



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 21 December 2023

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: Energy Efficiency Telecom Lebanon
 Project Number: 2018-0644
 Country: Lebanon
 Project Description: The project consisted of financing a new energy efficient infrastructure (cooling system, electrical supply, PV) for the existing and new cellular towers across Lebanon, in order to improve the energy efficiency and reliability of power supply, as well as increasing renewable energy consumption.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.

The Project supported an Energy Service Company to roll out new energy efficient infrastructures to supply existing and new mobile towers of two Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) of the country. 2,412 existing towers were upgraded, and 145 new sites developed with the technical solution.

The project decreased the total energy needs of the mobile towers, significantly reduce the diesel consumption occurring during outages for on-grid sites and sites where PV cannot be deployed and switch the power supply of off-grid site from diesel generators to solar PV. This project brought global and local environmental benefits through energy savings and the reduction of pollutant emissions from diesel-powered generators. The Lebanon authority did not require an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment study for any of the upgraded or new sites.

To mitigate potential negative aspects, such as the development of new towers and waste management during operation, an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) was required. The Promoter has established an ESMS at corporate level, and the local roll-out in Lebanon took place in 2021/2022 with the support of the co-financer Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft.

The Carbon Footprint is calculated considering the grid and diesel consumption of the sites. In the baseline, existing consumption remains at current levels, with new towers assumed to consume the same amounts of diesel and power as current towers. However, the availability of the grid in Lebanon decreased dramatically between the appraisal of the project in 2018 and the condition at PCR in 2022/2023. The baseline to calculate the savings generated by the project was therefore revised to only few hours of grid availability per day. Estimated emissions savings on this basis are 25.8 kilotons of CO₂ equivalent per year, close to the estimate at appraisal.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter during Construction and first years of operation that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.