

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	HELWAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PROJECT
Project Number:	20180139
Country:	Egypt
Project Description:	Expansion and upgrade of the Helwan Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in the Greater Cairo Area.
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	yes

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Project aims to contribute to the improvement of wastewater treatment services in Egypt's largest urban agglomeration, Greater Cairo. Despite a capacity of 550,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day (designed to serve around 1.6 million people), the existing Helwan WWTP is significantly overloaded and the excess wastewater flows currently reaching the treatment plant are contributing to the environmental degradation of the area.

The Project will as a minimum, comply with national environmental requirements as defined in Egyptian Law 4/1994 and its executive regulations (ERs) as amended by Law 9/2009 and Decree 1095/2011. The Law dictates that Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies are mandatory for both new projects and/or expansion of existing projects as a part of the licensing procedure.

An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been prepared as part of the feasibility study for the preparation of the Project. The assessment was carried out in accordance with the "*Guidelines of Principles and Procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment*" issued by the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) in January 2009 and as amended in October 2010. In accordance with the guidelines, the proposed Project falls under "Category C" projects, requiring a full ESIA study. This is consistent with the EU EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU categorising the Project under Annex I thus also requiring a full EIA. Overall, the approach adopted in the EEAA guidelines for the classification of projects is considered compatible with the EU EIA Directive, reflecting the increasing levels of detail required in environmental impact assessment, depending on the severity of potential impacts.

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<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 22 July 2021

This ESIA report has been compiled as part of the EIA process in accordance with Egyptian environmental Law number 4 for the year 1994 amended by law number 9 for the year 2009 and Law 105 for the year 2015. This ESIA will be submitted to the EEAA for approval. The Project will not affect any protected areas.

As the project activities will be limited within the existing site of Helwan WWTP and along public rights of way, no significant environmental impacts are foreseen during the construction and operation phases. Activities will involve clearing the construction site from obstacles, excavation of trenches, laying of pipes, construction of concrete structures and installation of electromechanical equipment. Possible negative environmental impacts are limited to the construction period and include traffic and land disturbance, air pollution due to dust generation, noise and generation of construction waste. These impacts will be temporary and confined to the immediate construction site. Management of these issues will be addressed in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). The project is unlikely to result in any loss of flora and fauna.

The project will also contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the recovery of renewable energy in the form of biogas from the sludge treatment.

### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

Estimated annual emissions of the Project in a standard year of operation amount to 168 kilotonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year absolute (gross). This figure indicates estimated emissions savings of 347 kilotonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year compared to the current emissions from the WWTP.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

As confirmed by the ESIA, there will be no land acquisition and no population relocation and/or resettlement will be required for the project. Works will take place within the boundary limits of the existing Helwan WWTP while pumping stations will be constructed on land owned by Greater Cairo Sanitary and Drainage Corporation (GCSDC). Pipelines will be laid along public rights of way.

With regard to labour standards, Egypt has ratified all eight fundamental ILO Conventions; however, effective implementation has been inconsistent with regard to recognition of independent trade unions. The project will comply with international standards, national labour, social security and occupational health and safety laws.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

Public consultation is foreseen as part of the EIA process as defined in the EEAA guidelines. An initial public consultation took place on 6 July 2020. According to Egyptian Law two public consultation events are required for projects under "Category C". Although a second consultation with farmers from the local area took place in 2021, a final consultation should take place prior to the approval of the ESIA. An appropriate Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the construction of the project, inclusive of a Grievance Mechanism, will be developed as part of the project's ESMP.

Luxembourg, 22 July 2021

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The environmental and social benefits resulting from the implementation of the proposed investment, particularly the reduction of pollution and the improvement of the quality of water in the El Saff irrigation canal will lead to the significant improvement in environmental conditions.

The Project is not expected to have any significant adverse impact on the environment, with possible negative environmental effects being temporary and confined to the immediate construction sites. These adverse impacts can be either prevented and/or minimised through appropriate mitigation measures and by adhering to national standards and relevant international standards, guidelines and design criteria.

The project will comply with the requirements of the national legislation.

In order to comply with the Bank's requirements, the following conditions and undertakings relating to environmental and social matters will be applied to the project:

Conditions for first disbursement for works:

- Approval of the ESIA by the EEAA.
- Submission of the project ESMP including the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, to the satisfaction of the Bank.
- A Grievance Mechanism for all parties affected by the project is in place.

Undertakings:

- The Promoter will undertake to ensure full compliance with the project's Environmental and Social requirements and the ESMP.
- The non-technical summary of project's approved EIA along with the approved EIA will be sent to the EIB for publication on its website, prior to the start of the works.

With the above conditions in place, the project is acceptable for financing in environmental and social terms.