

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: Urban Water Supply Program

Project Number: 2014 0053

Country: Ethiopia

The Urban Water Supply Programme aims at expanding and rehabilitating urban water supply and sanitation infrastructures in small and medium towns in Ethiopia. The funds will be channelled through the Water Resources Development Fund (WRDF), under the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy, and will be managed through a revolving fund mechanism, on a full cost recovery principle. The programme also aims at the improvement of the institutional capacity of the WRDF, the Regional Water Bureaus and the Town Water Utilities.

EIA required: yes

The need for an EIA will be decided based on the environmental screening for each individual sub-project

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no

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

Ethiopia has an Environmental Protection Authority which is mandated under Proclamation No. 299/2002 for the provision of EIA approvals and monitoring. As per the laws in Ethiopia, the environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) should be carried out for the water projects by its sponsors in small and medium sized towns. Given the nature, scale and location of the schemes in urban areas, the Project does not pose significant risk from an environmental point of view. If the latter were located in the EU, it would not – in the strict sense – fall under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Nevertheless, an Environmental and social impact screening (ESIS) shall be carried out for each scheme in the complete set of feasibility studies for each of the small and medium towns as a requirement for appraisal by the Water Resources Development Fund. Should the outcome of the screening procedure determine the necessity to undertake a full ESIA, it will be carried out and the documents will be made available on the Bank's website. When applicable, a biodiversity assessment according to national law and the consent from the competent authority will be also required. An environmental and social management plan (ESMP) will be drafted and its implementation will be monitored. The EIB will contribute Technical Assistance to support the WRDF in its key role of appraisal, monitoring, procurement supervisory and reporting during the implementation of this programme. This will ensure technical quality of individual projects and compliance with environmental and social safeguards. The Programme would not require a strategic environmental assessment according to SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.

The implementation of the water supply schemes is expected to improve considerably the reliability and the quality of water supply in selected small and medium sized towns in Ethiopia. It will increase the provision of safe drinking water and thus will contribute to the reduction of water-borne diseases which is a positive social impact. Furthermore, it will reduce the burden to those who collect water outside the house, in particular children. Time

<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

savings related to the improved access to water will be translated into productive activities and education.

With the above mentioned environmental and social (E&S) framework in place, the project is therefore acceptable for Bank financing from an E&S perspective.

## **Environmental and Social Assessment**

### **Environmental Assessment**

Approval for the ESIA is the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Authority. Approval for water abstraction is under the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy while sanitation activities are managed by Municipalities. Typical project activities involve the clearing of construction sites from obstacles, excavation of trenches, laying of pipelines and drilling of deep aquifer wells with limited yield. Part of the permission procedure is an environmental and social impact screening. Preliminary findings during the planning phase of the programme indicate possible impacts on wildlife, vegetation, flora and fauna and could involve temporary loss of agricultural land. These negative impacts are expected to be only temporary and confined to the immediate construction sites, They will be properly addressed within the ESMP. The programme is unlikely to result in any lasting loss of flora and fauna.

For those sub-projects that will be screened in, the EIB requires that a full environmental and social impact assessment, (including livelihood restoration and resettlement action plans, and potential impact on protected areas where applicable) will be carried out. The WRDF will ensure that the relevant documents will be submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority for its review and approval. The Bank will provide an International TA that will assist WRDF to verify technical designs and compliance with applicable environmental and social standards during the technical appraisal of these projects

### **Social Assessment**

The project will lead to a significant increase of water supply in small and medium towns in Ethiopia and will therefore have a positive social impact. Social impacts include the possible disruption of services, noise and temporary occupation of public or private space, traffic disruptions, and safety hazards. All these impacts will require strict management to minimize the negative disturbances, inconveniences and impacts common for this type of project in urban areas and will be addressed in the planning permission. Positive social impacts by far outweigh the assessed negative impacts that would mainly result from construction activities.

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

Public consultation will be carried out as part of the different required assessment stages. The Promoter will have to ensure compliance with national environmental and nature regulations and facilitate the access by the public to project related relevant information in accordance with the Bank's Transparency Policy.