

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

| | |
|--|--|
| Project Name: | DEIR ALLA WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION |
| Project Number: | 2018-0058 |
| Country: | Jordan |
| Project Description: | Improvements to the existing water supply systems of the Deir Alla and Al Karameh districts in the Jordan Valley and provision of a first time centralized wastewater collection and treatment system for Deir Alla. |
| EIA required: | yes |
| Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ : | no |

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project concerns improvements to the existing water supply system of the Deir Alla and Al Karameh districts in the Jordan Valley and the construction of first time centralised sewage collection and treatment in Deir Alla.

The project is located in the northern part of the Jordan Valley, known as the Ghor; a low-lying strip of land on the north western border of Jordan. The region is several degrees warmer than the rest of the country and its year-round agricultural climate and fertile soil make it one of the country's main agricultural areas, acting as the lifeline for many Jordanians. The area is also home to approximately 6,000 Syrian refugees. The project targets the communities of 17 localities in Balqa Governorate with a population of around 85,000 inhabitants, according to the most recent census carried out in 2015.

The improvements in the water supply system will include measures for the reduction of non-revenue water (NRW) and the rehabilitation and construction of wells, networks, reservoirs, pumping stations and water treatment plants. The interconnection of the various sources supplying the area is also foreseen, aiming at a more reliable and resilient water supply. The population that will benefit from the improved water supply services is estimated at 105,000 in 2025.

The first time centralised wastewater collection and treatment system (serving approximately 65,000 inhabitants in 2025) will improve the environmental conditions and public health in the area by eliminating the use of cesspits and septic tanks.

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.

Luxembourg, 11 December 2018

Finally, the treated wastewater will become available for re-use by the agricultural sector, providing an additional invaluable source of water in one of the most water scarce countries in the world.

The project will comply with national environmental requirements as defined in the Jordanian Environmental Protection Law No.52:2006. Environmental Impact Assessment Regulation No.37:2005 sets out the requirements for the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). A complete and approved by the Ministry of Environment ESIA is required in order to obtain environmental clearance and the environmental permit for the project, which then complements other non-environmental permitting requirements such as the construction license. A draft ESIA has been prepared as part of the feasibility study for the project but will need to be updated during the detailed design stage in order to be able to obtain the environmental permit. In addition, the promoter will have to apply for a site approval permit in accordance with the Instructions for Site Selection of Development Projects of 2018 prior to the commencement of the process for environmental permitting.

According to the EU EIA Directive, all components of the project fall under Annex II with the obligation to prepare a full EIA being subject to the decision of the competent authority. The project will not affect any protected areas.

The project has a significant contribution to climate change mitigation (40.6% of the project investment cost) according to the EIB's relevant guidelines. The climate action mitigation stems from the reduction in methane emissions compared with the treatment in septic tanks or direct discharge of untreated wastewater to the environment. The project also includes climate change adaptation components in the form of conservation of water resources through the reduction of water losses and measures to ensure a more resilient water supply in the area.

The review and appraisal of the project have identified a number of positive environmental impacts:

- Establishment of a reliable and resilient water supply.
- More efficient use of water resources and re-use of treated wastewater in agriculture.
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

Negative impacts are expected to be limited to the construction period and include:

- Risk of contamination of ground water and soil quality due to inappropriate management of construction waste disposal.
- Temporarily increased noise levels and reduced air quality due to dust generated by the construction activities.
- Temporary traffic closures and diversions.
- Risks to the health and safety of construction personnel and the public if construction activities are not appropriately managed and there are not adequate safety measures in place.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Land will need to be acquired as part of the project for the construction of the new proposed wastewater treatment plant in Deir Alla. The institutional and administrative framework that governs land acquisition in Jordan is the Land Acquisition Law No.12/1987. The law states that any land acquisition process must be undertaken by the Government of Jordan represented by a governmental entity. For this project, the governmental entity is the Water Authority of Jordan. The law on broad terms requires that all land acquisitions that take place for any project must be for the public benefit, and must be undertaken through fair compensation measures. The law sets out a framework for the land acquisition process and

Luxembourg, 11 December 2018

stipulates the requirements for consultation, disclosure, advertising, fair compensation, grievance and dispute, etc. A potential, privately owned, agricultural plot that will be subject to land acquisition has been identified as part of the feasibility study. A Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will need to be prepared as part of the ESIA.

In terms of labour rights, Jordan has ratified seven of the eight fundamental ILO conventions (with the exception of *C087 - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948*) and three out of the four governance conventions. The legal framework regarding labour in Jordan mainly comprises of the Jordanian Labour Law No.8 of 1996 and its amendments.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

In the context of the draft ESIA, a first public consultation meeting was held on 13 September 2018 in Deir Alla to inform the local community about the project. Further consultations will be required as part of the final ESIA to be prepared for the environmental permitting process.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Jordan Valley region is rich in history and there a number of archaeological sites within the area covered by the project. A detailed archaeological survey, in coordination with the Department of Antiquities, to assess whether any signs of archaeological sites can be identified at the potential construction sites of the project.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is not expected to have any significant adverse impact on the environment, with possible negative environmental effects being temporary and confined to the immediate construction sites. These adverse impacts can be either prevented and/or minimised through appropriate mitigation measures and by adhering to national standards and relevant international standards, guidelines and design criteria.

The project will comply with the requirements of the national legislation. The Water Authority of Jordan has significant experience in implementing projects financed by IFIs requiring compliance with international environmental and social standards.

The scope of the project is fully in line with the Bank's Lending Priority in Climate and Environment and the Water Sector Lending Policy and will contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal No.6 (SDG) of "availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all", particularly in the rural low income areas.

In order to comply with the Bank's requirements, the following conditions and undertakings relating to environmental and social matters will be applied to the project:

- No EIB funds will be disbursed without prior receipt of the approved ESIA, to the satisfaction of the Bank, for publication locally and on the Bank's website. The ESIA will include a project Environmental and Social Management Plan, a Resettlement Action Plan, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and a detailed archaeological survey.
- The promoter will undertake to ensure full compliance with the project's Environmental and Social requirements.