost nor retribution associated with lodging a grievance;
- The entire process (i.e. how a complaint is received and reviewed, how decisions are made and what possibilities may exist for appeal) will be made as transparent as possible by putting it into written form, publicising it and explaining it to relevant stakeholders.

The grievance mechanism will be published at different locations and through letters to the authorities and clarifying that everyone is welcome to make use of it. All information about grievance procedures, grievance forms, and responses will be available in Russian and in Uzbek. Access to the mechanism will be free of cost.

Raising a complaint can pose risks for people, especially if it concerns issues such as corruption, misconduct, compensation, or if it interferes with local social norms, including gender norms. The grievance mechanism will include precautions such as a clear non-retaliation policy, measures to ensure confidentiality and safeguarding of the personal data collected in relation to a complaint, as well as an option to submit anonymous grievances.

Handling grievances encompasses a step-by-step process as well as assigned responsibilities for their proper completion.

Masdar will follow the process’ steps discussed in the sections below.

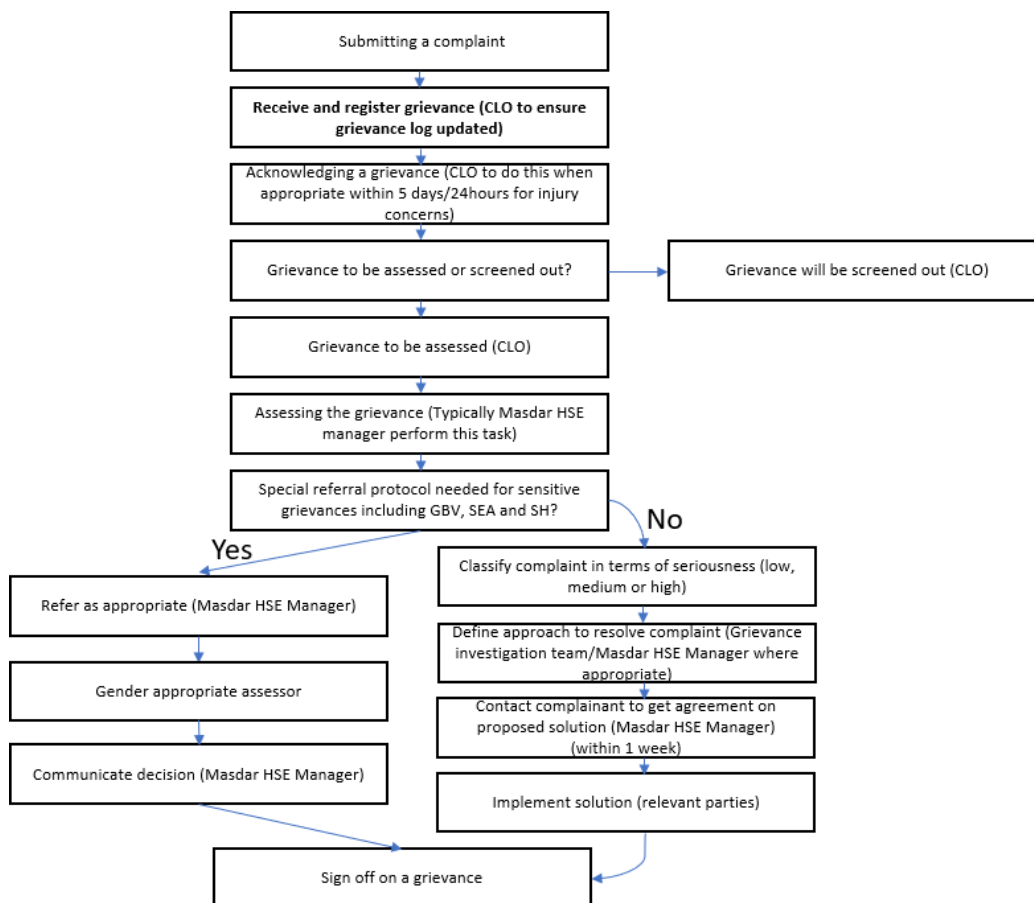


Figure 8-1 Mechanism of Processing Complaints at Masdar

8.6.1 Publicizing Grievance Management Procedures

The grievance mechanisms will be publicized in the following ways:

- Posters (project site, local Council, current Farm A and B users, and residential clusters within a 5 km buffer from the site).
- Future consultation meetings.
- Letters to the local and provincial authorities, and Online (website).

The information provided online and on printed material will include at least the following:

- What project-level mechanisms are capable of delivering and what benefits complainants can receive from using the company’s grievance mechanism, as opposed to other resolution mechanisms.
- Who can raise complaints (i.e. all stakeholders).
- Where, when, and how community members can file complaints.
- Who is responsible for receiving and responding to complaints (i.e. the CLO).
- What sort of response complainants can expect from the company, including timing of response.
- What other rights and protection are guaranteed.

8.6.2 Submitting a Complaint

The grievance mechanism will allow for complaints to be filed in several ways:

- By phone
- By email
- By post.
- Online: By email and/or through an online form.

- At the project gate.
- At the Mailboxes (project gate or at the communities).
- During meetings with the Community Liaison Officer.

Written and verbal complaints will be received at the project's gate – therefore the security personnel have to be aware and trained to deal with the complaint appropriately. The security personnel should communicate that a stakeholder wants to submit a grievance to the CLO. For illiterate complainants or those that prefer to submit their complaints verbally, the CLO will meet them at the company's gate (or could offer them to go into the company's offices, depending on security restrictions) and will take notes on the details of the complainant and read them out loud to the complainant to confirm that the key elements of the complaint have been captured.

8.6.3 Receiving Complaints

Masdar will publicly commit to a certain time frame in which all recorded complaints will be responded and to ensure that this response time frame is enforced. By letting people know when they can expect to be contacted by company personnel and/or receive a response to their complaint their frustration may be reduced. The CLO will be the Masdar employee who will initially receive the complaint.

The following points receipt procedure rules will be followed for grievances:

- All incoming grievances will be acknowledged as soon as possible, no later than a week from receipt. A formal confirmation—with a complaint number, or other identifier, and a timeline for response— assures the complainant that the organization is responding properly, and it gives the project a record of the allegation. As a good practice, complaints received in person will be acknowledged on the spot;
- If a more complex investigation is required, the complainant will receive an update within two weeks of the grievance being received, explaining the actions required to resolve the complaint, and the likely timeframe;
- Masdar will explain in the first letter of acknowledgment, which claims are clearly outside the scope of the mechanism and what alternative mechanisms communities can use to address these potential issues.
- There will also be a special protocol for Gender Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation Acts (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH). This will include a safe, confidential and accessible grievance mechanism which is utilisable by the local community. An anonymous line will also be established for reporting which is gender sensitive. Once grievances are received, a review committee, where women, vulnerable groups and all genders are represented appropriately, will investigate grievances. The committee will also work with local community organisation to coordinate grievance redress measures.

8.6.4 Reviewing and Investigating Grievances

To ensure that all grievances are adequately investigated and closed out, a grievance log will be kept, documenting all the actions taken to address each grievance.

An extensive investigation may be required when grievances are complex and cannot be resolved quickly. Masdar will take full responsibility for investigating the details of grievances coming through its grievance mechanism, following the principle of "no cost".

In cases of sensitive grievances - such as those involving multiple interests or displacement issues - it may help to engage outside organizations in a joint investigation, or allow for participation of local authorities, only if the complainants agree to this approach.

For complex grievances, an investigation team will have to be appointed. If the investigation team is formed internally, issues that will be taken into consideration include potential conflicts of interest, qualifications, gender composition, and budget.

Meetings with complainants and site visits can be useful for grievance investigation and will be undertaken, as appropriate.

Complainants will be informed weekly of the status of their grievance.

All grievances received will be captured in Grievance Forms which will then be forwarded to the Masdar HSE Manager. The grievance will be registered in a grievance tracker in order to track and monitor actions taken against the grievance. Each complaint will be assigned an individual number to ensure that it is appropriately tracked and closed out.

It is important that the process is easily accessible and not intimidating to stakeholders.

There will also be a special protocol in place for sensitive grievances including GBV, SEA and SH. The review committee will investigate these types of grievances with an element of sensitivity and work with community organisations in delivering suitable grievance redress mechanisms.

8.6.5 Acknowledge Grievance

Masdar will acknowledge receipt of the grievance in writing and verbally and will provide information on the proposed steps and the anticipated timeframes required to resolve the grievance.

This acknowledgement will be provided to the complainant within five (5) days of receiving the grievance or within 24 hours in the event of an urgent concern which is deemed to have the potential to result in personal injury.

If the grievance is not well understood or if additional information is required, clarification will be sought from the complainant.

It is suggested that literacy levels are taken into consideration when providing the complainant with the acknowledgement of receipt, and verbal acknowledgement should accompany a written acknowledgement.

Where appropriate, acknowledgement should be provided through the CLO.

8.6.6 Assessing the Grievance

During the assessment, the team gathers information about the case, key issues and concerns, and helps determine how the complaint might be resolved. Masdar will:

- Determine who will conduct the assessment. Typically, the Masdar HSE Manager will perform this task or directs it to an appropriate staff or department for assessment (production, procurement, environment, community relations, human resources).
- Select a company member (typically the CLO) to engage directly with the complainants to gain a first-hand understanding of the nature of the complaint.
- Clarify the parties, issues, views, and options involved:
 - Identify the parties involved.
 - Clarify issues and concerns raised by the complaint.
 - Gather views of other stakeholders, including those in the company.
 - Determine initial options that parties have considered and explore various approaches for settlement.
- Classify the complaint in terms of its seriousness (low, medium, high). Seriousness includes the potential to impact both the company and the community.

Issues to consider include the gravity of the allegation, the potential impact on an individual's or a group's welfare and safety, or the public profile of the issue. A complaint's seriousness is linked to who in the company needs to know about it and whether senior management is advised.

Rather than resorting to a purely unilateral "investigate, decide, and announce" strategy, engage more directly with the complainant in the assessment process, and involve the complainant in influencing the resolution process to be selected, and settlement options.

8.6.7 Grievance Resolution Options and Responses

One of the potential advantages of a grievance mechanism is its flexibility. Rather than prescribe a specific procedure for each particular type of complaint, a list of possible options appropriate for different types of grievances will be provided. Options may include altering or halting harmful activities or restricting their timing and scope (e.g. for construction noise), providing an apology, replacing lost property, providing monetary compensation, revising the community's engagement strategy, and renegotiating existing commitments or policies.

The grievance investigation team will provide a proposal to resolve the complaint, which will have the backing of the Senior Management. The HSE Manager will then contact the complainant to get an agreement on the proposed solution.

If all parties accept the proposed solution, the agreed actions will be implemented in the established timeframe. In the case that complainant does not accept the proposed resolution, Masdar should re-assess the situation and make sure that all alternatives within the grievance mechanism are explored. If agreeing on a solution acceptable to all parties is not possible within the grievance mechanism, the complaint will be referred to external mechanisms.

Close-up monitoring of a complaint will be undertaken, if possible, by collecting proof that the necessary actions have taken place. For example:

- If the issue was resolved with the satisfaction of the complainants, get a confirmation and file it along with the case documentation, and
- Take photos or collect other documentary evidence to create a comprehensive record of the grievance and how these were resolved.

The system for responding to the complainant should specify who communicates and how. In some cases, it may be appropriate that feedback be provided by the staff member responsible for assessment accompanied by the coordinator of the complaints procedure.

The Masdar HSE Manager may participate in feedback, depending upon the seriousness of the complaint. Any complete classed as high seriousness would include the HSE Manager. Medium complaints would include the HSE Manager where deemed appropriate.

When formulating a response Masdar will ensure that:

- The complaint coordinator or relevant department may prepare the response. The response should consider the complainants' views about the process for settlement as well as provide a specific remedy. The response may suggest an approach on how to settle the issues, or it may offer a preliminary settlement.
- To present and discuss the response to the complainant, consider holding a meeting with the complaint coordinator, relevant company manager, and the complainant. If a direct meeting is not possible, consider meeting with a neutral third party serving as facilitator. The group would also discuss appropriate next steps during this meeting. If the proposal is a settlement offer and it is accepted, the complaint is resolved successfully and there is no need to proceed to the next step of selecting a resolution approach. If the complainant is not happy with the response about a resolution process or substance, the group should try to reach an agreement that would be mutually acceptable.
- If the case is complex and a resolution time frame cannot be met, provide an interim response—an oral or written communication—that informs the person of the delay, explains the reasons, and offers a revised date for next steps.

All comments and complaints will be responded either verbally or in writing, in accordance with preferred method of communication specified by the complainant in the Comments and Complaints Form. Comments will not be considered as complaints and may not, therefore, be responded to unless the commenter requests a response.

Masdar will respond to the complaint within one week. It is possible that some responses may take longer than one week to implement, but even in those instances Masdar will inform the complainant what actions will be taken and when.

8.6.8 Sign-off on a Grievance

Masdar will seek sign-off from the complainant(s) that the grievance has been resolved. This will be achieved via a Grievance Resolution document.

All grievances are to be signed off at an appropriate level of seniority of staff. The staff member who signs off the complaint should have sufficient knowledge about the topic to provide assurance.

Once sign-off has occurred, this will be recorded in the Grievance Form.

Any grievances not signed-off as resolved will be investigated further.

8.6.9 Monitoring and reporting of grievance mechanism

The grievance mechanism will be monitored and evaluated annually. Suggested monitoring and evaluation activities are outlined below:

- Monitor the grievance log in terms of response times to address complaints lodged as well as the recurrence of complaints over time.
- Gauging level of stakeholder satisfaction as a secondary aspect to other stakeholder engagement meetings.
- Keep records of all engagement activities including meetings attended, community meetings, focus group discussions, etc.
- Keep a library (electronic or hard copy) of all communication material.
- Conduct stakeholder interviews to gauge level of satisfaction.
- Revise plans and activities.

Masdar will report internally at least once a month on grievances received (both open and closed), and how they were resolved.

8.7 Grievances Received to Date

All grievances received to date are logged in the Grievance Tracker.

The following grievances have been received to date. This section will be reviewed and updated throughout the project.

Table 8-4 Grievances received to date

| Complainant | Date when complainant was informed of action | Date when action was taken | Date when grievance was received | Grievance | Are further actions needed (Y/N): If yes, please add details | Status of Complaint |
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Appendix

Grievance Form

I, (full name)

Resident at:

Tel: Fax:

E-mail:

Wish to raise the following complaint or concern (include location and duration of problem):

Suggestions to solve problem:

Preferred method of communication (verbal, written, other):

Signed: Date:

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Appendix Table 1: Summary of Feedback Received from Consulted Government Authorities and Affected Communities

| Topic | Stakeholder Group | Summary Comments |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Previous engagement | Regional and district-level administration (khokimiyats) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AECOM and GBI social team has introduced the regional and district authorities to the Project and related E&S studies (i.e., ESIA and LRP). Progressive consultations and joint site visits have been held with officials from relevant khokimiyat technical departments (notably, the cadastre, ecological, cultural heritage departments) and other focal representatives. A high-level introduction of the Project's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) has been carried out, however an elaborate presentation of the mechanism should be delivered to the affected communities in due course. |
| | Affected communities (makhallas) and their respective local leadership | <p>Bog'obod Makhalla:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been at least five rounds of consultation by the AECOM and GBI social team. Community members were consulted regarding the Project's potential impacts and recommendations on enhancement and mitigation. Community members present during the consultations indicated that they were not aware of the Project's GRM. They further shared that they would favour a mechanism whereby grievances and concerns are channelled to the Project Company's Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) through the makhalla leadership. <p>Mekhrigiyo, Bogishamol and Yangier Makhallas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement has been carried out in all three communities in the course of the ESIA and LARP studies. Community representatives indicated that they have not been informed about the Project's GRM. |
| Land access affected livelihoods | Regional and district-level administration (khokimiyats) | <p>Impact on land tenure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regards to the main project area, there are a total of two landowners with effective Land Lease Agreements (LLAs). They have not developed their land plots (within the project area) as they own more productive farmland in other areas (for instance, an irrigated orchard measuring 3 ha). Although consultation and disclosure concerning imminent land-take has been carried out, the land is yet to be expropriated. With regards to the Project's OHTL footprint, a total of 25 landowners have effective leaseholds within Sherabad District, and one commercial landowner with an effective LLA owns an agricultural cluster in Kizirik District. There are no informal landowners within the project area, with the exception of one farmer within the previously delimited main site. It is understood that the layout of the main site will be modified to circumvent the potentially impacted farmer (with informal land tenure). The land expropriation order will be developed by the regional khokimiyat and communicated to the affected landowners, who will be required to submit a notarized application for the voluntary return of land to the Government's state reserves (with a no-objection declarations) to the district and regional khomikiyats, prior to the termination or downscaling of their respective LLAs, as appropriate. The project area will, in its entirety, be designated for the project, and the Ministry of Land will extend its ownership to the Project Company by means of a tripartite LLA with a 25 years' duration. <p>Impact on livelihoods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With regards to the Project's OHTL footprint, permanent land-take for the establishment of OHTL towers will be minimal, nevertheless, farming restrictions will be necessary during construction. As such, the production quotas currently in effect for potentially impacted farmers will be lifted for the duration of the farming losses resulting from construction-related interruptions. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OHTL construction work is not expected to impinge on women’s income earning capacity, as harvesting in these parts is largely mechanized. • The main project site offers seasonal pastures to local herders, with grazing being undertaken in the spring for a period of one month. Resident pastures are not highly productive, and are therefore not regarded as being of primary importance to potentially impacted herders. Furthermore, additional richer pastures are situated nearby the site. |
| Affected communities (makhallas) and their respective local leadership | <p>Bog’obod Makhalla:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main project site lends itself to seasonal grazing, however its pastures are inherently meagre due to poor soil fertility coupled with arid conditions. The community’s main pastures are located north of the site. <p>Mekhrijiyo, Bogishamol and Yangier Makhallas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expropriation of land and construction-phase restrictions on farming activities within the OHTL corridor will not affect the communities (i.e., affected landowners and farm workers originate from other communities). • Resident herders make use of the scant pastures within the Project’s main site in the spring (for approximately one month), and other nearby pastures are more important owing to their relative productivity. |
| Ministry of Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The protocol for land acquisition by the Project Company is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In the course of the national ESIA process and initiatory approvals from SCEEP, the Project Company is required to establish the footprint of the Project’s permanent facilities and issue the locational information (coordinates) thereof to the Ministry of Energy. The Ministry will subsequently initiate the preparation of a cabinet decree highlighting the location and extent of project-related expropriation. o On the basis of the final decree, the land will be reclassified (i.e., reallocated for project use) and transferred to state reserves under the mandate of the Ministry of Energy and Regional Khomikiyats. The Ministry will thereupon direct the regional khomikiyat to annex the land into state reserves, in collaboration with the district khomikiyat, by way of a land expropriation order. o The khokimiyats’ cadastre departments will be charged with the review of affected landowners and property subject to valuation and compensation. The imperative for land expropriation will be communicated to the affected landowners, and the termination of their land tenure will be formalized by notarized no-objection declarations. Afterwards, a tripartite Land Lease Agreement (LLA) will be established between the Ministry of Energy, regional khomikiyat and the Project Company. • With regards to permanent land acquisition for the Project’s development, the Project Company will be responsible for delivering compensation for permanently impacted land, structures, and perennial crops and trees, on behalf of the Ministry of Energy. In the event that vulnerable impacted entities opt for in-kind compensation, the Ministry of Energy can facilitate the delivery of replacement land by the agency of the regional land departments. • With regards to temporary land use restrictions (i.e., for establishment of impermanent and aerial project facilities), the onus for associated compensation exclusively falls on the Project Company. In this respect, the Project Company is required to provide due compensation to affected landowners on the basis of bilateral and voluntary negotiations (i.e., between the Project Company and landowners), as the Ministry is not legally responsible for this aspect of land access. In the event of failed negotiations or other reasonable grounds for objection (on the part of the landowners), the landowners potentially affected by temporary land use restrictions will reserve the right to refuse such encroachment. For this reason, it is important for the Project Company to attain pre-requisite settlements with all project-affected entities subject to temporary land-use restrictions (in the latter stage of feasibility studies), prior to the delineation of the final project footprint for subsequent and bureaucratic expropriation. • The Project Company is required to discharge payable compensation funds in full prior to the onset of displacement and/or land-use restrictions for mobilization and construction works. |

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| | | <p>The earlier the Project Company specifies the project footprint inclusive of land requiring expropriation (redesignation and termination of existing LLAs), the sooner the Ministry can coordinate the expropriation process and land delivery.</p> |
| <p>Other socioeconomic considerations</p> | <p>Regional and district-level administration (khokimiyats)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local road bisecting the main project site will provide access to the area during construction. However, any upgrades to the road must observe regulatory wayleave/ buffer requirements, which are to be confirmed with the district khokimiyats prior to the start of construction. Dust suppression must also be implemented to abate the deterioration of air quality and associated health and safety risks to nearby communities. • The cemetery located within the project area measures about 21. About 10 ha of this designated burial site has been utilized by the Uzermabat community (makhalla). • While the cemetery (and attached prayer building) located within the main project site is operational, it is mostly visited in the event of burials. As the local road adjoining the cemetery will remain in place, the project is not expected to impede public access to the graveyard to a severe degree. Nevertheless, the buffer zones applicable to this communal property should be established in consultation with the district khokimiyat, upon the completion of detailed design (and in advance of construction works). To minimize the interface between access to the project site and transit to/from the burial site, it is recommended that the project avoids the off-road leading directly to the cemetery, and that a separate off-road is constructed to access the southern side of the main project site. • The dilapidated irrigational channels within the main project site were established by the local administration in 1985, in an attempt to boost resident agriculture. The irrigation scheme was operational for only five years and was decommissioned thereafter. The irrigation network thus remains in disuse. Construction works within the OHTL corridor should observe regulatory buffers for irrigation canals, however. The extent of the buffer zones is dependent on the dimensions of the canal. As such, due consultation in this connection should be made with the districts' irrigational departments prior to the start of construction works. • Existing formal employment opportunities for women are limited. The majority of waged women workers are employed in textile manufacturing industries. However, the growth of this sector is largely constrained by power supply. The augmentation of the regional power supply is anticipated to expand this industry and thereby spur job creation for resident women (for instance, three recently-launched projects are anticipated to employ about 5,000 women in the near future). Previously, local women have also engaged in service labour within a cement plant factory and road construction projects. • Cultural factors also play into the current level of unemployment amongst local women. It is recognized that in many cases, men do not allow their spouses to take up jobs that are supervised by male (immediate) management. It is therefore recommended that the Project give due consideration to the recruitment of locally based women, for managerial and subordinate positions alike. • Local government authorities periodically prepare a listing of vulnerable households (including women and youth), and welfare (social security) support is rendered to this demographic. About 15% of the local development budget is directed towards the support of vulnerable women and interest-free loans are issued for vulnerable women's tertiary education. Local authorities have also launched a social development program aimed at allotting agricultural lots (10-20 acres) to destitute households, so that they are able to undertake subsistence agriculture and sell of any surplus harvests. The Project Company can support such initiatives by extending agronomy-related trainings and donating equipment for |

various agro-processing enterprises; financial aid can also be made for relevant trust funds.

- The national legislation establishes mandatory quotas of 7% and 3% for the employment of vulnerable and disabled locally based job candidates respectively. Nevertheless, certain job categories are legally proscribed, the contravention of these provisions is punishable by sanctions of the State Labour Inspectorate.
- No Indigenous Peoples (IPs) are present within the region, although Tajiks are recognized as an ethnic minority with clustered settlements in parts of the region. Tajik communities are nonetheless well integrated into the wider society.
- There have been no incidences of child labour on construction projects within the region, and the ministry of labour continually inspects the local workforce to ensure no vestiges of child employment prevail within any productive sectors. Child labour has been outlawed by a special resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (No. 349).
- There is no history of gender-based violence and harassment on construction projects within the region. Women's political representation has grown markedly in recent years, and gender parity has been realized on some levels of the local government administration. These advances have reinforced the protection of women's rights. With regards to GBV, mechanisms to counteract violence against women are being strengthened through initiatives such as the issue of security orders for victims of gender-based abuse.
- The presence of archeologically important sites around the project area requires the adoption of chance-find procedures to ensure that any resident features of cultural value are satisfactorily preserved.
- The default recommendation for the accommodation of the Project's construction labour is the establishment of dedicated, on-site labour camps. Nevertheless, exclusive accommodation opportunities within suitable residential property in Sherabad District Centre can be explored. It is important that foreign workers are sensitized to local customs to avoid strife within host communities.
- Any damage to irrigation canals must be repaired as operational irrigation infrastructure is integral to the local population's agro-economies.

Affected communities (makhallas) and their respective local leadership

Bog'obod Makhalla:

- The local community does not anticipate any impacts in relation to the cemetery within the main project site. They do not utilize the burial site at present, but will likely make use of in the future. The cemetery is currently used by a different community.

The community is in favour of the Project's commencement, as the land has not been productive over the years, and the residents look forward to development benefits presented by the Project.

- Local women currently engage in subsistence farming (including livestock rearing), and in commercial farming, which entails regular weeding, planting and harvesting for the cultivation of staple cash crops such as cotton and pomegranate. They undertake most of the commercial farm work seasonally, with the exception of year-round labour in distant greenhouses. A group of about 60 women commute to these greenhouses by bus. A minority of resident women employ themselves in tailoring business and service jobs.
- Out of some 2,800 women resident in the village (makhalla), only 20% employed.
- Resident women anticipate employment opportunities in the course of the Project's implementation, and even temporary work would benefit female job-seekers significantly. Resident women are prepared to take on any skilled and semi-skilled for which they would qualify, beyond the usual service roles afforded to them (e.g., housekeeping, cookery). They are available for work between 4 am and 9 pm.

- The extension of project employment to local women can be complemented with transportation assistance. For example, a bus would offer a convenient means of shuttling to and from workstations for different shifts. Alternatively, bicycles can be provided for women’s daily commutes to work.
 - Communication channels for job announcements amongst women in the area include Telegram group chats and public announcements by local leadership. Resident households have access to the internet and smart phones for instant messaging in this regard.
 - In terms of community development initiatives, local women would appreciate assistance in form of (i) donation of solar power equipment for resident households, (ii) rehabilitation of local roads, and (iii) investment into enterprises that would generate a multitude of jobs for resident women (for instance, textile factories). They are increasingly interested in sustainable off-grid power alternatives such as solar power systems, due to persistent electricity outages in the winter and consequent interruption of various productive activities and essential amenities (e.g., indoors heating systems, water pumping)
 - At the height of the economic slowdown brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, about 68 resident households were classed as vulnerable and included on the Government’s welfare listing. Following the recent economic resurgence however, the count of vulnerable households (i.e., those living under the national poverty line) has dropped to two. Welfare interventions include the provisioning of equipment to aid the launch of small to medium enterprises, household renovation assistance and the delivery of monetary packages for miscellaneous expenses.
 - While residents would be able and willing to extend idle residences for any construction workers in need of accommodation services, the overriding preference of the community is that the Project’s construction workers are sheltered in dedicated camps within the project area. Community members would also profit from the extension of services to the construction workforce (e.g., retail, food preparation).
- Mekhrigiyo, Bogishamol and Yangier Makhallas:
- The majority of local residents engage in various agricultural activities (i.e., animal and crop farming).
 - Waged employment rates are not high locally. Educated youth tend to advance job searches overseas, particularly in Russia.
 - The communities’ overall preference is that the Project’s construction labour is accommodated in construction camps within the Project area.
 - The communities requested for community development initiatives, such as the rehabilitation of the main road bisecting the site and associated off-roads, and the development of Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to improve the local economy.

Environmental considerations

Regional and district-level administration (*khokimiyats*)

- The regional and district administration were not able to provide any additional information regarding ecologically sensitive species (and avifaunal species in particular) within the project area, due to little no prior government-led research in this connection. They are nonetheless aware of the vulnerable tortoise and gecko species identified in the course of the ESIA biodiversity surveys and intend to ensure that the conservation initiatives prescribed in the ESIA study are fully implemented.
- Construction works within the OHTL corridor should observe regulatory buffers for natural and constructed watercourses. Relevant must be made with the districts’ irrigational and water resources management departments prior to construction commencement.
- No operationalized or planned developments are expected to intensify the Project’s potential environmental and social impacts.

Affected communities

- No further input.

| | | |
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| | (makhallas) and their respective local leadership | |
| Construction resources and utilities | Regional and district-level administration (khokimiyats) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A piped water supply system serves the population within the Project's neighbouring villages. It is recommended that the Project's EPC Contractor enter into a service agreement with a water supply contractor known as 'Suvokova'. • Local power supply is beset by power outages during the winter season, and the Project's construction plans should therefore ensure that any reliance on the local grid does not compound existing power shortages. • All of the Project's waste management contractors must be duly certified, and the Project Company should ensure that its construction- and operations-phase contractors coordinate with Toza Hudud on all waste management operations. |
| | Affected communities (makhallas) and their respective local leadership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bog'obod Makhalla: • Besides seasonal power deficits, the communities do not experience frequent water shortages. Resident households are served by a piped water supply scheme. |
| E&S monitoring | Regional and district-level administration (khokimiyats) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that a cross-cutting local committee (including khokimiyat representatives) is established to institute E&S monitoring at the grass-roots level, particularly for the management of the Project's social impacts. |
| | Affected communities (makhallas) and their respective local leadership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appointment of E&S monitoring committee members should be based on pre-determined qualification criteria. |
| Further comments | Regional and district-level administration (khokimiyats) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further input. |
| | Affected communities (makhallas) and their respective local leadership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further input. |

