

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *SCHOOL ROOFTOPS PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS*
 Project Number: *2016-0624*
 Country: *Palestine*
 Project Description: *Construction of up to 450 rooftop photovoltaic systems on schools in the West Bank with a total capacity of up to 30 MW_p.*

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: yes

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

If the project were located within the EU, it would fall under Annex II of the EU EIA Directive, requiring the competent authorities to determine whether an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required. In this case, the environmental authority has confirmed that according to national environmental law and regulations², the project will not require an ESIA.

The project, consisting of multiple small-scale rooftop solar PV installations located in already-built environments, is expected to have very limited negative impacts. These will be mainly related to noise or dust during construction, and to recycling of PV panels at the end of their life.

The promoter, as required by the environmental authority, will put in place a generic Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP template) to manage these impacts. This ESMP will have to be followed by the promoter and its contractors during construction and operation, complemented by additional conditions, if any, set out by the environmental agency for any particular site (specific ESMP). The generic ESMP will be required for the Bank's review, as a condition for disbursement in the EIB Finance Contract.

On this basis, the project is deemed acceptable for the Bank.

¹ 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 CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

² Environmental Law, 1999 and Environment Impact Assessment Policy, 2000

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EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology, the project will result in relative emissions savings of 31 000 tons of CO₂ equivalent per annum. This is based on the avoidance of electricity generation from the existing and new thermal plants.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

Social Assessment, where applicable

There are no major social impacts expected for this component. A generic ESMP will have to be followed during construction and operation, complemented by any additional conditions set out by the environmental agency for any particular site. Social impacts will mainly relate to labour standards and community health and safety. These impacts will be managed within the above-mentioned ESMP, which will be required for the Bank's review, as a condition for disbursement in the EIB Finance Contract. In addition, the promoter will undertake to share the specific ESMP of each site, as required and when available. This is deemed acceptable for the Bank.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Given the small scale of the project's underlying schemes, the environmental authority has not required an ESIA. Hence, it is not expected that a public consultation process will take place. However, relevant stakeholders (including the Ministry of Education, school staff, etc.) have been adequately consulted to draw up the list of sites (schools) and to establish the rooftop system electricity production that will cater for each school's consumption.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The finance contract will include the following disbursement conditions:

1. The promoter will provide the generic ESMP template, for the Bank to review to its satisfaction

The finance contract will also contain the following undertakings:

1. The promoter will provide to the Bank, as soon as they are available, copies of the appropriate approvals of the environmental authority for any project document, and in particular for the specific ESMP for each site where required.
2. The promoter will ensure that the project will be implemented and operated in compliance with EIB's Environmental and Social Standards.

With the above conditions, the project is acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.