

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Modernisation Etablissements Scolaires
Project Number:	2012-0264
Country:	Tunisia
Project Description:	Project of rehabilitation, installation and equipment of schools in Tunisia.
EIA required:	No (based on current Tunisian environmental legislation for this type of projects)

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

- A project of similar characteristics within the EU could be classified under Annex II of EU Directive 2011/92/EU, thus requiring a decision by the competent authority whether or not formal Environmental Impact Assessment process is required. In an EU Member state, educational facilities would not be specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment, and would not normally require an EIA. However, the projects could be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development and thus be subject to an EIA. The need of environmental studies and assessment will be further assessed during the implementation preparation and follow-up.
- Whilst there may be some minor negative impact during the construction/implementation phase of the sub-projects, substantial positive net environmental impacts of the investment programme are expected once the works are completed. Considerable environmental benefits are anticipated from all rehabilitation, upgrading and extension schemes of public infrastructure facilities (water and wastewater networks, drainage etc.).
- No explicit objective to improve the energy efficiency in rehabilitated areas is included in the preliminary investment programme. But it was agreed with all project partners to consider a Technical Assistance facility, aimed i.a at integrating energy efficiency investments into the various schemes.

Therefore, the project is considered as acceptable with minor negative residual risks.

Environmental conditions

- Before any disbursement the FEMIP Technical Assistance resources identified by PJ as required for successful implementation must be available to the satisfaction of the Bank.
- Any upfront payment is conditional on the ability of the Tunisian authorities to display to the Bank legal documentation certifying that the land plots on which new constructions and/or extensions of school infrastructure are to be erected: (i) have had their property transferred to the local authorities in charge of the relevant school infrastructure; (ii) have been actually made available to the local authorities responsible for the undertaking of construction works; (iii) and are free of any legal payment obligations or challenges.
- The payment is also conditional on the adoption by the promoter of a Project Implementation Manual (PIM), approved by the EIB and other technical and financial partners, as may be the case.
- The promoter has advised that formal environmental impact assessments are not required by the Tunisian Competent Authority in respect of the many project sites where new construction is planned.

- The Bank must have received written a confirmation of this decision from the Competent Authority. The PIM must include a chapter on the social and environmental procedures to be applied to cover the eventuality that the need for a formal impact study will nevertheless arise.

Environmental undertakings

- Comply with all Tunisian environmental requirements related to waste treatment and energy efficiency as well as social impact requirements (e.g. resettlement, labour conditions, etc.) in respect of each new school facility.
- The promoter shall verify the compliance of the schemes with the relevant and applicable rules of the national legislation, in particular in the fields of environment and public procurement.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

- National legislation concerning environment and social impact assessment shall be improved once a new Constitution is adopted (end 2012) and a new legal framework developed. However a complete environmental legislation is still in force, developed from 1975 to 2009. The operation has to meet requirements which are largely compliant with the environmental and social requirements of the Bank based on EU policy.
- An SEA for the Programme is not required under Tunisian legislation. EIAs for individual schemes are neither required. The Technical Assistance programme to be set up could investigate potential needs in this field during implementation. The overall environmental impacts will be positive.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The program should improve social equity with a focus on increasing enrolment and retention of under-privileged children (girls and children with special needs in rural areas).