

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: ONEE - AMELIORATION AEP ET ASSAINISSEMENT
Project Number: 2013-0564
Country: Morocco
Project Description: Programme d'amélioration d'Alimentation en Eau Potable et Assainissement.

EIA required: yes

It is expected that none of the future components to be included in the program will be subject to a full EIA. Should this not happen, standard environmental undertakings and the EIA requirement have been kept.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise: no

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

ONEE's main mandate is the planning and provision of drinking water in the Kingdom of Morocco. It produces 90% of the potable water in the country and remains the main actor in rural areas, managing water supply systems in 625 municipalities and a population of 7,7 millions of inhabitants. It also covers sanitation services for 3,3 million people in 92 municipalities.

This operation will support the *Contrat-Programme 2014-2017*, agreed between ONEE and the National Government of Morocco. The Programme will have a high environmental and social impact through the enhanced provision –in terms of quantity, quality, and reliability standards- of potable water and sanitation services. It will improve the quality of life for a significant portion of Morocco's population in small and medium-sized Moroccan agglomerations countrywide. It will also support the economic growth and social development of the benefitted municipalities, with a high impact on SMEs and local employment creation in a priority region.

This Programme concerns small-sized schemes, aiming at the upgrade, rehabilitation and optimization of operations of water production, distribution and sanitation infrastructure across the country. The environmental framework is well developed in the Moroccan national legislation and the Promoter shows a good environmental awareness. Due to the typology of the components to be included under this operation, none of them is expected to require an EIA according to EU and local environmental regulations and will not affect any protected area. An SEA would not be required according to EU legislation.

The Programme is consequently acceptable for Bank financing.

The Promoter undertakings are the following:

- The Promoter undertakes not to allocate the Bank funds to programme components that require an EIA until the necessary assessment has been finalised and approved by the competent authority. Once any EIS is available, the Promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of its Non-Technical Summary (NTS) for publication on the EIB website.
- The Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme that impacts nature conservation sites, without receiving the consent of the appropriate assessment of the competent environmental Authority and submitting the relevant forms to the Bank.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Under the *charte communale*, water supply and sanitation services are the responsibility of the municipalities in Morocco. However, municipalities can entrust it to an independent authority –*régie autonome*–, to ONEE or also to a private operator. Thus, ONEE ensures by delegation of *centres régionaux*, the distribution of drinking water and sewerage in numerous secondary municipalities. Morocco also contributes internationally to almost all UN organizations related to the environment.

The Water Law -Law 10-95- was promulgated on the 16th August of 1995. It sets the goal of establishing a national water policy based on a forward-looking vision that takes into account on the one hand the evolution of resources, and on the other hand the national water needs. It addresses legal provisions to rationalize the use of water, widespread access to water, interregional solidarity, reducing disparities between urban and rural areas to ensure water security across the country. Among the benefits of this law, there is also the contribution to improve the environmental situation of water resources (decree N°2-04-553 du 24/01/2005).

In addition, since the creation of Department of the Environment -attached to the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment (MEMEE)- the legal framework for the protection of environment has developed and strengthened in response to the continued degradation of the quality of natural resources and their scarcity. Responsibilities and principles are defined by the decree of 13 January 2000. Public consultation is a fundamental legal aspect of the Department of the Environment, stating that standards and environmental procedures cannot be developed without consideration of the comments and suggestions of partners, both public and private.

The Law 12-03 on EIA (12 May 2003), lists the projects subject to an environmental impact assessment and the procedure of implementation. It also establishes the creation of a national committee of EIA, chaired by the Minister of the Environment. The committee's role is to decide, on the basis of the results of the EIA, about the environmental acceptability and which conditions should apply to the implementation of the projects. The concept of the strategic environmental assessment for programmes (SEA) has not been incorporated yet into the legislative environmental framework of Morocco. Nonetheless a SEA was carried out for the *Programme National d'Assainissement* in 2011.

The North Africa region would, as such, particularly affected since it should undergo a warming greater than the global average and greater precipitation decrease. Morocco particularly suffers from warming as a direct impact of climate change. Projections by the National Directorate of Meteorology predict an increase of average summer temperatures of 2 °C to 6 °C and a 20% decrease in average rainfall by the end of the century. In order to compensate this adverse damage, Morocco is engaged in a wide programme of sustainable development at different levels (e.g. energy policy based on the development of renewable energies, the National Plan against global warming, preference for low-energy consumption wastewater treatment alternatives such as lagoons) and wastewater reutilization. This Programme will contribute to the climate change adaptation of the benefitted agglomerations through the rehabilitation of existing inefficient old equipment, the optimization of the water supply systems and a more efficient use of the water resources.

Social Assessment, where applicable

No reallocation of people is foreseen under this operation. 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 and will be addressed in the planning permission.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

The Promoter will have to ensure compliance with national regulations and EIB guidelines and facilitate the access by the public to environmentally relevant information in accordance with the Bank's Transparency Policy.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

None