

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

(Further guidance is contained in the Environmental and Social Practices Handbook)

### Overview

Project Name:	Réhabilitation urbaine Tunisie
Project Number:	2011-0280
Country:	Tunisia
Project Description:	Part-financing of eligible components of the 2012 to 2016 multi-sector investment programme of the Agence de Réhabilitation et Rénovation Urbaine (under Ministère de l'Équipement)
EIA:	Multi-scheme operation with sub-projects of small size; no EIAs required

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

- The project refers to a multi-sector operation concerning infrastructure investments of small size, for 119 priority urban areas within 64 municipalities or “Délégations”.
- 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.). Environmental benefits should furthermore be increased by outcomes of the proposed TA project to ARRU, especially in the fields of energy efficiency and solid waste management. The project will also help enhancing the environment for economic growth and development, thereby contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
- Positive net social impacts will be substantial as well. Drainage, water and sewage works will bring improvements in quality of life and health conditions (elimination of chronic flooding of houses, reduced epidemiological risks...). The construction of roads with hard surface, public lighting installation etc., will bring other social benefits stemming from better access of motor vehicles to rehabilitated areas (including taxis, ambulances, school transport etc.). Construction of playgrounds, socio-cultural buildings and sports centers, finally, will bring complementary social benefits to all categories of population, especially youth.
- All multisector schemes are coordinated and monitored by local Steering Committees chaired by Governors, in which regular consultations of Municipalities and other key stakeholders are handled.
- The Promoter following Government policy is keen to develop participative methods with strong involvement of populations in areas under rehabilitation. There was a long-lasting tradition in Tunisia of consultation of local populations about land planning documents (PLU's)
- 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.

## **Environmental and Social 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, existing environmental legislation is still in force, developed from 1975 to 2009.
- An SEA for the Programme is not required under Tunisian legislation. It is expected that EIAs will not be required for any of the individual schemes under the operation, but this will be verified during implementation. Nevertheless, the Promoter is required to set up environmental procedures for review of the environmental risks of projects, in accordance with the requirements of the Bank. The Technical Assistance programme to be set up has, as one of its objectives, the provision of institutional support in this area during implementation. The overall environmental impacts will be substantially positive.