



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND WATER RESOURCES

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

**Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access
Transformation in SOMALIA**

October 2023

ABBREVIATIONS

ASCENT	Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation
BESS	Battery Energy Storage Systems
CBO	Community Based Organization
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
CoC	Code of Conduct
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
DECC	Directorate of Environment and Climate Change
DEWC	District Environment Watch Council
DG	Director General
DRE	Decentralized Renewable Energy
E&S	Environmental and Social
EAPP	Ethiopia under the Eastern Africa Power Pool
EAs	Environmental Audits
EHS	Environment, Health, and Safety
ENSO	El Niño–Southern Oscillation
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESI	Electricity Supply Industry
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessments
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESPs	Electricity Service Providers
ESSs	Environmental and Social Standards
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FM	Financial Management
FMS	Federal Member States
GBV	Gender Based Violence

GBVAP	Gender-based Violence Action Plan
GBVIMS	Gender-Based Violence Information Management System
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIIP	Good International Industry Practice
GRC	Grievance Redress Committee
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
GRS	Grievance Redress Service
HDI	Human Development Index
IDA	International Development Association
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labour Organization
INDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
LMP	Labour Management Procedures
MoEWR	Ministry of Energy and Water Resources
MoECC	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
MoH	Ministry of Health
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoPIED	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
MoPW&T	Ministry of Public Works and Transport
MPA	Multi-Programmatic Approach
MSDs	Musculoskeletal Disorders
NERAD	National Environment Research and Disaster Preparedness Authority
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OE	Owner's Engineer
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
OHSMP	Occupational Health and Safety Management Plan
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PCBs	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
PCR	Physical Cultural Resources

PDO	Project Development Objective
PIU	Project Implementing Unit
PLWDs	People Living with Disabilities
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PrDO	Program Development Objective
PRMN	Protection Return Monitoring Network
PV	Photovoltaic
PWE	Public Works Engineer
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
REWC	Regional Watch Councils
RFB	Request for Bids
RFP	Request for Proposals
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SEAP	Somalia Electricity Access Project
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SESRP	Somalia Electricity Sector Recovery Project
SPV	Solar Photovoltaic
SRMI	Sustainable Renewables Risk Mitigation Initiative
TBD	To Be Determined
TMP	Traffic Management Plan
TORs	Terms of Reference
TPMA	Third Party Monitoring Agents
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VAC	Violence Against Children
VECs	Valued Ecosystem Components

WBG	World Bank Group
WHO	World Health Organization
WMP	Waste Management Plan
WVI	World Vision International

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) is preparing the Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation (ASCENT) project to be financed by International Development Association (IDA) to the tune of US\$100 Million. The project seeks to increase access to renewable energy through private sector participation in Somalia, which aligns with the ASCENT Multi-Programmatic Approach (MPA) Program Development Objective of accelerating access to sustainable, reliable and clean energy in Eastern and Southern Africa. The Project will be implemented using the institutional and implementation arrangements established under the ongoing Somali Electricity Sector Recovery Project (SESRP). The Project will be implemented by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) established at the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MoEWR), in close coordination with the Private Energy Service Providers (ESPs).

1.2 Project Background and Description

Somalia's capacity to generate and transmit power is largely weak and ineffective. As of 2020, the total estimated installed capacity in the major load centers of the country was about 138 MW which is inadequate to serve current and future demand. The electricity access rate is estimated at 50 percent nationally implying that almost 8 million people lack access to electricity. According to the recent household budget survey¹, 62 percent have some access to electricity, out of which a little over half has access to grid electricity and a third of those having access to only 'torch' (a flashlight that does not deliver even basic lighting access).

ASCENT will provide improved power supply in the main load centers, including Mogadishu and in cities outside Mogadishu. Improved access and lower cost electricity will enhance economic activities in the serviced areas and markets, reduce unemployment (currently at 13 percent), and support broader economic recovery. The project will invest in the following:

Component 1: Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) with Solar PV (SPV) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in the capital city of Mogadishu and other major load centers in the Federal Members States (FMS). This is proposed to include design, supply, and installation of a total of about 50MW SPV grid connected generation plants with BESS in the Mogadishu capital area and other selected major load centers in the FMS. The integration of renewable energy sources and energy storage solutions are to improve the overall performance of the existing mini grids thereby reducing reliance on fossil fuels and increasing the reliability of electricity supply. The installed equipment will be operated and maintained by the private sector operators (ESPs) with the project funds will be used to buy-down capital costs to lower the costs of supply. Based on the discussions, it is estimated that the project will contribute to lowering the cost (current average estimated at about US\$60/kWh) to about US\$25-35/kWh.

Component 2: Electricity Distribution Network Rehabilitation and Reinforcement of the mini grids serving the Mogadishu capital city area and other FMS major load centers. The activities under this component are aimed at supporting to reduce network losses (both technical and commercial) and

¹ Somalia Integrated Household Budget Survey: Main Report, February 2023

increase the network's capacity to connect new customers. It will also include activities to address last mile connection barriers to access especially for the low-income households. Under this component are proposed to include: (i) supply of equipment and materials for the distribution network (Medium-voltage (MV) and Low-voltage (LV)), metering equipment and service connections and (ii) installation services including detailed line surveys. The scope of this component will be informed by the ongoing distribution network options analysis.

- a) Selection criteria. The beneficiary ESPs, especially in the FMs, will be selected taking into account the following criteria, among others: (1) regional balance with regard to the project scope coverage, to include some of the large load centers in the FMS; (2) maximum impact (reduced GHG emissions) based on the existing load demand; (3) optimized investment costs, for example, ESPs with existing hybrid SPV already installed but without battery storage would be ranked higher due to the lower cost; and (4) availability of land at the existing ESPs generation sites for additional infrastructure.

Component 3: Sector Capacity and Institution Enhancement and Project Implementation Support. The activities under this component are proposed to enhance and build on the on-going ESRP activities that among others include: (i) Policy and Regulatory development; (ii) Sector Planning and Feasibility Studies for Renewable Energy Projects; (iii) ESP and MOEWR Capacity and Business Support Services; (iv) Implementation of the Gender Action Plan; and (v) Project Implementation Support including for environment and social safeguards. Key activities will among others include preparation studies for national electrification plan, including identification of actions to enhance the enabling environment for private sector investments. Sector enhancement activities will include support to operationalize the ESI, sector planning and operational capacity. This component will also support activities to build the capacity of FMS who have a key role in the country's energy sector development. The capacity needs assessment for the FMS is underway and will inform the priority areas for capacity building support. The mission discussions noted the need to have in place a detailed capacity enhancement plan to ensure the staff of MoEWR and other stakeholder institutions are trained to undertake core sector activities and thus reduce the continued reliance on consultants.

1.2.1 Project Beneficiaries

Households – The project will support improved electricity service delivery in the major load centers of Mogadishu and other main load centers identified for renewable energy generation optimization through hybridization of mini grids (component 2) in the FMS.

Productive Enterprises and Job Creation – Improved reliability of electricity supply will contribute to increased productivity and income of productive enterprises and thus create opportunities to increase jobs for the general populace.

Improved Performance of the ESPs – The project will improve the efficiency in the utilization of the existing and expanded assets of the beneficiary ESPs under components 1 and 2. In addition, the whole private sector in the country will benefit from the support provided under component 3 for improved commercial and operational performance.

Sector Institutions – The sector institutions, including the public (MoEWR) and the private sector (ESPs), are expected to benefit from the improvements in the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of the sector operations which will not only shore up the sector's performance but also enhance the image and credibility of the institutions and thus build support for sustained operations.

1.3 Potential Environment & Social Risks and Impacts

The ASCENT Project has significant environmental risks along with environmental benefits. The installation of BESS and solar PV systems will optimize renewable energy generation, reduce GHG emissions, and diversify energy supply to adapt to climate change. Component 3 will provide additional funding to the government and ESPs, including carbon revenue and other climate/sustainability financing sources.

Key environment, health, and safety (EHS) risks include challenges in disposal and management of liquid and solid waste, disposal and management of hazardous wastes, soil erosion and degradation, fauna and flora disturbance, dust and noise, contamination and degradation of soil and water, and health and safety risks for employees and communities. The risks associated with the disposal and management of hazardous wastes may be aggravated due to limited capacity on disposal, recycling, and management of nonbiodegradable hazardous wastes from electrical equipment. This risk is further compounded by poor safety records of ESPs who dominate the electricity, further complicated by the government's low capacity to oversee the environmental risks of the project. There are also no formal regulations or codes of standards of practice and mechanisms to vet and enforce electricity services quality, health and safety standards, and the willingness and capacity of participating ESPs to take on ESF commitment.

The Social Risks and impacts of the project activities may include (i) land acquisition, restrictions on land use and displacement in lieu of land for solar farms and associated wayleaves/easements; (ii) the potential for labor influx with associated risks for increased transmission of diseases including sexually transmitted diseases, conflict between communities and workers and increased tension. The nature and extent of these risks will vary depending on the location of the investment. Urban centers in Somalia have higher risks of tension and social conflict, often triggered by completion over access to natural resources, conflicting armed groups and migration (including of displaced persons). Risks associated with labor and working conditions including child labor, lack of contracts and inadequate access to facilities (drinking water, sanitation, etc.) for workers given the nature of the work. Construction works can also increase the risk of SEA/SH associated with labor influx. Component 1 may involve giving grants to ESPs. The capacity of the borrower will need to be determined but may influence the nature and scale of these risks.

Security might be an issue in the cities, where the presence of armed groups, or internal communities' conflicts might impact the implementation and supervision of activities. Some of these impacts will be site specific and will be managed through in a systematic manner throughout the project cycle with solid mitigation measures proportionate to the nature and scale of the project. Security risk assessment carried out under SESRP P173088 will be updated to accommodate new activities under this project.

Several consultations have been conducted since the onset of SESRP. As a result, the project activities have been prioritized based on the consultations and stakeholder buy-in. Specifically, activities under component 1 and 2 will be implemented in coordination with the respective beneficiary ESPs. This has mitigated the potential risk that the FMS and other stakeholders may feel left out or higher expectations for project outcomes than can be supported. The project will also conduct workshops and sensitization activities to engage the private sector, civil society, and other partners in the main

project areas. The project will have both steering committee and a sector working group to provide oversight of the project as well as ensure interests of various groups are taken on board.

2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

2.1 Scope and objectives of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The scope of this SEP includes activities and measures to disclose relevant project information to beneficiaries, project-affected persons (PAPs), and stakeholders of the project. The goal of the SEP is to build an informed stakeholder support base, ownership and provide adequate stakeholder participation space and modes of communication for the successful implementation of the project.

The specific objectives of the SEP are:

1. To provide stakeholders with a clear process for providing comment and raising grievances;
2. To allow stakeholders the opportunity to raise comments / concerns anonymously through using the existing hotlines;
3. To structure and manage the handling of comments, responses and grievances, and allow monitoring of effectiveness of the mechanism;
4. To ensure that comments, responses and grievances are handled in a fair, timely and transparent manner in line with international best practice and WB expectations;
5. Assist in building strong relationships with the local community and reduce the potential for delays through the early identification of issues to be addressed as the project progresses;
6. Document practical engagement strategies, achievements and lessons learnt;
7. Provide timely and appropriate information prior to and during project implementation to enable informed participation in the project and definition of appropriate mitigation measures, and
8. Facilitate open and continuous communication and consultation between various groups including project managers, stakeholders, and the public.

This SEP is a 'live' document and can be updated throughout the Project lifecycle to document the implementation of community engagement, communication strategy and changing project landscape. This SEP will be reviewed regularly by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) safeguards team and updated as relevant.

2.2 Stakeholder Engagement Principles

To ensure compliance with international best practices, the project will apply the following principles during stakeholder engagement:

- Openness and life-cycle approach: public consultations for the project will continue during the whole project lifecycle from preparation through implementation. Stakeholder engagement will be free of manipulation, interference, coercion, and intimidation;
- Prior, informed participation and feedback: information will be provided and widely distributed among all stakeholders in an appropriate format; conducted based on timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information related to the project; opportunities provided to raise concerns and ensure that stakeholder feedback is taken into consideration during decision making; and

- Inclusivity and sensitivity: stakeholder identification will be undertaken to support better communication and building effective relationships. The participation process for the project will be inclusive. All stakeholders will be encouraged to be involved in the consultation processes. Equal access to information will be provided to all stakeholders. Sensitivity to stakeholders' needs is the key principle underlying the selection of engagement methods. Special attention will be given to vulnerable groups, particularly internally displaced persons and minority groups, and the cultural sensitivity of diverse groups in the project areas.

2.3 Stakeholder Identification

The first step in the stakeholder engagement process is to identify the key stakeholders to be consulted and involved in the projects' development phases. Stakeholders are institutions, groups of people or individuals who are affected or likely to be affected by the project and who may have an interest in the project. These stakeholders could be directly or indirectly affected and have potential to influence the projects implementation in a positive or negative way and might, therefore, need to express their concerns through various stakeholder forums. Borrowing from the SESRP Project, the stakeholders of the project include but not limited to:

Affected Persons:

- Clan heads.
- Schools and health centres;
- Energy Service Providers (ESPs);
- Solar Service Providers (SSPs)
- Pastoralists and farming communities.
- Relevant National Department & Agencies (i.e., Ministries, etc.);

Other interested parties

- Security apparatus (e.g., police, military, private security service providers, etc.);
- Local Government/Municipalities/Regional Government;
- Relevant Government Departments at the Member state level;
- Banks and other financial institutions;
- Local and International NGOs;
- Supervision consultants;
- Contractors;
- Media organizations;
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs);
- World Bank and institutional partners;
- Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (FGS);
- Ministry of Energy and Minerals (Somaliland);
- Ministry of Health; and
- Ministry of education.

Marginalized & Disadvantaged People

- Refugees and internally displaced persons;
- Women;
- Unemployed Youth
- Nomadic communities;
- People with disabilities; and
- Ethnic minorities like smaller sub clans.

2.4 Stakeholder Mapping and Analysis

Stakeholder mapping is a process of examining the relative influence that different individual and groups have over a project as well as the influence of the project over them. The purpose of a stakeholder mapping is to:

- Profile stakeholders identified and the nature of the stakes;
- Understand each group’s specific issues, concerns as well as expectations from the project that each group retain; and
- Gauge their influence on the project.

Stakeholder analysis is the process of identification of key stakeholders, an assessment of their interests in the project and way in which these interests may affect the project. The reason for doing a stakeholder analysis is to identify who to inform and consult, who to build and nurture relationships with and what roles they should play and at which stage. Based on this understanding, stakeholders are categorized as:

- High Influence: are those who are expected to have a high influence over the Project or are likely to be heavily impacted by the Project activities: they should thus be high up on the Project’s priority list for engagement and consultation;
- Medium Influence: are those who are expected to have a moderate influence over the Project or even though they are to be impacted by the Project, such impact is deemed unlikely to be substantial: these stakeholders should thus be neither high nor low on the Project’s engagement list; and
- Low Influence: are those who are expected to have a minimal influence on the decision-making process or are to be minimally impacted by the Project: they should thus be low on the Project’s engagement list.

Table 1 below provides brief profiles of the various stakeholders in the project and their likely degree of influence leveraging from the lessons learnt from SESRP.

Table 2-1 Stakeholders and their Influence on the Project

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholder Group	Magnitude of Impact/Influence	Issue / Area of concern
Community	Farming & Business communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply of electricity to both farmers and businesses Damage to farmland and disruption of businesses during construction phase Farmers and Businesses will pay for the electricity supplied
	General public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply of electricity to the public and the related multiplier effect The public will provide a neighborhood watch to the electricity installation and equipment
Energy Service Providers	Current players in the energy market and power distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The electricity project will provide additional / alternative electricity supply. The current players will share with the new players the experience encountered during the time of operation
Government Bodies	Ministry of Finance	Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boosting development and industrialization through the additional supply of electricity How is the electricity supply benefiting the economy?
	Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: Low Level of Interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is the electricity supply affecting education?

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholder Group	Magnitude of Impact/Influence	Issue / Area of concern
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public awareness from the electricity supply
	Ministry of Communication & Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Project on Stakeholder: Low Level of Interest • Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on the provision of the electricity to the communication and technology sector • Consumption of electricity by the communication and technology sector
	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Project on Stakeholder: Low Level of Interest • Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the electricity supply promoting environmental conservation? • How is the environment benefiting from the electricity supply?
	Municipal authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest • Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the electricity supply impact of people's life? • What is the available land especially for transmission lines?
	Ministry of labour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest • Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the community members benefiting from labor supply? • What is the institutional capacity to supervise labor services?
	Occupational health and safety department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest • Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	Attention should be paid to the safety concerns related with electrical installations
	Ministry of Interior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Project on Stakeholder: Low Level of Interest 	Security concerns for the electrical installations

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholder Group	Magnitude of Impact/Influence	Issue / Area of concern
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	
	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity's contribution to socio-economic transformation of the society Ministry's contribution on the sustenance of the project
	FMS Ministries of Water and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	
	FMS Environmental Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	
	Ministry of Labor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	
	Ministry of Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	
	FMS Ministries of Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	
	FMS Planning Ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: High Level of Interest Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	
NGOs	International & Local NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of Project on Stakeholder: Moderate Level of Interest Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholder Group	Magnitude of Impact/Influence	Issue / Area of concern
	Community Based Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Project on Stakeholder: Low Level of Interest • Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	
Institutional Stakeholders and donor partners active in the energy space as well as those relevant for E&S issues	World Bank, SIDA, DFID, EU & AfDB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Project on Stakeholder: Low Level of Interest • Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	
Local Government Authorities	Municipal Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Project on Stakeholder: Low Level of Interest • Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	
Regional Government	Federal Member States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Project on Stakeholder: Low Level of Interest • Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	
UN Agencies, INGOs and donor groups	UNDP, UN-HABITAT, United Nations Office for Project Services, International Organization for Migration, ADRA, UNHCR, ILO, UN WOMEN, Norwegian Refugee Council, World Vision International, Danish Refugee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Project on Stakeholder: Low Level of Interest • Influence of Stakeholder on Project: High Level of Interest 	<p>Ensure project compliance.</p> <p>Represents the interests of different interested parties and vulnerable groups and VMGs</p>

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholder Group	Magnitude of Impact/Influence	Issue / Area of concern
	Council, European Union, and USAID		

2.4.1 Citizen Engagement

The project will establish a citizen’s feedback mechanism and grievance redress system to evaluate stakeholder satisfaction, and other citizen engagement feedback. Stakeholders can register their feedback or complaint towards the performance of the ESPs and SHS delivery through the mechanism. The project will conduct independent surveys to track stakeholders’ feedback on their perception and experience of the activities implemented under the project, which will be disaggregated by gender and geographical area. The consultation processes will be an ongoing activity throughout the project cycle to ensure that stakeholders are fully engaged, especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups. In addition, to prevent and respond to GBV/SEA/HS during project implementation, measures will be taken to sensitize and train the PIUs, IAs, and contractors on GBV in line with the Project GBV Action Plan that shall be prepared. The final stakeholders of the project, mainly the consumers of electricity services in the country, are unlikely to be aware of the new technologies being presented and will benefit from information about the services, explanation about how the services can be accessed, and the opportunity to interact with service providers to share their feedback and concerns. It will be expected that the representative of consumer groups will sit in the Energy Sector Working Group to voice the concerns of consumers, as well as help service providers better understand the needs and concerns of their customers. The citizen engagement program will employ a variety of messaging tools and personal interaction to reach various audiences while ensuring opportunities for two-way dialogue.

2.4.2 Project-Affected Persons (PAPs)

Project-Affected Persons for the case of the electricity transmission and distribution project includes those likely to be affected by the project because of actual impacts or potential risks to their physical environment, health, security, cultural practices, well-being, or livelihood. PAPs include local communities, community members and other parties that may be subject to direct impacts from the electricity transmission and distribution project activities, which includes impact on land, land-based livelihood, access, assets, and businesses. The project location is in both urban, semi-urban and rural areas. Detailed description of the PAPs’ different categories is listed in Table 2-2 below:

Table 2-2 Project-Affected Persons

Project-Affected Persons	Relevance to the project	Indicative list
Project Affected Persons (People who are physically or economically affected);	Project-Affected Persons include local communities, community members, IDPS and other parties that may be subject to direct impacts from the Project activities, which includes impact on land, land-based livelihood, access, assets, businesses as well as Private Sector (SMEs); Vulnerable households.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who reside at the SPV power plant location. • Street vendors, taxi drivers and businesses operating along the roads. • People with claims to land currently being used by the ESPs.

Project-Affected Persons	Relevance to the project	Indicative list
People who will benefit from project-related employment or business opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will generate employment or business opportunities for the community through construction and maintenance works of the municipal electricity infrastructure. Improved service delivery at the hospital and schools connected to the grid lines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disadvantaged/vulnerable groups in the community such as IDPs, refugees and returnees who will be engaged by the project i.e., target worker recruitment, target beneficiaries for public facilities near their area of stay; Local business community who will benefit from project construction phases.

2.4.3 Other Interested Parties (OIPs)

These are government institutions as shown in Table 2-3 below (e.g., MoEWR, MoPIED, DECC), private companies, international, and national organizations with an interest in the project.

Table 2-3 Other Interested Parties

Other interested parties	Relevance to the project	Indicative list
Line Ministries and Agencies at Federal and FMS	Ministries such as Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Public Works, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change. other line agencies are key stakeholders for the project in compliance with legislation and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoEWR MoPW&T MoPIED MoI MoF MOECC FMS Ministries of Water and Energy FMS Environmental Ministries FMS Planning Ministries FMS Ministries of Public Works Ministry of Labor Ministry of Gender.
Local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local governments ensure district social services (e.g., electricity) and economic development. Mobilization of local resources for development. 	<p>Municipality Departments (e.g., Public Works, Social Affairs, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of Local Council and the mayor Clan/cultural elders

Other interested parties	Relevance to the project	Indicative list
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government authority protects the right of communities in the project areas and represents the interest of the PAPs in the project. • The issue of land, security, and grievance redress is also among the key responsibilities of the local governments during the project life-cycle –municipality administrations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village committees • Police
UN Agencies, INGOs and donor groups	UN agencies, INGOs and donor groups in Somalia supporting the government with similar projects on service delivery as well as economic and infrastructure development. There is need for collaboration and partnership with ASCENT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP • UN-HABITAT • United Nations Office for Project Services • International Organization for Migration • ADRA • UNHCR • ILO • UN WOMEN • Norwegian Refugee Council • World Vision International • Danish Refugee Council • European Union • USAID
Community groups	There are community groups including IDPs and host communities who are currently working with the developmental projects in these respective Municipalities, this will be sustained under the ASCENT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community leaders and elders; • IDPS, returnees and refugees; • Women and youth groups • Business community
Other key interested partners	Private companies such as electricity, telecommunication and water supplies. These are key stakeholders during the implementation of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BECO • SOM-POWER • NUWACO; • NECSOM; • HORMUD • SOMTEL

Other interested parties	Relevance to the project	Indicative list
Academic institutions	Universities, think tanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential concerns regarding environmental and social impacts • Potential educational/outreach opportunities to increase awareness and acceptance of the project.
Local Media	Press and media (including social media)	Inform residents in the project area and the wider public about the Project implementation and planned activities

A further analysis of mapped stakeholders will be done during both the construction and operation phase to better understand their relevance and the perspective they offer, to understand their relationship to the project issues and each other, and to prioritize based on their relative usefulness for this engagement. The update will mainly address any unforeseen project aspects and emerging stakeholder concerns related to the project operation and construction phases.

2.4.4 Strategies for consulting Disadvantaged / Vulnerable Individuals or Groups

Disadvantaged / vulnerable individuals or groups are potentially disproportionately affected and less able to benefit from opportunities offered by the project due to specific difficulties to access and/or understand information about the project. Internally Displaced People (IDPs), persons with disabilities, women, nomadic people, ethnic minorities, orphans /child headed households, and elderly with no means of living and households with disabled members, women, unemployed youth, Ethnic minorities' Poor, Child headed Households affected by the project are entitled to allowance.

To ensure disadvantaged or vulnerable needs are taken into consideration, and that they are reached, the PIU will adopt several mechanisms such as publishing all information about the project in Somali, holding workshops or meetings at suitable location that women can easily access, provide needed facilities in public meetings for handicap or people with disabilities. Additionally, for women, cultural considerations may also limit the ability their participation in project development and as such, the project shall provide for separate consultations specifically targeting women. In addition, when designing the grievance mechanism, the PIUs will consider the availability of needed recourse for vulnerable groups to give feedback or send a complaint.

Table 2-4 Stakeholder Engagement with Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Groups

Vulnerable groups	Potential barriers to limit effective stakeholder engagement	Specific needs to address the barriers
IDPs, returnees and refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to IDP camps; • Limited understanding or interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization through their representatives; • Organize meeting with their representatives
Poor households such as female-headed households and elderly people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of time to participate; • Transportation cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible timing for meetings; • Provision of transports cost
People with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical disabilities preventing mobility. • Various disabilities (e.g., visual, hearing, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign language; • Ensure other family members or relatives accompany during meetings; • Accessible consultation venues

2.5 Findings from the Situational Analysis

The preliminary situation analysis was undertaken to inform the Project preparation and implementation phase. This will give special attention to the needs and status of IDPs given their high concentration in urban areas and informality. The outcomes from the preliminary situational analysis on communication in the project area and related physical boundaries are as provided below:

2.5.1 Literacy Levels of the Local Community

The proposed Project areas are urban areas Component 1 and 2 are primarily in Mogadishu and other urban centers within the FMS with relatively low literacy levels. Communication with the community will take into consideration the type of messaging that is shared with the community. This also strongly implies the need for support to community members for information that is recorded in written form. This will include minutes of meeting, grievance forms, resolution documents and agreements between the PIU and the community.

2.5.2 Access to District Local Authorities/Offices

Key Informant interviews and group discussion will be practical due to the accessible location of the offices of these stakeholders in most of these areas. Key informants are mainly available in the District Headquarters. However, due to the distance between Mogadishu and urban centers outside the city and COVID-19 pandemic, the consultant may resort to having interviews with key informants through phone calls or conduct virtual meetings.

2.5.3 Language

Development of messages in the Somali language within the subproject areas will be key during the stakeholder engagement exercise. Development of the messages will require close collaboration the consultant and the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to be hired by the contractors. These individuals will be invited to the multidisciplinary teams for development of messages for communication to the local community.

The CLO shall be a member of the team developing these messages, it is expected that CLO will have proper understanding of the issues at hand to avoid the risk of the message being “lost in direct translation”.

The project team may also consist of persons of different nationalities, the main ones being Somalia, we recognize that all these teams may communicate in one common language. However, special attention will still be given to facilitate clear communication and messaging among the groups. For avoidance of doubt, verbal communication will always be followed with written communication. Site procedures for submission and record keeping of letters will be applied uniformly.

2.5.4 Development of Messages

Considering the need for capacity building to facilitate meaningful engagement with the various stakeholder groups, messaging will be developed through discussions with multi-disciplinary project staff to ensure that any technical information that is simplified for consumption by stakeholders is concise, clear and factually correct.

2.5.5 Use of Mass Media

Considering the length of the project as well as the national significance of the project, communication with stakeholders outside the project footprint would benefit from use of mass media such as newspapers (print and electronic), line Ministry websites and where necessary use of local television and radio stations.

2.5.6 Public Meetings

COVID-19 pandemic has led to halt and or restricted the public meetings and gathering within the proposed project areas and the country at large. This is in addition to other restrictions such as social distancing, cessation of gatherings, etc., to manage and contain the virus spread. This will pose a huge challenge to effectively conduct public meetings in the project area. Hence the need to develop some consultative innovative solutions to undertake the studies. The information from the Technical Note: Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings, will be useful in guiding the process. The consultation will be done in line with the requirements listed in the ESF Interim Note: COVID-19 Considerations in Construction/Civil Works Projects.

In recognition of the difficulty to undertake public meetings, the option of adhering to the best practices on conducting public participations for development projects may adopt the following options:

- Leveraging on the use of ICT innovations that include online questionnaires, audio-visual and teleconferencing to undertake comprehensive public consultations during this pandemic; and

- The use of comprehensive questionnaires that will include all the details pertaining to the project and a clear description of the proposed project together with architectural drawings.

The E&S firm and OE will develop proposals and innovative solutions on how public meetings can be undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic. This will entail:

- Development of an open-ended questionnaire with questions that will cover the concerns by the community on the project, their views and recommendations;
- The questionnaires will be simple, be well detailed about the project be translated into local languages for easy understanding by the locals;
- With the help of area chiefs, clan leaders, a minimum of 100 questionnaires will be distributed per location. The questionnaires will later be collected and stamped by the chief and sent to Line Ministries for data entry and analysis of all the concerns raised; and
- Other questionnaires will be placed at the chief office where the residents can pick at will for comments.

2.5.7 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Focus group Discussions are one of the participatory methods that will be used to gain insights into the workings of the project area. It will be used to get information about unclear survey results. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it will be difficult to have the project team undertake group discussions hence relying on CLO/local researchers within the project area in collaboration with the local administration to lead the FGD process.

The Focus group discussion targets the following groups;

- The Men
- Women
- The Youths
- Vulnerable/PLWDs
- Other communities as needed *minority clans.

Due to the social distancing measures put in place by the Ministry of health it will be appropriate to strictly have 3-5 individuals per focus group. We propose all this focus groups to be done at one central point preferably the chief's/assistant chiefs place which should be in the open, will be well equipped with all the COVID-19 preventive measures that include provision of sanitizers and facemasks. The CLO will spearhead the invitation of the different groups of persons with the help of the area and in close consultations with consultant, chief and the Clan elders. The focus groups can be done thrice per day, one in the morning, evening and afternoon. The precise number of FGD is unknown, however, it is estimated that more than 20 FGD will be undertaken.

GBV/SEA issues relating to ASCENT shall be handled in relation to the GBV/SEA Action Plan that shall be developed.

2.6 Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

Stakeholder engagement activities need to provide specific stakeholder groups with relevant information and opportunities to voice their views on topics that matter to them. The table below presents the stakeholder engagement activities envisaged under the project. The activity types and

their frequency are adapted to the three main project stages (preparation and design, construction, and operation and maintenance (O&M)).

Table 2-5 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Project Stage	Target Stakeholders	Aspects to be considered	Topic(s) of Engagement	Method(s) used	Timelines	Responsibilities
Preparation; Detailed Design and Pre-construction phase	All stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land take issues, • Employment opportunities, • Stakeholder concerns on the entire project prior to roll out; • Routing of the electricity transmission and distribution lines and siting of related infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall project design, • Anticipated environmental and social impacts and proposed mitigation measures in ESMF (including gender action plan), RPF, SEF and LMP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultations, • Individual meetings, • Through community action groups, • Emails 	Prior to project appraisal at accessible public space	PIU and Engineering and supervision consultant Environment Officer and Social Officers
	Project-Affected Persons include local communities, community members (Vulnerable households) and other parties that	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on community livelihoods, • Benefit to both businesses and household incomes, • Aspects for compensation, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More site-specific environmental and social impacts and mitigation measures in RAP, ESMP (including GBV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meeting, individual meetings during preparation and implementation of RAP; • Disclosure of written information - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to start of civil works at project sites; • Monthly/quarterly meetings in affected municipalities and villages; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractors, • (Environmental and Social Officers); • Municipal line departments/staff (E.g., Grievance Officer)

Project Stage	Target Stakeholders	Aspects to be considered	Topic(s) of Engagement	Method(s) used	Timelines	Responsibilities
	may be subject to direct impacts from the Project activities, which includes impact on land, land-based livelihood, access, assets, businesses as well as Private Sector (SMEs); Vulnerable households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of disturbed areas • Repairs to damaged properties, etc. 	<p>Action Plan), LMP and SEP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness-raising on the GRM • ESMF, ESMP, SRA, SMP, RPF, SEP disclosures. • RAP implementation • compensation rates and methodology; • livelihood restoration) • compensation and completing rehabilitation of physical assets; 	<p>Brochures, posters, flyers, websites (Social Media Communication)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face meetings; separate meetings specifically to affected vulnerable groups and individuals; • Grievance mechanism • Communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GRM is maintained throughout the project life 	
	Project Affected Persons- People who will benefit from employment opportunities through construction and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment opportunities and related requirements, • Legal compliance of the project, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection criteria and ToR for employment opportunities; • Environmental laws and regulations; 	Group meetings with the host community and support groups to engage vulnerable groups;	Prior to start of civil work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor Social Officer • Labor Inspectors

Project Stage	Target Stakeholders	Aspects to be considered	Topic(s) of Engagement	Method(s) used	Timelines	Responsibilities
	maintenance works of the municipal electricity infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of the project (including the potential beneficiaries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project scope, rationale and E&S principles • Grievance mechanism process 			
	Other Interested Parties – Community groups	Stakeholder sensitization on the potential benefits/impacts as well as the enhancement/mitigation measures	Ways to outreach to vulnerable groups and address their concerns and interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual meetings; • Focus group meetings; • Emails 	Prior to start of civil work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervision • Consultant Safeguards Team • Contractor Safeguards Team
	Other Interested Parties - External Ministries (Federal/FMS) Academic institutions; Local Government Units; General public; Women organizations;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input in the design of the project • Project compliance with the legal provisions • Disputes or concerns raised by the various stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical details on project design • Compliance with national regulations and collaboration with relevant programs • Identification of vulnerable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official/Public meetings, workshops; • Social Media Communication ; • Disclosure of written information - Brochures, 	As needed (and continued throughout the project life)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU • Engineering Supervision Consultant • Contractors

Project Stage	Target Stakeholders	Aspects to be considered	Topic(s) of Engagement	Method(s) used	Timelines	Responsibilities
	Local commercial banks and Media	where the project is to be undertaken	groups of people relevant to the project Compliance with legislations and regulations • GRM Process	posters, flyers, website; • Information desks - In Municipalities and HQ; • Grievance mechanism		
Construction	Project Affected Persons- People who physically and economically affected, those residing in project area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints raised by the stakeholders. • Construction accidents • Construction traffic accidents • Job opportunities available during construction • Impacts of the construction activities on the environment (vegetation and animals, water, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grievance mechanism process • Health and safety impacts (Construction-related safety measures) • Employment opportunities • Environmental concerns • awareness-raising • HIV/AIDS Awareness Program and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meetings, trainings/ workshops • Separate meetings specifically for women and vulnerable; • Disclosure of written information • Information board – On the beginning and at the end of project side. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly/quarterly meetings • Communication through mass/social media (as needed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contractor Social Officer • Community Liaison Officer • PIU • Engineering and Supervision Consultant.

Project Stage	Target Stakeholders	Aspects to be considered	Topic(s) of Engagement	Method(s) used	Timelines	Responsibilities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS from the construction work force and the communities where the works will be undertaken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Safety Management Plan. 			
Post-construction and Operation phase	Project Affected Persons - People who physically and economically affected, those residing in project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder concerns after construction Environmental Auditing of the construction phase 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfaction with engagement activities and GRM process Monitoring and evaluation of project benefit and environmental and social performance Community health and safety measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End-line stakeholder survey on project impact Public meetings, trainings/works hops, individual outreach to PAPs Disclosure of written information Information board – On the beginning and 	Following the completion of civil work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIU Engineering and Supervision Consultant Safeguards Team Contractor Safeguards Team

Project Stage	Target Stakeholders	Aspects to be considered	Topic(s) of Engagement	Method(s) used	Timelines	Responsibilities
			during operation	at the end of project side		
	All stakeholders	Update on the project success and challenges as well as documenting lessons learnt	Reporting back to stakeholders on the outcome of the monitoring and evaluation of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public workshop • Media releases and/or newsletters via email Project bulletins 	Following the completion of ASCENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU • Engineering and supervision consultant safeguards team

2.7 Reporting on Stakeholder Engagement

The activities to be conducted under this SEP strategy cannot be viewed in isolation. They are to be imbedded in the Framework instruments and Subproject environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs) and environmental and social management plans (ESMPs) and related sub-plans for the project include the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), the grievance redress mechanism (GRM), labour and working conditions, GBV/SEA/SH, HIV/AIDS Management and Project Implementation Safety Awareness Programs.

Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of this SEP will be done at each sub-component level, to ensure that the communication objectives are contextualised and managed effectively. The SEP and GM will undergo periodic revisions and updates as required during the ASCENT implementation to guarantee the information presented therein remains consistent and up-to-date. Additionally, we will ensure that the methods of engagement identified in the SEP remain effective and suitable for the evolving ASCENT context, stakeholder requirements, and the various development phases. Any substantial alterations to ASCENT activities and its timetable will be accurately recorded within the SEP. Reporting on stakeholder engagement and communication will also be integrated into the relevant reports as required by the Contract and as proposed in this document.

The reports to be submitted include:

Monthly Progress Reports will outline useful information to the SEP including details of site meetings, any special visits and inspections, financial status both for work contract and supervision contract, specific reports on the ESMP management plan implementation and project risks.

The stand-alone Annual and Quarterly Environmental and Social Monitoring/Audit Reports will highlight implementation, performance as well as monitoring elements of relevance to the SEP. The annual report will also include lessons learnt and corrective actions that should be communicated back to the relevant stakeholders.

The reports will also include a section on the performance and efficacy of the SEP vis a vis budgetary and resource constraints. It will also highlight lessons learnt and propose corrective actions for adoption in the next SEP annual cycle.

3 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES TO DATE

3.1 Brief Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities

As part of the broader stakeholder engagement process for the proposed ASCENT Project, the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MOEWR) held discussions with significant government bodies and agencies at both federal and federal member state (FMS) levels and all stakeholders. . These engagements and consultations centered around the project's design, planned activities, and implementation arrangements, involving key institutional stakeholders from the energy and environmental and social aspects at both federal and FMS levels.

As previously mentioned, the ASCENT is a scale up of the SESRP. During the project's preparation phase, there were extensive stakeholder consultations conducted through virtual and physical meetings. The initial consultations took place on September 30, October 2, and 3, 2023. The outcomes of these consultations have been documented and will be presented in the following sections in bullet points. Also in mid-September, a meeting took place at the World Bank Group office in Kenya involving the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MoEWR), the World Bank, and Electricity Service Providers. The purpose of this gathering was to discuss various aspects of a project, including its components and implementation arrangements. These discussions primarily revolved around aligning the project with previous activities, addressing environmental and social safeguards, procurement, financing, and incorporating gender considerations. Attending these meetings were high-ranking officials from the MoEWR, including Minister H.E Jamal Taqal, DG Mr. Abdirizak, the interim project coordinator, power engineer, procurement experts, gender specialists, and social safeguards specialists. Representatives from the World Bank included the Team Task Leader (TTL), Environment and Social (E&S) teams, technical teams engineers, procurement specialists, and financial experts.

Additionally, meeting minutes from these stakeholder meetings are attached as annexes.

3.2 Aims of the Consultations

- Presenting the attendees and providing an overview of the Project Development Objective (PDO) along with its various components.
- Soliciting the opinions and input of participants regarding environmental, social, health, and safety aspects of the project, as well as significant social concerns like labor, land security, and Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM). It is crucial to gather feedback on these critical environmental and social issues from the relevant stakeholders.
- Recognizing significant social matters such as labor conditions, land security, Gender-Based Violence (GBV)/Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), and Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM) through input from relevant stakeholders.
- Receiving feedback on the Preliminary Environmental and Social Risk Assessment Report.
- Identifying notable institutional shortcomings and capacity-related challenges.

The public consultations took place in virtual and physical meetings. The first one involved a meeting at the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources headquarters, where Electricity Service Providers (ESPs) were in attendance. The meeting was presided over by the Minister of Energy and Water Resources, H.E Minister Jama Taqal. After a brief introduction by the participants, the minister expressed appreciation for their presence. Following the introductions, there was a thorough discussion to gather input and feedback from these crucial stakeholders, which is vital for the project's preparation. Each stakeholder consultation meeting had openly discussed agendas, allowing participants to ask questions and offer suggestions throughout the session. The meetings also addressed issues related to energy, environment, and social aspects, highlighting environmental and social governance, as well as institutional arrangements and capacities. At the end of each session, the facilitators summarized the pertinent feedback.

The concerns and suggestions raised by stakeholders during the initial consultations are categorized in Table 3.1 as follows:

Table 3-1 Government Bodies and Agencies at Federal Level and FMS Levels, ESPs and Business Selling Energy Equipment

Stakeholder	Indicative list	Discussion Themes	Issues Discussed & Concerns Raised	Action Point
Government Bodies and Agencies at Federal level and FMS levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Ministry of Energy and Water Resources • Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) • Federal Ministry of Environment and Climate Change- • Galmudug Ministries of Energy and Environment • South-West State Ministries of Energy and Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain insight into the composition and capacities of electricity generation. • Explore how organizations handle environmental and social concerns within the energy sector. • Determine whether ESPs conduct Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) studies for energy projects. • Identify prevalent 	<p>In Galmudug, Jubbaland, and SWS states indicate that 99% of their electricity is produced by diesel generators, while a mere 1% originates from renewable energy, such as solar.</p> <p>The utilization of biomass, particularly charcoal and wood fuel, in the region is extremely high, accounting for more than 80%, while the remaining percentage relies on LPG for cooking.</p> <p>There is an overarching deficiency in terms of environmental governance, particularly in the realm of environmental safeguards. Additionally, the existing environmental institutions are notably feeble and lack the necessary framework for effective compliance with environmental and social safeguards. The absence of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FGS needs substantial capacity support for environmental, social, and energy institutions - this support should come in the form of financial and budgetary assistance, especially in emerging states. • Federal Member States (FMS) are expected to share relevant documents like policies, laws, and studies with the project. • FMS should submit their needs in writing before upcoming stakeholder consultations for in-depth discussions. • The project's goal is to help FMS develop state-level regulations and policies.

Stakeholder	Indicative list	Discussion Themes	Issues Discussed & Concerns Raised	Action Point
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hirshabelle Ministries of Energy and Environment • Jubaland Ministries of Energy and Environment • Somalia Non-state Actors. 	<p>environmental and social challenges in the sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the quantity of biomass utilized nationally and on a state-by-state basis. 	<p>Environmental and Social safeguard regulations at both the Federal and Federal Member States (FMS) levels results in significant national safeguard gaps. Currently, the entire Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) domain is overseen by the World Bank and other donors, who reference their safeguard policies for implementing development projects' ESS. Greater government involvement is imperative.</p> <p>Furthermore, Electricity Service Providers lack orientation toward safeguards and do not have safeguard policies or strategies within their companies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASCENT project aims to enhance the capacity of federal and FMS institutions due to reported capacity limitations at all levels. • Frequent stakeholder technical consultations are essential, particularly in the pre-implementation stage, to address project design and environmental/social safeguard concerns.
Electricity Service	BECO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the difference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Electricity Service Provider (ESP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another stakeholder meeting is scheduled to

Stakeholder	Indicative list	Discussion Themes	Issues Discussed & Concerns Raised	Action Point
Providers- ESPs	WESCO; Blue Sky Mogadishu Power BECO Delta Engineer Gobaad Energy AECF GECO NECSOM - ESPs	<p>between ASCENT project from the SESRP projects?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the actual and potential impacts associated with energy projects? • What are the key environmental and social challenges commonly encountered in energy projects? • Which types of batteries find use in solar PV systems? • How is fuel for High-Speed Diesel Generators (HSDGs) transported, 	<p>acknowledged the absence of dedicated specialists for environmental and social safeguards within their companies, as well as the absence of safeguard policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESPs universally cite inadequate capacities within their organizations as a significant obstacle to effectively handling environmental and social safeguard matters. • Many ESPs emphasize their strong commitment to customer safety and their responsiveness to customer 	<p>take place shortly to facilitate additional technical conversations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry will assist Electricity Service Providers (ESPs) in crafting Environmental and Social (ES) safeguard policies and providing education on the existing national Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) frameworks and regulations. • The project must guarantee the efficient management of energy-related waste and pollution. • ASCENT will provide support to ESPs in organizing battery recycling initiatives within the country through a coordinated strategy.

Stakeholder	Indicative list	Discussion Themes	Issues Discussed & Concerns Raised	Action Point
		<p>stored, and dispensed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the typical panel module types used in Somalia? • How are old solar modules and batteries disposed of or managed? • What environmental and social concerns are raised regarding the proposed expansion and improvements in the energy sector? 	<p>complaints, primarily related to service inconveniences.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue of waste management and battery recycling stands out as a major concern shared by nearly all the companies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is essential to involve municipal authorities in managing energy-related waste.

Stakeholder	Indicative list	Discussion Themes	Issues Discussed & Concerns Raised	Action Point
Business selling energy equipment	Delta Engineer - AECF GECO Hayle Barise Solar - SSPs Recon Energy - SSPs Dalsano Power - SSPs Samawat Energy Sun-Max TESCO Solargen SECCCO Dalsan Power Dayax Power	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the commonly used energy technologies, such as solar panels and generators? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of solar batteries are available on the market, including lead acid, lithium-ion, nickel-cadmium, and flow batteries? • What environmental and social issues are you worried about regarding the planned growth and enhancements in the energy sector? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy companies primarily focus on products like solar batteries, charge controllers, solar water pumps, solar street lights, and off-grid solar solutions, among other services. • While solar service providers have established policies, many of these policies do not align with the practical challenges they face. • The most significant vulnerability within the energy sector lies in environmental and social factors (E&S). • A comprehensive capacity-building program is being developed to assist solar service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective waste management, particularly regarding battery disposal and recycling, demands significant attention to reduce Environmental and Social (ES) risks associated with solar energy products. Encourage the growth of local recycling companies like the African Solutions Company, which possesses the capability to repurpose battery waste into valuable products. • The Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MoEWR) will provide support to Solar Service Providers (SSPs) in creating industry-specific Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMF).

Stakeholder	Indicative list	Discussion Themes	Issues Discussed & Concerns Raised	Action Point
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do you handle the disposal of components or systems that you sell to minimize waste? 	<p>providers (SSPs) in creating effective E&S policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proper disposal and recycling of batteries are pressing issues that demand significant attention. Solar service providers often lack adequate waste management mechanisms and tend to export used batteries to other countries for recycling. The proposal involves a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) aimed at establishing an in-country recycling system to meet the increasing energy sector demands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In pursuit of gender equality, the project is committed to empowering women in the energy sector. A Gender Diagnostics Assessment has been conducted as part of the preparations for the SESRP and will be shared with the consulting firm.

Stakeholder	Indicative list	Discussion Themes	Issues Discussed & Concerns Raised	Action Point
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project also addresses gender participation in the energy sector and the presence of female-led solar companies within the nation. • Policies have been enacted to combat gender disparities within the sector, and the project outlines its strategies for addressing this concern. 	

The Ministry team has further carried virtual consultations on 24 – 26th May with various stakeholders. Table 3-2 summarizes the key takeaways:

Table 3-2 Consultation Themes: Land issues, Labour and Working Conditions, Security, GRM and IDPs

Topic	Discussion Themes	Issues and Concerns	Recommendations
<p>Land acquisition, resettlement and compensation</p>	<p>The overall role of local governments in land acquisition, resettlement and compensation.</p> <p>The role and functions of the district land authorities on the existing land tenure system, registry and land dispute resolutions.</p> <p>How much can the municipality support in terms of public land acquisition especially the alternative lands and land</p>	<p>Ayanle Hassan, a Benadir Regional Administration Officer has provided an interview of the land related issues and compensation with regards to the development projects implemented in Mogadishu, Benadir Region.</p> <p>He stated that, usually Benadir Regional Administration keeps the land registry and provide the technical intervention in cases of land ownership issues and are constantly referred to by the courts when addressing the land dispute cases.</p> <p>Similarly, BRA through the land and public works department is the lead department and serves as the entry point for any land and public works related issues. The department under BRA, commonly does the necessary valuations needed in cases of land acquisition or disputes.</p> <p>While explaining the challenges faced by BRA, Mr. Ayanle expressed the great concerns related to land acquisition in which he stated the fact that, Land is in the hands of private individuals and usually it is quite difficult for BRA to mobilize and acquire land for public use.</p> <p>In answering the question related to the land eviction and resettlement compensations and how the BRA approaches to such scenarios, Mr. Ayanle has explained how difficult and unusual for BRA to provide compensations due to the very limited capacity in terms of the resources and institutional capacity.</p> <p>In addition to that, Mr. Kalif Dalmar a safeguard specialist from the Office of the Prime Minister has also explained how the Somali Government at Federal</p>	<p>A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will guide the development of site-specific RAPs once the project footprint is known.</p> <p>Where land is donated by private owners, a land donation agreement process should be implemented.</p> <p>Municipalities might anticipate the project to provide capacity building and technical support with regards to grievance mechanisms and dispute resolution.</p>

Topic	Discussion Themes	Issues and Concerns	Recommendations
	<p>acquisition for public use?</p> <p>What kind of support they anticipate from the project?</p> <p>The role and contribution of the municipalities in project security related services.</p>	<p>and FMS level is facing a huge challenge in resolving resettlement issues that may arise from the implementation of the Projects. He also indicated that, World Bank projects are the ones who initiated the discussions related to social and environmental protection as there were not in the mainstream discussions.</p> <p>He also added that, with weaker or inexistent formal land administration authorities, processes for land expropriation compensation may not be in place or fully established. As a result, resettlement as well due diligence for establishing ownership for voluntary land donations may be challenging.</p> <p>Land disputes are also very common in Somalia, and with reference to the key informant interview conducted, Avv. Dahir Hamid from the Office of the Attorney General has revealed more than 75% of cases filed at the courts are land related disputes and grievances. He also added that, some of these land grievances may take decades without any decisions made due to complications in land registry documentation, false documents and limited availability of supporting documents.</p> <p>On the other hand, Mr. Ayanle; while explaining the land related disputes, he stated that BRA has established land dispute resolution committee that usually validates the documents using the old land registrations record. They work with Benadir Regional Court to handle such cases. However, their decisions may not be the final verdict and usually appeals are made to go to the formal courts.</p> <p>In addition, many of the tensions are rooted in more historical competition over land, pasture and water between neighboring communities.</p>	<p>The municipal authorities shall be an important partner in disbursing the project activities, but the security arrangements are handled at a higher level.</p>

Topic	Discussion Themes	Issues and Concerns	Recommendations
		<p>Mr. Faisal Abdi, A senior Safeguard Specialist for SURP working for the Garowe District, has explained the different challenges attributed to the land governance and management in general and in land acquisition for developmental programs in particular. He specified that land is usually in the hands of private individuals, and due to the fact, that, land values are high and land commercialization (as land has become a popular commodity) usually leads to confrontations and disputes over land ownership.</p> <p>Moreover, Urban land management of Puntland usually stipulates the land rights and obligations. But the enforcement of such articles is quite difficult.</p> <p>With respect to land acquisition for public interest is quite better compared to other part of Somalia, as Garowe was among the 1st town benefited from the Banks’ projects and has undergone through a lot of challenges. Garowe Municipality usually provides land for developmental projects. But the issue of effective compensation remains to be among the notable challenges facing the municipality.</p> <p>He added that, usually eviction, economic and short-term residential and economic displacement such as street vendors are complicated issues that require huge consideration. Garowe Municipality usually faces enormous challenges in evaluating such income and economic losses and as well effective compensation of the affected parties.</p> <p>Mr. Faisal also underlined land disputes and grievances to be among the leading clan and community confrontations. On the other hand, Puntland was among the 1st states in Somalia that has successfully established a “Land</p>	

Topic	Discussion Themes	Issues and Concerns	Recommendations
		<p>Dispute Tribunal”. These serve as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism and mainly constitute of elders, religious leaders and other respect individuals.</p> <p>Moreover, sometimes special ad-hoc committees are appointed through the President’s office and or the mayor’s office as needed depending on the magnitude and sensitivity of the dispute.</p> <p>He also stated that, municipality level disputes are usually handled by the Land and Public Works Department of Garowe Municipality as the entry points that receive land related disputes.</p> <p>Finally, he concluded that, Garowe land registration and land deeds records are automated since 2019 using Geo-referenced coordinates which serves as a remedy for the continued disputes over land ownership and double registration of land title deeds.</p>	
<p>Labor and Work and Grievance Redress Mechanism</p>	<p>What are the existing mechanisms and who is responsible for solving labour related issues?</p> <p>The role of the Ministry of Labour</p> <p>Labour inspections at</p>	<p>Ahmed Ali, from the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs working for the Department of Legal and Labor Relations has responded to several question related to the major concerns of the labor and related issues. He provided overall explanation of this sector in which he highlighted the existing challenges and the recent achievements including the development of key labor, work and social protection related policies and strategic plans.</p> <p>Despite these achievements, still huge gaps exist in terms of the Ministry’s capacity to control, monitor and develop the workers’ rights, dispute resolution and their protection.</p> <p>He also shared that ILO is supporting the Government of Somalia in conducting country child labor situational assessment and development of national action plan.</p>	<p>Support the Ministry’s capacity to control, monitor and develop the workers’ rights, dispute resolution and their protection.</p> <p>Develop, implement and monitor Labor Management Procedures (LMP).</p>

Topic	Discussion Themes	Issues and Concerns	Recommendations
	<p>field levels e.g., forced labour.</p> <p>The kind of support the Ministry provides to the workers, e.g., occupational health and safety.</p> <p>Child labour and labour influx.</p> <p>The existing mechanisms for social protection and the support they expect from the project.</p>	<p>The Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Protection under the Department of Labor Relations have resolved many labor disputes including the recent airport workers and its employers, Favori LLC.</p> <p>While responding to labor-related risks, he pointed out that women and youth are selected for daily labor works on local construction sites. Construction companies may rely on the fact that they are vulnerable and needy, and because they don't understand their rights, they are often abused, they are paid low wages compared to other.</p> <p>Mrs. Abshira A. from the Ministry and Labor, Youth and Sport (MoLYS), has responded to several questions as she explained the labor related issues in Puntland. She explained that Puntland's labor law No.65 usually governs the labor related issues and concerns and his is also in line with ILO labor conventions. In addition, Low No. 65 is also referred during the labor and work-related grievances and disputes.</p> <p>In addition, she explained the confusion that exists between the national and international standards regarding the child labor as Children aged 15 are not normally employed and are not regarded as a child labor. On the other hand, she expressed their concerns with regards to balancing the conflicting demands of child labor and the need for income especially the poor households who are usually female headed households. And finally, she admitted that they allow certain jobs –usually light work- and supportive role to be assigned for such children.</p> <p>Mr. Faisal also pointed out that, the labor inspection units are not functional. Usually, the PIU of the World Bank funded project are responsible to inspects</p>	<p>Develop and implement OHS Plan for workers.</p> <p>Conduct regular supervision and regular labor inspections of construction works to identify potential OHS risks and compliance with OHS plan.</p> <p>Provide necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) to all field officers directly involved in construction activities.</p> <p>Set-up and operate a Labor specific GRM for workers, as per LMP.</p> <p>Impacts of labor influx driven by the</p>

Topic	Discussion Themes	Issues and Concerns	Recommendations
		<p>the workers condition such as OHS and remuneration, working hours, wages, timing and forced labor.</p> <p>He also added that, at project level, usually the contractors provide labor management plan; this stipulates the labor rights and code of conducts.</p>	<p>small medium scale infrastructure works will be managed by the LMP, including a code of conduct for project workers</p>
Security	<p>The anticipated security risks and threats.</p> <p>The security protocols guiding the deployment of the security personnel in the project target locations/sites.</p> <p>How the security agencies support the developmental projects and the support they expect from the project.</p>	<p>Jamal Farah, a Senior Security Officer from the Federal Ministry of Internal Security has explained the general security conditions of Somalia. He indicated Al Shabab to be among the significant security threats and risks. Although Al-Shabab is weakened over the past few years, He believes that they are yet to be defeated and in contrast they're ever present and are looking for soft targets to boost their media presence;</p> <p>In explaining the security needs during the implementation of the project, he suggested an integration of the government security forces and the private security providers can be best fitted to guide the security protocols of implementation of such projects.</p> <p>In addition to that, he explained how the private security can be a good option for the provision of the security services as they tend to recruit from the local community. Plus, the private security companies can provide additional security assessment and threat analysis reports which are not otherwise available from the official security institutions for protocol reasons.</p> <p>That said, he also stressed the need to have the oversight of the government security institutions to enforce since they are aware of possible threats that can impact the program he concluded.</p>	<p>A social and conflict analysis is needed to be carried out.</p> <p>Carry out security risk and threat assessment.</p> <p>Develop and implement security management plans as appropriate during both construction and operation phase.</p> <p>Security stakeholders needs to be engaged and especially continues engagements of the</p>

Topic	Discussion Themes	Issues and Concerns	Recommendations
		<p>While answering a question related to the role of the government in provision of security during the implementation of the development project, He underscored how the government security agencies such as the police and the military are crucial to support the development projects. One good example he gave was; how Haramcad Police Unit is providing the security for the construction of Mogadishu-Afgoi corridor. Another example is how SNA helped reconstruct suspensions and small bridges destroyed by Al-Shabab in Lower Shabelle region.</p> <p>Mr. Abdilatif J. a security expert has stated that, the nature of the conflict and the security risk in Mogadishu has changed since 2011 following the withdrawal of Alshabab from most of their territories.</p> <p>Due to the current political and election impasses, the presence of various clan militia groups and the national security forces in several districts poses security risks and protection concerns to the local population and created additional IDPs.</p> <p>The existence of insurgent groups such as Alshabab and ISIS usually pose threats to the government and developmental projects such as infrastructure development. This may pose huge challenges in accessing the project areas and supervision of project, as well as the project beneficiaries. Several security incidents have been recorded targeting projects and sometimes causing its suspension including, the construction of roads linking Mogadishu to Jowhar and Mogadishu to Afgoi.</p>	<p>national security agencies are needed</p>

Topic	Discussion Themes	Issues and Concerns	Recommendations
		<p>He also stated that, the development programs such as roads and energy project will improve on security, business, economic recovery and development.</p> <p>Ayanle Hassan, a Benadir Regional Administration Officer has also explained the overall security issues and concerns in Mogadishu from mobile theft, rape, killing and explosives.</p> <p>He also expressed the gaps in the security architecture of Benadir as BRA has no full authority in security administration as the key security agencies are under the Ministry of Internal Security and the National Police Force.</p> <p>In terms of the implementation of the developmental programs, usually the Benadir districts coordinates with the sector line Ministries and agencies together with the Police Force. The Mogadishu Police Department also provides security support to some of these projects implemented by the Municipality.</p> <p>In addition to that, Private companies are always hired to support security law and order especially during the construction of roads within the city by providing protection to the workers and sometimes blocking these roads if needed.</p> <p>On the other hand, Mr. Faisal explained the relative peace and security that prevails in Puntland unlike the southern parts of Somalia. But he showed some security concerns in Bosaso as ISIS related security incidents has been recorded for the past 5 years.</p> <p>In addition to that, he stated that, the Garowe Municipality usually don't allow to disclose the security related documents and plans to the public domain.</p>	

Topic	Discussion Themes	Issues and Concerns	Recommendations
		<p>He finally recommended project to have budgets for the project security costs. And following their experience, at project level, usually the contactors are responsible for security related responsibilities and are supported by the municipality and the Puntland State Police Force.</p>	
<p>IDPs</p>		<p>Displacement because of violence and forced evictions due to land tenure insecurity are increasing in the country as a whole but areas in and around Mogadishu saw a decrease after the adoption of a number of IDPs safeguard policies and guidelines, with the scale of forced evictions of IDPs and the urban poor from public and private land and buildings in Mogadishu and other urban areas increasing.</p> <p>Many marginalized communities have no access to land and property rights, as well they are usually neglected their effective participation in the developmental projects.</p> <p>Ahmed Abdi Hashi: Mr Ahmed, IDP at Juba camp, stated that IDPs face discriminations in the job market and only get low paid jobs. He pointed out the fact that majority of kids in the camps makes the future look bleak as these kids will be disadvantaged in the job market in the future even if their IDPs status changes.</p> <p>Mr Ahmed added that IDPs had been evicted from lands without compensations and often without prior notice before by private companies but that has changed in the last years.</p> <p>Amina Aden Shirwac: Mrs Amina, IDP camps leader and head of Doha center, complained about the lack of the unemployment pointing out that IDP unemployment level is higher than the national level alluding that there's</p>	<p>Further assessments and researches must be conducted regarding the effect of development projects or even private companies' projects on IDPs.</p>

Topic	Discussion Themes	Issues and Concerns	Recommendations
		<p>discriminations against IDPs. Regarding the GRMs, she praised the so called mobile GRM officers that canvass the camps and ask people about their complaints. Mrs Amina stressed the importance of sensitizing the IDPs about the GRMs as most don't know their rights which make them not place complaints. She also stated that some of the camps under Doha Center umbrella have been evicted from their land, government owned, by private companies, leased to them by the government, without compensation but the frequency of such evictions dropped after the government put in place IDP safeguard policies.</p> <p>Mohamed Bulle: Mr Bulle, ARD director, said that his NGO, ARD (Action for Relief and Development) has surveyed several camps and found that the huge gap in employed is partly because of lack of skills. He also stressed the importance of simplifying the GRMs - pointing that most IDPs have phone numbers and it will be easy for them to call compliant hotlines.</p> <p>Abdikafar Hassan: Mr Abdikafar, director of humanitarian department at Federal Ministry of Humanitarian affairs and disaster management, stated that Ministry of Education often provides TVET programs to IDPs to fight the rampant unemployment in the camps alluding that disproportionate unemployment rates within the camps have more to do with lack of skills than discrimination. He added that his ministry devised a simple GRM in place (a hotline number) for beneficiaries of their programs in which GRM focal point officers address the complaints and transfer difficult cases to the police and other relevant institutions. As for the land issues and evictions, the ministry and its partners follow the nation policy for IDPs and National Evictions guidelines (both adopted to safeguard land protect IDPs and returnees).</p>	

Topic	Discussion Themes	Issues and Concerns	Recommendations
<p>Grievance Redress Mechanism</p>		<p>Eman Ladan, A social Protection Expert has explained the status of the social protection in Somalia, in which she considered; the absence of formal legal framework for the management of social risks and the weak institutional capacity to address related social risks – including GBV and sexual related offenses are attributed to the presence of social risks without immediate and effective mechanisms to respond such social risks.</p> <p>Abdihamid: Mr Abdihamid said that there is a GRM framework in place for this project as is clear in the E&S Risks and Impact Assessment Reports. The PIU team and Ministry will carry out awareness and sensitization campaign to inform potential PAPs about the GRM and how it works through town halls, workshops, community engagements and so on.. GVB/SEA related complaints will be handed by professionals with utmost care and confidentiality.</p> <p>Ahmed Abdi Hashi: Mr Ahmed, IDP at Juba camp, stated that IDPs have often been victims of development projects. Land evictions without compensation had been very common before the FGS adopted laws to safeguard the IDPs in 2017. On the other hand, Mr Ahmed noted that large segments of the IDP population do not know where to place their grievances or even how to place them in the instances where there is GRM in place because IDPs are 1) Illiterate or 2) GRM in place complicated and hard to understand. GBV complaints are mostly placed at local police stations which might not always commit resources to investigate as they are overstretched and often lack the capacity to handle/investigate such delicate cases. Ahmed called for less complicated GRMs and making complaint placement very easy for IDPs.</p>	<p>Develop, implement and monitor project GRM.</p> <p>Institutions concerned must improvise a new GRM that is easily understandable to the IDPs.</p>

Conclusions

The consultation meetings brought together various stakeholders, representing a diverse range of participants, including members from the project management unit, government institutions at both the Federal and FMS levels, Energy Service Providers (ESPs), businesses selling energy equipment, and the consulting firm responsible for Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) assessments and studies. The project received a warm welcome, and all parties expressed eagerness to witness its full development and implementation while ensuring all safeguards are in place.

Following these stakeholder meetings, the project coordinator praised the participants for their active engagement and addressed previous gaps highlighted by the Bank team and the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The focus was on clarifying the project's scope and methodology during the inception phase. The project coordinator extended gratitude to all participants and formally concluded the meetings. Since these stakeholder meetings employed a hybrid approach, combining virtual and physical sessions, as well as focused group discussions, project information successfully reached its intended audience. There are plans for future stakeholder meetings where all parties will convene in a single venue to facilitate more interactive discussions. Ultimately, these meetings allowed all stakeholders to gain insights into the project's components, implementation arrangements, benefits, beneficiaries, environmental and social risks associated with the project, as well as mitigation and management plans for these risks, the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), and its communication channels. All participants pledged their support for the successful implementation of the project.

Note: Annex I provide the full minutes of meeting.

The project will continue these consultation sessions with a broader group of PAPs and will update this SEP document accordingly.

4 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

Project information will be packaged and shared with key stakeholders using suitable and appropriate methods. The PIUs will be responsible for ensuring that the information is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely manner. Feedback received will be incorporated in the Project documentation to ensure they are robust and inclusive. Table 4-1 below presents a summary of information disclosure by the project. The project will use the existing institutional and implementation arrangements established under the ongoing SESRP project. This SEP is a living document and may be modified and updated with new information and suggestion from stakeholders.

Table 4-1 Information disclosure during project cycle

Information to be disclosed	Methodology	Target stakeholder	Responsibility
Project Preparation Phase			
Disclosure of Project documents (Preliminary Environmental and Social Risk Assessment, SEP, ESCP, Project drawings and proposals, etc.)	Website – World Bank & MoEWR Stakeholder Meetings	All key stakeholders	PIU
Project Initiation			
Disclosure of Project documents, i.e., ESMF, Updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Security Management Framework, LMP, GBV Action Plan, Resettlement Policy Framework, Project drawings and feasibility study reports, etc.	Websites - CBS and WBG Stakeholder Meetings Town hall meetings Progress reports Emails	All key stakeholders	WBG Team PIU MOEWR
Project Design Phase			

Information to be disclosed	Methodology	Target stakeholder	Responsibility
Preparation of Security Risk Assessment and Security Management Plan for the project (Not for public disclosure) Disclosure of Sub Project specific documents, i.e., ESIA/ESMP, Security Management Plan, Resettlement Action Plan, etc.	Websites - CBS and WBG Stakeholder Meetings Town hall meetings Progress reports Emails	All key stakeholders	WBG Team PIU Ministry
Project Schedule with key activities	Town hall meetings Press releases Stakeholder meetings Progress reports	Implementing partners General public State and District Administrators	WBG Team PIU
List of Contractors	Websites – WBG & Ministry of Finance Press releases Print & electronic media (Newspaper advert, radio)	Implementing partners	PIU Ministry
Update on project progress	TV/Radio spots/activations and announcements Print materials (newsletter, flyers, etc.) Social Media (Facebook, twitter) Project progress reports Town hall meetings		PIU

Information to be disclosed	Methodology	Target stakeholder	Responsibility
	Websites (World Bank, Ministry of Finance)		
Complaints/Grievance	Progress reports Stakeholder engagement meetings External Grievance Register and Complaint Forms	Business community Local community Vulnerable & Marginalized groups	PIU Social Safeguard Specialist
Stakeholder Engagement Activities	TV/Radio spots/activations and announcements Bulk SMS Town hall meetings Social Media (Facebook, twitter) Email	All key stakeholders	Social Safeguard Specialist PIU Coordinator
Project Operation and Maintenance Phase	Monitoring and Evaluation	All key stakeholders	Social Safeguard Specialist PIU Coordinator

5 RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

5.1 Resources

The dedicated resources from ASCENT Project will be devoted to managing and implementing the SEP in terms of people, budget and channels maintained to communicate by all parties to the Project.

5.2 Responsibilities

The project will be implemented by the two PIUs established at the MoEWR in close coordination with the FMS, the beneficiary ministries, and ESPs. The PIU have a direct and overall responsibility for the implementation and regular update of this SEP, including the undertaking and supervising of engagement with all stakeholders in relation to the Project, and draws upon the available internal resources to ensure that the planned activities are conducted effectively and to the appropriate standard.

The responsible persons (**Environment and Social Safeguards, Coordinator and other technical teams**) within the PIU will coordinate the disclosure of Project information; public consultation activities and the management of the GRM.

Communications specialist (s) will be hired to manage the disclosure on information and SESRP media content for disclosure.

E&S Specialists, and GBV Specialist (hired under PIU) will oversee the implementation of environment and social aspects as well as the GBV/SEA/SH and GRM issues of ASCENT throughout project implementation.

Community Liaison Officers will be hired by the various contractors to follow up PAPs social concerns with clear communication between the PAPs and the PIU.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM): These will be the responsibility of both the Contractor(s) and the Client – MoEWR. A Grievance Officer hired by Contractor(s) will document all grievances in the grievance log and make sure it is up to date.

This mechanism shall describe avenues for affected persons to lodge complaints or grievances against the project or contractors during construction of the electricity transmission and distribution lines and associated infrastructure. It shall also describe procedures, roles and responsibilities for managing grievances and resolving disputes. Every aggrieved person shall be able to trigger this mechanism to quickly resolve their complaints.

Key objectives of the grievance process are:

- i. Provide affected people with avenues for making a complaint or resolving any dispute that may arise during land and asset acquisition;
- ii. Ensure that appropriate and mutually acceptable corrective actions are identified and implemented to address complaints;

- iii. Verify that complainants are satisfied with outcomes of corrective actions; and
- iv. Avoid the need to resort to judicial (legal court) proceedings.

Information input to the grievance mechanism will be from three main sources:

- Community residents / Project Affected Persons (PAPs),
- Supervising engineers, clerk of works or contractors; and
- Project Monitoring team.

Contractors: Develop the Contractor ESMPs focusing on environment, social, health and safety issues with reference to the relevant documents i.e., client ESMP and licenses.

Supervising Consultant: Supervision and manage all the sites regarding the administration of the Construction Contracts including E&S management compliance related issues.

Department of Gender: supervise the gender related issues during project implementation with emphasize to mitigate the vulnerable PAPs especially women, orphans, child headed households, IDPs, and minority group.

Department of Labour: supervise labour related issues especially labour influx, labour related conflict. Labour inspectors will play a key role during the project implementation.

Local Municipalities: These will be part of the GRM and the local leadership of the areas where the project will be undertaken will have representation on the Grievance Redress Committees (GRCs)

5.3 Estimated Budget

Item	Main Activities	Budget
SEP implementation	Updating of SEP	
Stakeholder engagements	Consultation and or stakeholder engagement with various parties as identified on section 2	
Grievance Redress Mechanisms	Operationalizing of the GRM, hiring of the Grievance Officer (GO), and training of the GO and the large stakeholders.	

*The indicative figures for the budget will be availed when the SEP is updated before project implementation.

6 GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM (GRM)

A systematic and functional GRM will be adopted to address the concerns of aggrieved parties (PAPs, vulnerable groups including women, IDPs, gender-sensitive issues, workplace concerns and community concerns). Such a mechanism will detail the processes involved in registering grievances at no cost to the aggrieved parties as mentioned above.

A grievance could mean a simple query or inquiry, concern, issue, or formal complaint that bothers the lives of aggrieved parties. The layers of the GRM will be well publicized as a way of educating PAPs, recruited workers and other residents on the process. Alternative means of access, however, will be the public information centres that will be established at various project sites. At the same time, information about where complaints can be lodged shall be provided by the client and or the consultant will be published on public notice boards, communicated verbally at all public meetings, and outreach sessions so that there is a wider public understanding and acceptance of the mechanisms proposed for grievance redress.

The primary purpose of the GRM will be to hear the complaints or address the concerns of aggrieved parties to a fair extent and on time. Dissatisfaction can cause an aggrieved party to act beyond expectations, which would culminate in some unforeseen repercussions that would negatively affect project implementation and stall project progression. Consequently, the GRM to be proposed during the preparation of the subprojects' ESIA or ESMP will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- Encourage registration, acknowledgment, and recording of all concerns or issues raised by aggrieved;
- Identify the frequencies of issues raised: for instance, unpaid compensation, inadequate compensation, disregard for local ritual ceremonies, land acquisition, workplace concerns and many more;
- Ensure that complaints are properly registered, tracked and documented, with due regard for confidentiality;
- Address the composition of a committee that would handle all grievances;
- Inform people of the public information centre establishment and access;
- Establish procedures for the GRM to enhance easy access, transparency and accountability, and tackle escalation of grievances beyond expectations;
- Manage the concerns raised by aggrieved parties to achieve a win-win situation within a reasonable time frame that would comply with national and international best practices; and
- Record all resolutions agreed upon by all parties involved and ensure that aggrieved persons are satisfied with every outcome of remedial resolution to foster harmony in sub-projects.

6.1 Potential Sources of Grievance

Since key project activities will be in dense urban settings, parties have livelihoods that depend on the land, the loss of land is thought to also result in the loss of their livelihoods. In a similar vein, Risks of forced displacement of IDPs by the government: Forced displacement of IDPs, who fled from

drought and violence and have settled on idle private or public lands in Somali cities, is rampant especially in urban centers such as Mogadishu, Hargeisa and Garowe where land is scarce and land values are high.

Another potential source of grievance may be corruption or unfair benefits to some. Similarly concerns that the compensation due to PAPs may be paid very late, which could create considerable stress and inconvenience and lead PAPs to incur further costs. Other sources of grievance may include work-related concerns such as terms of employment, rights related to hours of work, wages, overtime, compensation and benefits injuries, deaths, disability, disease and hazards to project workers.

Grievances may also be received during construction activities in terms of damages or inconvenience caused to the nearby community or regarding the behavior of contracted workers.

6.2 GRM Institutional Framework

The project GRM will build on what was created for the SESRP (See separate SEP). A specific consultation session on the E&S Risk Assessment and Action Plan and GRM will be set up to complete the SEP. A Feedback and Grievance Redress System that will have a various contact channel is envisioned for ASCENT Project. Noting the indirect benefit of component 1 and 2 to citizens/households due to expansion of renewable energy supply, the GRM will include mechanisms for citizen or households to be able to register their feedback or complaint towards the performance of the ESPs, their existing supply situation, billings, etc.

The GRM will be in place by the time RAPs and ESIA's are prepared, until completion of all construction activities and beyond until the defect liability period (DLP) ends. A separate mechanism will be developed to address worker grievances. Grievances related to the actions of contractors will be resolved by the contractors.

The GRM will be a project wide GRM that will also be available for use by PAPs. The GRM will work interconnectedly with local level actors at the FMS, community, District, and municipal levels. This is to ensure that all measures are taken to address the grievance. The GRM will be housed at both MoEWR and provide access to ASCENT Project stakeholders and contractors to register complaints received at subproject level or the field. At the Municipality/Local Government level, a Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) shall be established and composed of local leaders, municipal representatives, the project, community-based organizations, legal aid and law enforcement agencies. The GRC will be headed through a consensual appointment done with affected communities, and steps will be taken to ensure that all grievances are properly documented and transferred to the digital platform for tracking of resolution.

PAPs may also make complaints directly to the project wide GRM through the key contact persons (Grievance officer). Contact numbers: +252610850613, +252628850613, email address: grm.sesrp@gmail.com, digital platform by calling, sending text, WhatsApp numbers: +252610850613, +252628850613. The project will identify an NGO GBV service provider to setting up and ethically manage SEA/SH complaints as documented in the separate GBV and SEA/SH Action

Plan. Detailed structure of the GRM for the project workers will be finalized and described in the LMP and project implementation manual.

The GRM implementation process will involve the following:

- The safeguards specialists at the MoEWR will man the GRM platform at the Project level to ensure timely sorting and escalation of grievances to resolving officer;
- Assignment of a focal person(s) from OE, Contractors and local GRC for grievance uptake and reporting;
- Train assigned focal person(s) to receive and log complaints in the GRM Database; Constitute GRM Committee to resolve grievances;
- Screen, classify and refer complaints to appropriate unit for redress;
- Monitor, track and evaluate the process and results; and
- Provide feedback to complainant within two weeks, and an opportunity for appeal if not satisfied with resolution approach.

Overall, the process for grievances reporting by aggrieved parties include following:

- Lodge complaints through phone call through the key contact persons, contact numbers, email addresses, text message, WhatsApp, in-person directly to the digital platform or the GRC at the local levels;
- Acknowledgment and registration;
- The investigation, verification, and determination of resolution options;
- Provision of feedback to the stakeholder regarding resolution and progress towards resolution and complainant satisfied;
- Final resolution-tracking and documenting actions and outcomes in the database and with the stakeholder;
- Where a PAP is fully satisfied with the resolution process, the matter will be formally closed; and
- If the complainant is not satisfied with the mediation provided using the project GRM, a referral should be made to a court of law. This stage of the process should be avoided, though it can be utilized to get a final review of the matter being reported.

6.3 Guidelines and Tools for Reporting and Processing Grievances

- Complaints can be filed by an aggrieved person at the entry-level using a complaint form. The form will describe the complaint and provide for action at the three levels of redress- community district, Municipal or FMS. Ideally, complaints shall be acknowledged in 7 days, provide feedback in 21 days and resolved within 45 days, except complaints and grievances that relate to the valuation of affected assets that need to be managed by a unit set up by the project.
- All complaints received in writing (or written when presented verbally) and processed through the stages identified in the GRM, will be recorded in a register or log sheet. The register presents the date of the complaint, the name of the complainant, the community

he/she is from, a description of the complaint, and the actions taken to address the grievance (which shall also note the status of the grievance).

Simple guidelines for processing and reporting grievances that can be adapted to the different contexts of the project are presented below:

- All grievances concerning non-fulfillment of contracts, levels of compensation, or use/demolish assets without compensation, work-related concerns, etc. will be addressed to the GRC. All attempts shall be made to settle grievances amicably. Those seeking redress and wishing to state grievances will do so directly to the GRC. If the complainant's claim is rejected, the matter shall be brought before an agreed third party or the local administration before approaching the legal system in case of unresolved complaints at the local level also;
- The GRC shall maintain records of grievances and complaints, including minutes of discussions, recommendations and resolutions made;
- The grievance being reported shall be clearly defined; and
- The type of grievance being documented shall also be defined in terms of how it is received: oral, written, by mobile phone, email, or text message. (The complaints submitted orally or by telephone shall be recorded and transcribed for record purposes). There shall be a clear description of the owner of the complaint or where the grievance comes from to ensure accessibility to the GRM.

Aggrieved parties shall choose their entry point that is at their convenience. However, the GRM shall start at the local level before allowing appeals to higher levels at the district, municipal or FMS levels. If it is at the community level/site specific level, the first point of contact will be the contractor site in charge (grievance Officer). If the GRC is established by the project at the district level, the point of contact at the district level will be the district Council. The point of contact at the provincial level will be the key supervisory body of the GRC or the MoEWR, which is responsible for monitoring the subprojects:

- Mobile phone hotlines will be maintained to provide aggrieved parties with the access they need to those who can document and address their grievances;
- At all three levels, a grievance registry will be maintained to monitor and record the types of grievances that are raised, their status, and the type/level of remedial actions taken.
- Remedial actions will be flexible They will vary from a letter response to a referral (to the next redress level/structure), a meeting or dialogue with the complainant(s), a final resolution process beneficial to all parties;
- Acknowledgment of receipt of grievance reports will be within seven days. This will be done by any member of the GRC/ local authority and shall be forwarded to GRC. Grievances shall be addressed in twenty-one (21) days following the report or be moved to the next level in the redress mechanism where the problem shall be resolved within fourteen (14) days;
- Outcomes from the decision will be provided within thirty (45) days of the receipt of the complaints, which shall be communicated by the appropriate GRC representative. Once a grievance or complaint has been resolved or being escalated, the officer responsible will complete a Grievance Resolution/Escalation Form (see Annex v) to close out the complaint

or record the reason for escalation, and the form shall be signed by the officer and the complainant (if s/he so desires), with a witness.

- The court of law will serve as the last resort for all types of grievances. Responsible structures for grievance redress shall ensure that this option is avoided as much as possible. However, the decision to use the court as a redress mechanism shall be left to the discretion of the aggrieved parties.

The practical steps to be used in addressing grievances for this project are presented in Figure 6-1 below.

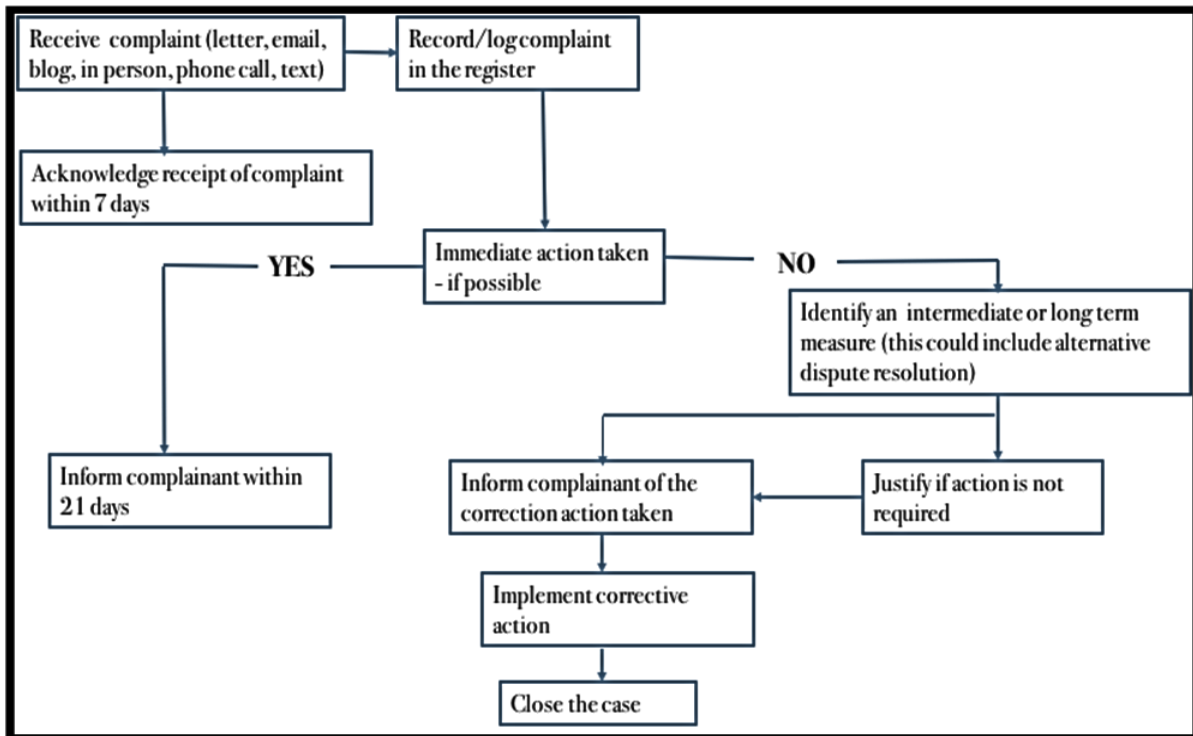


Figure 6-1 Grievance management mechanism

7 MONITORING AND REPORTING

7.1 Monitoring

Monitoring the stakeholder engagement activities is important to ensure that consultation and disclosure efforts are effective and that stakeholders have been meaningfully consulted throughout the process. Monitoring also allows the Project to improve its strategies by using information acquired from the monitoring activities. The Project will monitor the stakeholder engagement activities and in particular:

- The implementation of the SEP;
- The effectiveness of the engagement process in managing impacts and expectations by tracking responses received from engagement activities;
- Consultations and disclosure activities conducted with stakeholders; and
- All grievances received and resolved whether anonymous or non-anonymous.

Performance will be evaluated bi-annually by tracking:

- Place and time of formal engagement events and level of participation by specific stakeholder categories and groups with due consideration for gender disaggregated (e.g., participation in engagement events);
- Numbers and type of grievance and the nature and timing of their resolution;
- Materials disseminated, i.e., type, frequency, and location;
- Number of comments by issue/ topic and type of stakeholders, and details of feedback provided; and
- Community attitudes and perceptions towards the Project based on media reports and stakeholder feedback.

7.2 Reporting

The PIU will develop regular reports (typically quarterly) which will typically be required by the World Bank and the line Ministries. The reports will present all activities, including stakeholder engagement activities, for the period and summarise the issues. The report and its annexes will also detail the measures taken to address the issues, timeline of responses, as well as corrective and mitigation measures to address grievances and analysis of trends.

Data reported on will include the following activities:

- Project information (e.g., project investments, environmental and social risks management documents, etc) disclosed to stakeholders;
- Public announcements and engagement of media; and
- Disclosure and consultation meetings; and collection and incorporation of comments and feedback.
- Persons and groups participating in consultation sessions

The SEP will be periodically revised and updated as necessary to ensure that the information and the methods of engagement remain appropriate and effective in relation to the project context and COVID-19 protocols. Any major changes to the project related activities and to its schedule will be duly reflected in the updated SEP. Monthly/quarterly summaries and internal reports on public grievances, enquiries and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventive actions will be collated by responsible staff and referred to the senior management of the project.

The monthly/quarterly summaries will provide a mechanism for assessing both the number and the nature of complaints and requests for information, along with the project's ability to address those in a timely and effective manner. The project team will conduct surveys on World Bank supported components at the entry, mid-point and end of the project. The results from these surveys will be used to inform the World Bank on the necessary steps to take towards meeting the SEP objectives and project goals.

8 ANNEXES

Annex-1: Public Consultation Meeting in the FGS

Public Consultation Meeting in the FGS

The MoEWR, Project Implementation Unit and Mogadishu ESPs.:

Type of Meeting:	Stakeholder Consultation – MoEWR and Electricity Service Providers
Date of Meeting:	September 30, 2023
Time:	09.00 Am – 12.30 Am
Venue:	MoEWR HQ
Note Taker:	Abdihamid Hassan – Social Safeguard Specialist, PIU, SESRP
Attendees:	Attached bellow

This consultation meeting was organized as part of the preparation for Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation in SOMALIA (ASCENT) project. The meeting was held at headquarters of the ministry of energy and water resources (MoEWR) and was attended by the federal Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the PIUs and the Mogadishu Electricity Service Providers (ESPs) on September 30, 2023.

Key Agenda for the Stakeholder Engagement:

- Project Overview: ASCENT project introduction, it's components, benefits, and beneficiaries and implementation arrangements.
- ASCENT Project Environmental and Social Risks: Discussion on potential project-related risks and mitigation plans. Disclosure of draft ESMF, LMP, RFP and GBV AP.
- Stakeholder Engagement Plans: Presentation of project stakeholder engagement and mechanisms for addressing grievances (GRM)
- World Bank's Safeguard Policies: Overview of World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies.
- Roles in Risk Management: discussions of key responsibilities in environmental and social risk management.
- Any Other Business (AOB): Additional discussion and concerns.

The meeting commenced at 9:00 AM, beginning with a prayer, followed by participants introducing themselves and reaching a consensus on the proposed agenda. Subsequently, Minister of Energy and Water Resources, H.E. Jama Taqal, extended a warm welcome to all attendees at the stakeholder meeting. He expressed gratitude for their presence and provided a brief overview of the country's energy and electricity strategy. Minister Taqal also highlighted the Somali government's long-term goals for the sector over the next 10 to 15 years. He stressed the important role that Electricity Service Providers (ESPs) should play in project implementation and outlined the potential benefits for both ESPs and the government in terms of sector development and reduced electricity costs. The minister conveyed the ministry's eagerness to collaborate with ESPs and thanked them for their services during the absence of government institutions for the past three decades. H.E Jama Taqal praised all the attendees and encouraged them to share their knowledge and expertise, while thanking the World Bank Group for supporting Somalia in reforming its energy sector.

MEETING MINUTES:

Discussion Points as per their Agendas:

Agenda 1: Project Overview: ASCENT project introduction, its components, benefits, and beneficiaries and implementation arrangements.

The project's Power Engineer Mr Ismail presented an overview of the project, its components, objectives, beneficiaries and the role of the ESPs. Detailing everything about the project and its long-term goals. the power engineer explained that the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) is gearing up for a transformative project known as ASCENT, which has secured a substantial funding of \$100 million from the International Development Association (IDA). The core objective of ASCENT is to improve access to renewable energy in Somalia by collaborating with the private sector. This initiative aligns with the broader goal of the ASCENT Multi-Programmatic Approach, which aims to accelerate the availability of sustainable, reliable, and eco-friendly energy in Eastern and Southern Africa. Mr Ismail drove key project details such as:

The project components include:

Component 1: The deployment of Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) with Solar PV (SPV) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in Mogadishu, the capital city, and other major load centers in the Federal Members States (FMS).

Component 2: The rehabilitation and strengthening of the electricity distribution network and mini-grids serving the Mogadishu capital city area and other major load centers in FMS.

Component 3: Focuses on enhancing sector capacity and institutions while providing support for project implementation.

Implementation Structure: ASCENT will be carried out through a dedicated Project Implementation Unit (PIU) situated at the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MoEWR). Close cooperation with Private Energy Service Providers (ESPs) will be vital for its success.

In summary, Mr Ismail stated that ASCENT Somalia signifies a substantial endeavor to deliver clean and sustainable energy solutions in Somalia. This initiative actively involves collaboration with private sector entities (ESPs) and holds the potential to drive economic development while promoting environmental sustainability in the region.

Mr. Abdikani Aden Gaas of Mogadishu Power inquired from Mr. Ismail about the difference between the ASCENT project and SESRP. In response, Mr. Ismail explained that the ASCENT project is essentially an expansion of SESRP, with a primary focus on Mogadishu. It's a component of regional initiatives aimed at expediting access to sustainable, reliable, and eco-friendly energy in Eastern and Southern Africa. Mr. Mohamud expressed gratitude for the explanation and received the clarity he was seeking.

Mr. Ali Kariye from BECO extended a warm welcome to the new project and expressed gratitude towards the Ministry and the World Bank for their collaborative efforts in advancing the sector. He emphasized that BECO, as a vital stakeholder, eagerly anticipates the project and commits to collaborating closely with the Ministry to ensure its successful implementation within the designated timeframe.

Mr Abullahi Ibrahim Abdi, Blue Sky, inquired about the potential advantages and level of involvement that Electricity Service Providers (ESPs) can expect from this project. He expressed gratitude to the Ministry for their collaboration with ESPs. In response, Mr. Ismail clarified that ESPs are the main beneficiaries of this project. The government's objective is to enhance the capacity of ESPs to generate cleaner electricity, reduce inefficiencies, and ultimately lower the production costs and electricity prices within the nation

Agenda 2: ASCENT project Environmental and Social Risk Management

After that, Mr. Mr. Abdihamid Hassan, the project's Social Safeguard Specialist, presented the projects E&S risks management and emphasized the importance of stakeholder engagement. According to him, the core objective of this engagement initiative is to establish a clear and effective process that empowers stakeholders to provide valuable input and address concerns throughout the project's journey. In his words, this process includes facilitating anonymous feedback through existing hotlines and meticulously managing comments and grievances in a structured and transparent manner, closely adhering to international best practices, country laws and the ES standards set by the World Bank. Moreover, Mr. Hassan underscored the significance of nurturing robust relationships with the local community, with the aim of proactively identifying and addressing potential project-related challenges to prevent delays.

Mr. Hassan emphasized that to achieve these goals, the project team will ensure timely and relevant information is disseminated to stakeholders before and during project implementation, allowing them to make informed decisions and contribute to the formulation of effective mitigation measures.

In conclusion, the social safeguard specialist stressed that the engagement process would serve as a vital conduit for fostering open and continuous communication and consultation among various groups. This approach, he believes, will promote collaboration and inclusivity, ultimately leading to the project's success and positive outcomes for all involved

The social safeguard specialist highlighted that the ASCENT Project carries a notable environmental risk, which is assessed as *substantial* and will undergo a thorough review during the preparation phase. Nevertheless, it's worth noting that the project is expected to yield positive environmental outcomes as well. This includes facilitating the implementation of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, thereby enhancing renewable energy production, minimizing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and broadening the energy supply mix to enhance resilience against climate change.

Mr. Hassan outlined a comprehensive array of environmental and social risks associated with the project. These encompass the management of environmental and social risks tied to the associated facilities of ESPs, the handling and disposal of liquid and solid waste, as well as the management of hazardous wastes originating from electrical equipment.

Furthermore, he pointed out concerns related to soil erosion and degradation, potential disturbances to local fauna and flora, as well as issues related to dust and noise pollution. Additionally, he noted the risks of soil and water contamination and degradation, along with health and safety hazards for both project employees and neighboring communities.

In terms of social risks, The social safeguard specialist highlighted matters such as land acquisition and restrictions on land use, involuntary resettlement linked to rights of way and easements, and the disproportionate impacts on vulnerable groups, including women, individuals with disabilities, and those holding smaller land plots or informal land rights. He also mentioned the potential for an influx of labor with increased disease transmission risks, conflicts between communities and project workers, heightened tensions in urban areas stemming from historical grievances, migration, and competition for natural resources.

Moreover, Mr. Hassan expressed concerns about labor conditions, encompassing child labor and inadequate facilities, as well as social and environmental risks connected to development projects. Finally, he underscored security risks in areas affected by armed groups or internal conflicts, which could impact the implementation of the project. Mr Hassan added the stakeholder risks and discussions in detail the project's GRM, its principles and communication channels.

Finally, the social safeguard specialist pointed out deficiencies in the management of environmental and social risks within the sector, emphasizing that these gaps exist across various levels, including government institutions (at Federal and FMS level) and other stakeholders like ESPs. He stressed the need for significant improvements and underscored the importance of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MoEWR) ensuring compliance with both the World Bank's 10 Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) and the country's legal framework designed to safeguard society and the environment in the implementation of ASCENT and SESRP projects.. Furthermore, Mr. Hassan placed particular emphasis on identifying shortcomings within the Environmental Service Providers (ESPs) and their imperative need to enhance various aspects, especially environmental and health and safety standards within their facilities.

Mr Abdirahman Alasow of Beco acknowledged that the Environmental and Social (E&S) risks associated with the project have been assessed as substantial. As a significant stakeholder, his company is committed to actively participating in the management and mitigation of these project-related risks. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Hassan for the comprehensive presentation that outlined the frameworks, rules, and regulations established to minimize and offset these risks. Mr. Alasow also recognized the importance of safety, environmental protection, and health considerations within the sector. He called for an enhancement in these areas by the Service Providers (SPs) and stressed the need for capacity building among Electricity Service Providers (ESPs) to effectively manage environmental, social, health, and safety risks. He went on to highlight that his ESP have been consistently working towards improvement in these aspects and pledged to meet the required standards. Additionally, he attributed the existing gaps in this sector to the absence of government institutions for the past few decades.

Mr. Abdikani of Mogadishu Power inquired about how both the Ministry and Electricity Service Providers (ESPs) could ensure compliance with the environmental and social

commitments of the project, as well as the methods of implementation. The social safeguard specialist provided concise information about the various environmental and social instruments that have been developed for the project, as well as the roles played by various stakeholders.

Mr. Liban Ali, procurement specialist at the PIU, further elaborated on the significance of the various roles during project implementation and their relevance at different stages in managing the environmental and social risks associated with the project.

Mr. Abdiaziz Arte, interim project coordinator, noted that the project is currently in its preparatory stage, and the stakeholder meeting in question is an integral component of the project's risk management tools.

Mr. Mohamed Abdirahman from Blue Sky expressed gratitude to Mr. Hassan, the specialist in social safeguards, for his presentation. He mentioned that he now comprehends the environmental and social risks associated with the project, as well as the strategies for mitigating and managing them. He pledged that his Electric Service Providers (ESPs) would continue to enhance their performance in these areas, and noted that they have already been making progress. Mr. Abdirahman also requested access to the project's Environmental and Social (E&S) instruments and documents. In response, Mr. Hassan thanked him for his active participation and assured him that all project E&S documents would be made available on the Ministry's website. Furthermore, Mr. Hassan committed to collaborating with the ESPs to facilitate improvements in managing environmental and social risks within their workplaces.

Agenda 3: Any Other Business (AOB): Additional discussion and concerns.

After the presentations and discussions regarding the project and its environmental and social risk management concluded, **Mr. Abdirizak Mohamed, the Director-General** of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, took the floor. He expressed gratitude to the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) teams for their presentations and to the attendees for their active participation and contributions to the discussions.

The DG emphasized the commitment of the Somali government to collaborate with internal institutions, such as the World Bank, and engage private investments to reduce electricity prices in the country. He also stressed the paramount importance of preserving and protecting the environment, highlighting that development projects should not come at the expense of environmental concerns.

Furthermore, the Director-General underscored the significance of collective effort, emphasizing that all parties share the common goals of reducing electricity production costs, safeguarding the environment, and promoting safety and health. In their response, the Electricity Service Providers (ESPs) welcomed the Director-General's remarks and pledged

their cooperation with the Ministry on both the ASCENT and SESRP projects, affirming their commitment to adhere to the projects' environmental and social commitments.

Action Points

- **Sharing Project Documents and E&S Instruments:** The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) should provide project documents and environmental and social (E&S) tools to the Environmental and Service Providers (ESPs). This will enable ESPs to prepare for compliance with project E&S guidelines and enhance their management of environmental risks and waste.
- **ESPs Enhancing Used Oil Management:** It is the responsibility of ESPs to improve their management of used oil, taking steps to prevent leaks. They should also develop and enforce Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) manuals to ensure the safety of both the environment and workers.
- **ESPs Addressing Inefficiencies and Pollution Prevention:** ESPs should identify and rectify inefficiencies within their operations. They must also take proactive measures to prevent pollution and handle E-waste and battery waste appropriately until a national waste policy is established.
- **PIU Building ESPs' Capacity:** The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is tasked with enhancing the capabilities of ESPs. This includes providing training and resources to help ESPs improve their environmental risk management, health and safety practices, and occupational health and safety (OHS) procedures.
- **Stakeholder Meetings and Progress Updates:** Regular meetings with stakeholders should be held to keep ESPs informed about project development and sector advancements. These meetings facilitate ongoing communication and engagement to ensure that all stakeholders are well-informed and actively involved in the project's advancement.

Conclusions:

After a thorough discussion and debate on the meeting's agenda, the Director-General (DG) of the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (MoEWR) expressed appreciation for the active participation of the attendees. The DG also praised the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and Electricity Service Providers (ESPs) for their engaging discussions. He emphasized the need for everyone to work together to address environmental and social risk management, gender integration in the energy sector, and adherence to the project's environmental and social procedures. The DG concluded the meeting by encouraging the teams to organize similar gatherings in the future.



Figure 1: Minister Jama Taqal chairing the meeting between the ministry and ESPs.



Figure 2: Mr Ismail, the power Engineer, presenting an overview of the project.



Figure 3: DG Abdirizak chairing the meeting.



Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MoEWR)

Stakeholder Engagement for Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation (ASCENT) in SOMALIA
(P181341)

Stakeholders: *MoEWR-ESPs*

Date: *30/09/2023*

List of participants

No.	Name	Institution	Contact	Signature
1.	<i>Jama Taha Abbas</i>	<i>Nigita Noova</i>		
2.	<i>Abdirizak Mubarek Mubarek</i>	<i>MIDAWR</i>	<i>061370069</i>	
3.	<i>Abdullah Mohamed</i>	<i>MOEWR-ESPs</i>		
4.	<i>Ali Mohamed Bariya</i>	<i>BeCo</i>		
5.	<i>Abdirahman Ali Ali</i>	<i>BeCo</i>		
6.	<i>Abdirahman Ali Ali</i>	<i>MoEWR</i>		
7.	<i>Abdullah Ali Ali</i>	<i>MPD</i>		
8.	<i>Abdullah Hassan Ali</i>	<i>MoEWR FGS</i>	<i>061209885/abdullahali</i>	
7.	<i>Abdihamid Hassan</i>	<i>MoEWR - FGS</i>	<i>062951245/abdihamid</i>	
10.	<i>Abdirahman Ali</i>		<i>061209885/abdihamid</i>	
11.	<i>Abdullahi Ibrahim Abdi</i>	<i>Blue Sky Energy</i>	<i>0617547676</i>	
12.	<i>Abdullahi Ibrahim Abdi</i>	<i>Blue Sky Energy</i>	<i>0615553775</i>	
13.	<i>Abdullahi Ibrahim Abdi</i>	<i>Blue Sky Energy</i>	<i>0627797130</i>	
14.	<i>Abdullahi Ibrahim Abdi</i>	<i>Blue Sky Energy</i>	<i>0617547676</i>	
15.	<i>Mohamed Farah Sheikh</i>	<i>MoEWR - FGS</i>	<i>0615147739</i>	
16.	<i>Mohamed Omar Osman</i>	<i>MoEWR</i>	<i>0610757510</i>	
17.	<i>Abdullahi Ibrahim Abdi</i>	<i>MoEWR</i>	<i>0619270418</i>	
18.	<i>Abdullahi Ibrahim Abdi</i>	<i>MoEWR</i>	<i>0617547676</i>	
19.	<i>Ali Osman Ali</i>	<i>MoEWR - FGS</i>	<i>061397480</i>	
20.				
21.				

Public Consultation Meeting in the FGS

The MoEWR, FGS institutions, FMS line ministries of Energy Water Resources, BRA, NGOs, IDPs and WVGs

Type of Meeting:	Hybrid (virtual and physical)
Date of Meeting:	October 2 nd and 3 rd , 2023
Time:	09.00 Am – 12.30 Am 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Venue:	PIU HQ office, airport road and Virtual (Microsoft Teams)
Note Taker:	Abdihamid Hassan – Social Safeguard Specialist, PIU, SESRP Ali Osman – Communication Specialist, PIU, SESRP.
Attendees:	Attached as an annex II

This consultation meeting is part of the preparations for the Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation in SOMALIA (ASCENT) project. We gather here today, representing the Director Generals of Ministries of Energy from the Federal Member States, alongside our esteemed colleagues from various government ministries and departments, Solar Service Providers, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), and community leaders. The purpose of this meeting is to engage in meaningful

discussions, share perspectives, and collectively contribute to the success of the ASCENT project.

Key Agenda for the Stakeholder Engagement:

1. **Project Overview:** An introduction to the ASCENT project, including its components, anticipated benefits, and its relevance to our respective regions.
2. **ASCENT Project Environmental and Social Risks:** A dialogue on the potential environmental and social risks associated with the project and our role in mitigating these challenges. We will also discuss the draft Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Land Management Plan (LMP), Request for Proposals (RFP), and Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (GBV AP).
3. **Stakeholder Engagement Plans:** A presentation on how we plan to engage with our communities and respond to their concerns throughout the project's lifespan.
4. **Roles in Risk Management:** A discussion on the roles and responsibilities each of us will play in managing environmental and social risks.
5. **Any Other Business (AOB):** An opportunity to raise additional issues, concerns, or ideas that can enhance the ASCENT project's effectiveness.

The Interim project coordinator Mr Abdiaziz kicked off the meeting and delved into the agenda, and all participants were ears, ready to listen and learn from one another's perspectives. The Project Coordinator said recognize the significance of this collaborative effort and commend the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MoEWR) for spearheading this initiative. Together, we can make a significant difference in the energy landscape of Somalia.

Agenda 1: Project Overview: ASCENT project introduction, its components, benefits, and beneficiaries and implementation arrangements.

Mr. Ismail, the project engineer, delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the key components, beneficiaries, and implementation arrangements of the ASCENT project. He elucidated the project's core objective, which is to enhance access to renewable energy in Somalia through collaboration with the private sector, securing substantial funding from the International Development Association (IDA). The project encompasses various components, including the deployment of Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) with Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), the rehabilitation and strengthening of electricity distribution networks, and efforts to enhance sector capacity and institutions. These components collectively aim to accelerate the availability of sustainable, reliable, and eco-friendly energy across the country. Mr. Ismail's presentation underscored the project's commitment to fostering economic development and environmental sustainability in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Director General Jeylaani Haji from Southwest State expressed excitement about the project's prospects and the opportunity for collaboration. He stressed the need for effective communication between the Federal Member States to ensure smooth project implementation.

Director General Ibrahim Abdulkadir Galmudug State commended the ASCENT project for its potential to positively impact the region's energy landscape. He emphasized the importance of regional cooperation and alignment with development goals.

Aden Abdi from Recon Energy welcomed the new project and asked the power engineer about the distinction between the ASCENT project and SESRP. In response, Mr. Ismail explained that the ASCENT project is essentially an expansion or enlargement of the SESRP project. The ASCENT project will have its operations centered in Mogadishu, whereas SESRP will be relocated to the Federal Member States (FMS).

Agenda 2: ASCENT project Environmental and Social Risk Management:

Mr. Abdihamid, the specialist in social safeguards, introduced the preliminary Environmental and Social (E&S) guidelines for the project and emphasized that the project carries a significant risk profile with potential adverse environmental and social consequences. These risks encompass environmental concerns like soil erosion and degradation, security issues for individuals involved or residing near the project area, labor-related challenges, land acquisition disputes, gender-based violence concerns, occupational health and safety risks, and waste management issues. All of these risks underscore the need for comprehensive planning and mitigation strategies in managing the project's environmental and social impact effectively while adhering to the stringent standards set by the World Bank

Director General Yusuf Farah from Hirshabelle State emphasized the importance of adhering to international best practices and legal frameworks in addressing environmental and social risks. He noted the relevance of community engagement in risk management.

Abdullahi Ahmed, the national consultant for the NDC within the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources in addressing and mitigating the potential negative environmental and social impacts of the project. He also commended the presentations made by both the power engineer and social safeguard specialist. Mr. Ahmed emphasized the significance of preparing the Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SESIA) to identify any gaps in legislation, enforcement, and environmental and social risks associated with the electricity and energy sector. He suggested developing sector-specific management plans to address these risks. Additionally, he stressed the importance of adhering to and implementing the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Regarding private sector involvement in the energy sector, including electricity and solar service providers, Mr. Ahmed highlighted the opportunity to enhance environmental practices at the company level. This includes improving areas such as labor conditions, waste management, prevention of diesel leakages, proper handling of battery and electronic waste (e-waste), occupational health and safety (OHS), gender equality, and addressing inefficiencies. He noted that addressing these issues at the company level can lead to cost reductions in electricity production, lower greenhouse gas emissions, improved company reputation, and increased revenue. Mr. Abdullahi emphasized the need to incorporate environmental and social clauses into bidding documents and to ensure

that workers receive GRM training and training in occupational health and safety (OHS) protocols before being deployed.

Younis, representing the BBRA department responsible for women and vulnerable groups, highlighted the potential adverse impacts of inadequately addressed projects on the inhabitants of Benadir. He underscored the significance of involving stakeholders in addressing critical issues such as land disputes and evictions, a prevalent concern in Benadir. Additionally, Younis stressed the importance of engaging with stakeholders on matters related to internally displaced persons (IDPs), labor challenges, and the hazard posed by fires resulting from subpar electricity wiring in Mogadishu. He also emphasized the necessity for collaboration with local security agencies due to the project's location in Mogadishu. Younis called for partnering with women associations at district levels to raise awareness about the project GRM using language that's appropriate, understandable to the populace especially IDPs and use the communications they normal use such as radio stations etc.

The Chairman of Solar Service Providers Bashir Sofe extended a warm welcome to the new project and underscored the importance of addressing its environmental and social risks. He emphasized the necessity for the development of national management plans and urged the Ministry and the recently established National Electricity Authority to advocate for the enactment and enforcement of these regulations, including existing environmental laws. Additionally, he called upon the National Bureau of Standards to scrutinize the importation of prohibited solar panels and materials, as well as to enhance oversight of waste management, including development waste, e-waste, and battery waste.

Aden Abdi Mohamud, representing the Ganaange Organization, expressed gratitude to both the Ministry and the World Bank Group for their efforts in implementing these development projects. However, he voiced apprehensions regarding the effective management of associated risks, particularly those related to gender-based violence (GBV), child labor, evictions of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and disease outbreaks. Additionally, he called for the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to present accessible and affordable communication channels that can be utilized by IDPs and vulnerable groups.

INGOs Representative: The INGOs representative highlighted concerns related to displacement, particularly the challenges faced by vulnerable populations. They emphasized the importance of considering displacement and resettlement issues in project planning and execution.

Community Elders: The Community Elders shared insights into community perspectives, talking about the land issues that's settled in informal avenues like traditional Somali *xeer* but also raised oncerns related to solar energy adoption and environmental risks. They emphasized the need for effective battery and e-waste management to protect the environment.

IDPs Representative: The IDPs representative discussed land issues and the potential for eviction from powerful individuals. They stressed the importance of fair land policies and safeguards to protect the rights of vulnerable communities.

Women's Representative: The Women's Representative addressed gender-based violence (GBV) issues and women's marginalization in energy and development projects. They

emphasized the need for gender-sensitive policies and opportunities for women in the energy sector.

Agenda 3: Any Other Business (AOB): Additional discussion and concerns.

Director General of MoEWR Yusuf from Hirshabelle State raised a concern regarding the potential impacts of the project on local employment opportunities and suggested exploring strategies to maximize local job creation.

Director General Mohamed Mohamud from Jubaland shared information about ongoing initiatives related to clean energy within his region and proposed leveraging these efforts to enhance the ASCENT project's impact. He further added that delays in project implementation could increase apathy toward the project from the citizens and called for its expedition.

Deqo, Head of the Gender Department at the Federal Ministry of Women and Human Rights said that Gender inclusion in this project is of paramount importance, and we must diligently examine and address gender-specific challenges and opportunities within the ASCENT project. Ensuring that our initiatives promote gender equality and provide equal opportunities and benefits for women and men is not just a commitment; it's an obligation. We need to adopt a gender-sensitive approach throughout the project to empower women and reduce gender disparities in the energy sector and beyond.

Action Points:

- **Environmental and Social Safeguards:** Implement safeguards to protect land rights, prevent unfair land acquisitions, and address potential GBV issues. Ensure compliance with international standards for safeguarding society and the environment.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Communication:** Establish effective stakeholder engagement strategies to ensure transparency, trust, and meaningful consultation with all project stakeholders, including local communities.
- **Community Participation:** Promote meaningful community participation in identifying and addressing project-related challenges, aligning with international best practices for community engagement.
- **Gender Equality and Inclusion:** Prioritize gender equality and social inclusion by conducting gender impact assessments, implementing gender-sensitive policies, and ensuring equal participation and benefits for women and marginalized groups.
- **Capacity Development:** Invest in capacity-building initiatives for ministries, private sector stakeholders, and communities to enhance their ability to manage environmental and social risks effectively.

Conclusion,

Abdiaziz Arte, interim project coordinator, appreciated the collaborative spirit of this meeting and recognized the need for collective effort to ensure its success. As we move forward, we commit to actively engaging with stakeholders, managing environmental and social risks, and promoting sustainable and clean energy access for Somalia. Our shared vision and dedication will guide us towards transformative change and a brighter future for our nation. Thank you to all participants for their active contributions and commitment to this crucial endeavor.



Figure 1: PIU members, BRA, CSOs

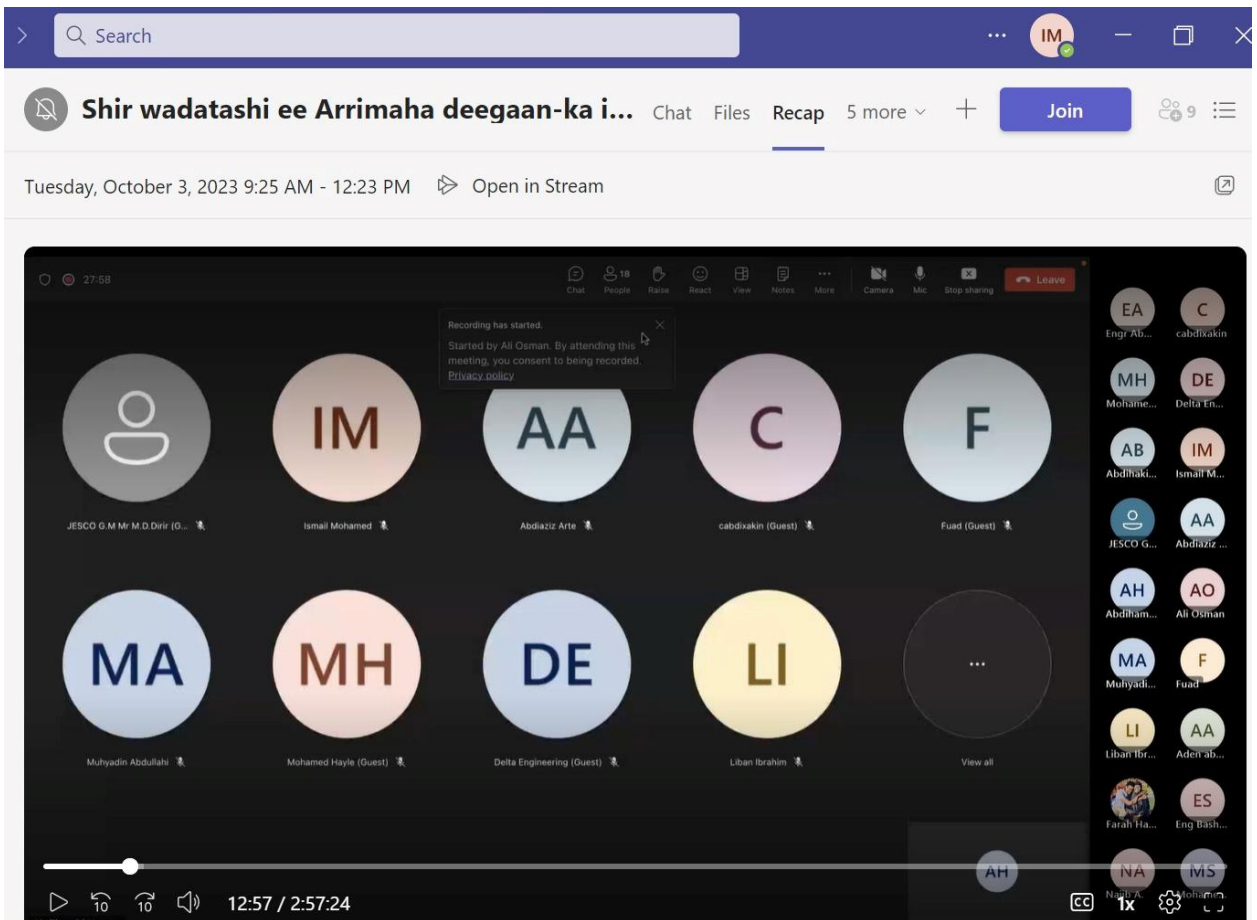


Figure 2: Federal MDAs, FMS ministries of Energy, ESPs, SSPs, CSOs in the meeting virtually.



Ministry of Energy and Water Resources (MoEWR)

Stakeholder Engagement for Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation (ASCENT) in SOMALIA

(P181341)

Stakeholders: MoEWR-BRA-vulnerable groups-IDPs-Community

Date: 3/10/2023

List of participants

No.	Name	Institution	Contact	Signature
1	Abdirahman Hassan Hassan	Waxaya Bilgawda oo G/B	0616362007	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Ali Mohamed Mohamed	Xiriye Gobanadiis W/H	0613773431	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Liban M. Ibrahim	Xiriye Gobanadiis W/H	0613773431	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Sharmada Farah	MoEWR-PIU	619445189	Sharmada
5	Muqdisho Hassan	MOEWR		
6	Abdirahman Ibrahim	OFFICE/STAFF	614460642	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Muqdisho Hassan	F. adniga S. S. P. M. S. S.	610594165	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	Farah Hassan Hassan	MoEWR-PIU	615668871	Farah
9	Ismael Mohamed	MoEWR-PIU	613533334	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	Abdhamid Hassan	Muqdisho Tabarka MoEWR	0629512474	Abdhamid
11	Yanis Nur Farah	Muqdisho Tabarka	011363411	Yanis
12	Sooyan Adhikhi	IDP Kaluun	0618091289	Sooyan
13	Adan Abdi	BRANDRE.ORG	0615771517	Adan
14	Hassan Abdullahi	BRA	02297818	Hassan
15	Hamza Ahmed	ministry of labor	07784847	Hamza

ASCENT Project Stakeholder Consultation with Civil Society and vulnerable Groups

Type of Meeting:	ASCENT stakeholder Meeting
Date of Meeting:	October 2 . 2023.
Time:	10 am – 12:30pm, Mogadishu Time.
Venue:	PIU HQ and Virtual – Microsoft Teams.
Note Taker	Hafsa Mohamed – Gender Specialist, PIU, MoEWR
Attendees:	Attached bellow
Type of Meeting:	ASCENT stakeholder Meeting
Date of Meeting:	October 2 . 2023.
Time:	10 am – 12:30pm, Mogadishu Time.
Venue:	PIU HQ and Virtual – Microsoft Teams.
Note Taker	Hafsa Mohamed – Gender Specialist, PIU, MoEWR
Attendees:	Attached below

This consultation meeting was organized as part of the preparation for Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation in Somalia (ASCENT) project. The meeting was hybrid (virtual and physical) held at the PU HQ and Virtually on Microsoft Teams and was attended by members of the PIU, elderly & religious leaders , people with disabilities, youth representatives, women and girls, IDP Camp Kaluunka, environmentalists (Gannaani Organisation) BBRA, BRA and other the federal Ministries on October 2, 2023.

Key Agenda for the Stakeholder Engagement:

- Project Overview: ASCENT project introduction, it's components, benefits, and beneficiaries and implementation arrangements.
- ASCENT Project Environmental and Social Risks: Discussion on potential project-related risks and mitigation plans. Disclosure of draft ESMF, LMP, RFP and GBV AP.
- Stakeholder Engagement Plans: Presentation of project stakeholder engagement and mechanisms for addressing grievances (GRM)
- World Bank's Safeguard Policies: Overview of World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies
- SEA/SH Project Risk Management

Agenda 1: Project Overview: ASCENT project introduction, its components, benefits, and beneficiaries and implementation arrangements

The project's Power Engineer Mr Ismail presented an overview of the project, its components, objectives, beneficiaries and the role of the different stakeholders. Detailing everything about the project and it's long-term goals. the power engineer explained that the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) is gearing up for a transformative project known as ASCENT, which has secured a substantial funding of \$100 million from the International Development Association (IDA). The core objective of ASCENT is to improve access to renewable energy in Somalia by collaborating with the private sector. This initiative aligns with the broader goal of the ASCENT Multi-Programmatic Approach, which aims to accelerate the availability of sustainable, reliable, and eco-friendly energy in Eastern and Southern Africa. Mr Ismail drove key project details such as:
The project components include:

Component 1: The deployment of Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) with Solar PV (SPV) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in Mogadishu, the capital city, and other major load centers in the Federal Members States (FMS).

Component 2: The rehabilitation and strengthening of the electricity distribution network and mini-grids serving the Mogadishu capital city area and other major load centers in FMS.

Component 3: Focuses on enhancing sector capacity and institutions while providing support for project implementation.

Mr. Ismail proceeded on emphasizing on how this project would have significant social and environmental benefits on some level in the improvement of Health and Well-being, as sustainable and clean energy sources, such as solar can reduce indoor air pollution and its associated health issues. Traditional energy sources like wood often result in respiratory problems and other health ailments, particularly affecting vulnerable groups. He also highlighted the role of the project in enhanced Livelihoods and Economic Opportunities specially on of small & Medium-scale enterprises, providing job opportunities and income generation for vulnerable communities. Improvement on education and skill development contributing for better lighting and electrification, enabling extended study hours and improved educational outcomes, especially for children in vulnerable communities.

Mr. Abdilatif – Environmental Specialist- extended a warm welcome to the new project and continued to emphasize on the importance to environmental preservation and ESPs operating in the city poses risks and environmental/health concerns. These risks require careful management. He continued asking How does the project address potential environmental concerns associated with the rehabilitation and strengthening of the electricity distribution network and mini grids?"

Mr. Ismail responded that the project addresses potential environmental concerns by incorporating energy-efficient technologies, utilizing renewable energy sources, conducting thorough environmental impact assessments, implementing waste management and pollution control measures, conserving biodiversity, engaging with communities, reducing the carbon footprint, promoting recycling, and monitoring environmental performance closely.

2- Ms Almaas Aweys Ahmed STEM Women enquired about the measures that are being taken to ensure that job opportunities created by the project are accessible to disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including women and youth??

Mr. Ismail explained the SCENT Project focus on improving electricity accessibility for female-headed households and SMEs owned by women. Within the ongoing SERP project, we are actively implementing a National Gender Diagnostic Assessment and a comprehensive Gender Action Plan. We are also providing mentorship opportunities for young electrical female graduates, aiming to empower and guide them.

Furthermore, we are fostering partnerships with local universities to collaborate on capacity development programs, job placement initiatives, and inclusivity outreach and awareness campaigns. This multi-faceted strategy ensures that we address barriers to accessibility and equality, promoting a more inclusive and empowering environment for all members of society.

Ms. Suad Haji Teacher at Banadir University question “Are there any public awareness and education programs planned to inform communities about the health benefits of transitioning from traditional energy sources to renewable energy?”

Mr. Ismail clarified that the project has a communication specialist who is responsible on the various communication programs planned to educate the public and ed inform communities about the health benefits of transitioning from traditional energy sources to renewable energy. These programs include informational workshops, community seminars, awareness campaigns, and educational materials to highlight the positive impacts of clean energy on public health and well-being.

- **Agenda 2: ASCENT project Environmental and Social Risk Management:** Discussion on potential project-related risks and mitigation plans. Disclosure of draft ESMF, LMP, RFP and GBV AP.
- Stakeholder Engagement Plans: Presentation of project stakeholder engagement and mechanisms for addressing grievances (GRM)
- World Bank's Safeguard Policies: Overview of World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies

Mr. Abdihamid Hassan, the project's Social Safeguard Specialist, thanked the participants for their attendance and emphasized their value and importance of participation in this engagement meeting, and proceed to highlight the objective of this stakeholder meeting is to ensure inclusivity, equity, and diverse range of voices and perspectives in consultations and the decision-making process to also advocate for policies and decisions that address the specific needs and challenges faced by vulnerable populations. To empower them with platform to voice their concerns/ complaints, comments, responses and grievances with GRM Channales. to further ensure accountability and transparency of actions and decisions, particularly in relation to the impacts on vulnerable groups. Mr. Hassan emphasized that to achieve these goals, the project team will ensure timely and relevant information is disseminated to stakeholders before and during project implementation, allowing them to make informed decisions and contribute to the formulation of effective mitigation measures.

Mr. Hassan proceeded presenting the projects potential environment & social risks and impacts which is rated substantial, some of the environmental risks were management of risks and impacts of associated facilities of ESPs, disposal and management of liquid and solid waste, soil erosion and degradation, dust and noise pollution, health and safety risks for employees and communities. While some of the highest social risks were land acquisition and restrictions on land use, involuntary resettlement associated with rights of way and easements, differential impacts on vulnerable groups, including women, people with disabilities, and those with smaller land plots or informal land rights, potential labor influx with increased disease transmission risks, conflicts between communities and workers, security risks in areas with armed groups or internal conflicts affecting project implementation. These risks will be reviewed during preparation of ASCENT project and managed through assessing, mitigating, and monitoring potential adverse impacts.

Mr. Hassan also emphasized of the project environmental co-benefits by supporting the installation of BESS and solar PV systems, optimizing renewable energy generation, reducing GHG emissions, and diversifying energy supply to adapt to climate change.

Mr. Hassan finally presented Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for the project adheres to World Bank standards, ensuring its effectiveness in addressing stakeholder concerns and

grievances and how transparency is maintained throughout the process, and complaints are resolved in a timely manner.

After the Mr. Hassan concluded the presentation he opened the ground to questions and discussion.

Hassan ABDULLAHI (BBRA) was welcomed to proceed with any question or comments he may have and he asked “How can we be assured that our grievances will be taken seriously and are addressed on a timely matter?”

"Mr. Abdelhamid Hassan provided response that we understand the importance of addressing your concerns and grievances effectively, the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) has been designed to prioritize and take all grievances seriously. Your feedback and concerns will be treated with the utmost attention and handled promptly and responsibly. The project team is committed to ensure that every grievance is thoroughly investigated, and appropriate actions are taken to resolve the issues.

Mr. Abdifitah Aweis Sharif (Community elders) incorporated a question on How will the project ensure that we which he meant as vulnerable groups directly benefit from the installation of BESS and solar PV systems, considering their unique circumstances and challenges?"

"Mr. Ismail highlighted that the project is deeply committed to ensuring that vulnerable groups directly benefit from the installation of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and solar PV systems. To achieve this, we have devised inclusive strategies tailored to address the unique circumstances and challenges faced by vulnerable populations. These strategies include targeted outreach and capacity-building programs aimed at enabling vulnerable communities to fully utilize and benefit from renewable energy technologies. Additionally, we are actively collaborating with local stakeholders and organizations to develop initiatives that prioritize accessibility and affordability for vulnerable groups.

Mr. Ahmed Dini enquired about how will this or any stakeholder engagement truly influence project decisions and policies to address our specific needs and challenges? He continued clarifying that there's a prevalent perception that these projects are often designed without prioritizing the broader public's needs, instead focusing on meeting the requirements of specific individuals or groups.

Mr. Liban Project Procurement clarified that stakeholder engagement is highly important to raise, record stakeholders concerns and valuable insights which will significantly shape the project's policies to address the needs of the project stakeholders. The input from such events is crucial at this preparatory stage to ensure the needs are accurately incorporated into the project's design, implementation, and mitigation strategies.

Agenda 3: SEA/SH Project related risks Management.

Ms. Hafsa started presentation by addressing the importance of consultations with people in the communities' opportunities it provides to share information on SEA/SH project-related risks and reporting and response measures, and to identify any issues that may be arising regarding SEA/SH. Ms Hafsa provided some clarifications on **SEA, Sexual Harassment and GBV**

she continued to elaborate on the risk management strategies implemented for the SEA/SH (Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Sexual Harassment) from the initial stages of project preparation, starting with the identification and assessment of SEA/SH risks. This process involves evaluating social risk factors at the community level and assessing response capacity. Additionally, it includes examining the availability and quality of safe, ethical services for survivors and reviewing the client's ability to address SEA/SH risks, overall risk assessment level of the project World Bank tools of the SEA/SH risk assessment tool are employed. Procedures are established to continuously review and update risk assessments throughout project implementation. During the different phases of project execution, mitigation, reporting, and monitoring measures are put in place to manage identified risks effectively.

She continued to explain mitigation measures designed based on the identified risks to mitigate project-related SEA/SH risks within the affected population. The effectiveness of these measures is continually monitored, and adjustments as needed. In the event of SEA/SH cases, appropriate project response actions are taken to provide essential services for survivors, ensuring confidentiality and anonymity. Cases reported through the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) are documented and closed, contributing to a thorough and sensitive approach to managing SEA/SH risks.

Upon the conclusion she emphasized on the need for more focused engagements to ensure a more comprehensive understanding of contextual risks and empower the project to tailor mitigation strategies effectively. Engaging stakeholders at various levels will foster a collective responsibility towards minimizing SEA/SH risks and reinforce the project's overall resilience and effectiveness.

Ms. Duniya Mohamed Ali – Civil society activist- was welcomed to speak, she began by thanking the facilitator and the other active participants for this informative event ask continued asking this question.

Who do you typically involve in these types of engagements because in my long experience working as woman activist people are not open discussing these matters in public?

Ms. Hafsa agreed with her in that regard and respond to “Stakeholders involved in SEA/SH risk management include government agencies, local authorities, community representatives, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), advocacy groups, survivors of SEA/SH, project beneficiaries, project staff, and relevant experts or consultants. We recognize the sensitivity of these matters, challenges to navigate them. That's why our designated facilitators possess the necessary expertise and undergo specialized training to handle such engagements. These discussions are carefully conducted in gender-specific

focus groups, creating a conducive environment for participants to openly share their perspectives and experiences."

Asha Abdulle Siyad -member of women groups- asked the coming question "Are there mechanisms to encourage survivors to report SEA/SH cases without fear of retaliation or stigma?"

Ms. Hafsa responded "Improving mechanisms to support survivors in reporting SEA/SH cases without fear of retaliation or stigma requires a collaborative effort involving different actors including the government, community elders, and civil society. We are in the process of implementing robust reporting channels that prioritize confidentiality and anonymity, safeguarding survivors' identities. Additionally, awareness campaigns."

Agreed Action Points

- 1) Conducting public awareness programs on the benefits of transitioning from traditional energy source to of renewable energy.
- 2) continues Stakeholder engagements so that the public will stay informed about the project implementation and ensure stakeholder inclusivity and advocacy for vulnerable populations.
- 3) Empower vulnerable groups by tailoring strategies for their direct benefit from renewable energy installations and collaborating with local stakeholders.
- 4) Ensure inclusive job opportunities, especially for women and youth.
- 5) Conduct awareness campaigns to educate communities and project areas to reduce stigma around reporting SEA/SH cases.

The Project Management and Horizon Consultant Firm Inception Meeting:

S/ N	Name	Institution
1	Ismail Mohamed	PIU member Power Engineer
2	Abdihamid Hassan	Social Safeguard Specialist
3	Liban Ali Ibrahim	Procurement Specialist
4	Atleen Ibrahim	Office assistant
5	Hafsa Abdiwahab	Gender Specialist
6	Younis Nur Farah (Naafada gobolka Benaadir ayuu matalayey)	(Naafada gobolka Benaadir ayuu matalayey)/ people with disabilities
7	Amina Abdullahi	(IDP Camp Kaluunka)
8	Aden ABdi	(Gannaani Organisation)
9	Hassan ABDULLAHI	(BBRA)
10	Ali Mohamed Mohamed	Minsitry focal point of BRA)
11	Fathia Ibrahim Husein	Women in STEM
12	Suad Haji Hassan	Teacher at Banadir University
13	Yusra Abdullahi Xasan	Women in STEM
14	Almaas Aweys Ahmed	Women in STEM
15	Abdilatif Omar	Environmental Specialist
16	Osman Mohiadin Moalim	Youth representative
17	Mohamed Abdi Mohamed	Civil Society
18	Asha Abdulle Siyad	Community elders
19	Sahro Mohamed Ahmed	Civil Society
20	Abdifitah aweis sharif	Community elders
21	Nafisa Ali Abd	Civil Society
22	Duniya Mohamed Ali	Community elders- Women activist-
23	Abdifitah Dahir	Civil Society
24	Ahmed Dini	Civil Society

Type of Meeting:	Stakeholder Consultation – Project Management Unit and Horizon Consultant Company
Date of Meeting:	22 May 2021
Time:	09.00 Am – 10.30 Am
Venue:	Virtual Meeting – Zoom
Note Taker:	Abdullahi Ahmed -Najib – Environmental Specialist, <i>PIUs, SEAP</i>
Attendees:	Attached as Annex II

This consultation meeting was organized as part of the inception workshop for the Horizon Consultant Company which is responsible to conduct the SESRP environmental and social safeguard related assessments and studies. The meeting was held virtually and was attended by the federal Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, the PIUs and the Horizon Consulting Company on the 22nd May 2021 in accordance with the below agenda and objectives:

Meeting objectives and agenda:

- Understand the overall issues of the Environmental Management Regulations and Institutional Arrangements.
- Understand the project status and what has been achieved/developed so far.
- Filling the gaps in the inception report and refine the methodology.
- The existing land issues and compensations procedures.
- Managing the E&S issues of the sub projects.
- Identifying the key stakeholders necessary for consultations at all levels.
- AOB

The meeting was called to order at 09:00 am and the following a word of prayers, participants had introduced themselves and agreed on the proposed agenda for discussion. This was followed by introduction remarks by the Project Coordinator who explained the SESRP project design, key components and the expected contributions into the national energy sector recovery and the development at large. Mr. Abdisalam reiterated the significance of the meeting and how their input and feedback is critical for the successful project environmental and social safeguards. The coordinator also assured the consultant team the full support of the PIUs and the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources with regards to all their needs during their assignment.

The Project Coordinator then asked the Horizon Consultant team to also provide brief explanation of their companies and how the key issues they need to be supported during the inception phase. Ms. Amin who is the Managing Director of Horizon Consultant Company has provided background information of their company, their team composition and their previous tasks related to the environment and social safeguards.

MEETING MINUTES:

Discussion Points as per their Agendas:

Agenda 1: Understand the overall issues of the Environmental Management Regulations and Institutional Arrangements:

Thereafter, the Horizon Consulting Firm took over the lead and posed the first question which they asked about the existing national environmental regulations and the institutional arrangements.

In explaining the current states of the environment, existing regulation and the sector institutional arrangements, the project coordinator and the environmental specialists have both explained the overall issues in the current environmental governance. Mr. Abdisalam has started by stating that the National Environmental Regulatory system is weak and underdeveloped! Currently, the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change under the Office of the Prime Minister is the lead institution responsible for the development and implementation of the key policy and regulatory frameworks. The Cabinet endorsed Environmental Management Act acts as the key legal framework to strategically guide the country's environmental regulatory body. NOTE: This section related to the institutional and legal framework of the ACT is not very clear!

Somaliland, Puntland, Galmudug, Jubaland, Hirshabelle and South-West State have established environmental institutions, but their capacity varies greatly. In addition to the line ministries, both Somaliland and Puntland have designated environmental agencies.

In addition, there isn't a fully functional legal implementation and enforcement department within any of the environmental institutions in Somalia to help in enforcing existing fragmented NRM policies and laws. The existing environmental regulations remains in shelves of the institutions with no or limited dissemination and enforcement strategies. This could be attributed to the limited capacities of the public institutions in terms of mobilizing enough resources and as well securing the effective commitment of the wider stakeholders to enforce Somalia's environmental regulations.

The institutional capacity and capabilities are also very weak despite the numerous capacity development programs the government has received. In addition, the current environmental institutions set-up and formation is also very weak and does not provide the necessary arrangements for effective compliance of environmental and social safeguards.

With regards to the existing coordination platforms and mechanisms, the existing political divisions and lack of effective coordination mechanisms in the country make the implementation of national programs challenging. Insufficient mechanisms for coordinating and integrating environmental priorities into the national policies and plans has led to a fragmented response to the pressing environmental needs and the longer-term development. The situation is further aggravated by the lack of or weak Inter-ministerial coordination mechanism to address issue of overlap and duplication of mandates and responsibilities.

Mr. Duncan from the Horizon Development has also asked about the existing national environmental policies and acts. And in response to this question, the Environmental Specialist has explained the existing national environmental regulations, policies and acts which includes; the

national Environmental Management Policy, The National Climate Change Policy, The draft National Environmental Management Act, Draft Ozone Layer Protection Regulation Act, the National Charcoal policy and the draft National Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Regulation. In addition to the state level environmental policies and regulations.

Regarding a follow-up question on the existing Somali electricity regulation; the PIUs has responded that the electricity regulator is not established, currently the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources exercises this mandate to act as a regulator. The electricity Act is currently deliberated at the parliament and once it's enacted, the regulator will be established.

Agenda 2: Understand the project status and what has been done so far:

The PIUs response was that; At the project level, The project so far has managed to recruit the E&S specialists, the consultant firm to carry out the E&S safeguards related studies and assessments. The PIUs has also developed environmental and social safeguard instruments and tools ToRs to guide and mitigate the key environmental and social safeguard related issue and gaps that may arise from the absence of the national ES safeguards regulations. A review of the ToRs is still in progress and once they are finalized will be shared with you -the Horizon company.

Regarding your request to have the project feasibility study, unfortunately; a detailed feasibility studies is yet to be carryout on the specific sites expected to develop certain activities such as the major load centers, the sites we plan to deploy mini grids for example or to do transmissions and distribution network design. This was mainly delayed due to negotiation and contracting challenge with the company and soon we hope to resolve this issue and speed up commencing the work so that it supports the finalization of the project design and as well contribute to the ES safeguard related assessment and studies. At least a background material that is useful for decision making is expected to be completed after the inception phase or by next month.

While we wait for that report, we will alternatively share with your city development plans that were part of the power master plan -which we have already shared with you- and you can generate some of the useful information such as generation sites, the transmission and even scope the land which the transmission and distribution work is expected to affect.

Finally, the Project Coordinator has concluded this agenda by assigning the project environmental and social specialists to do further discussions with Horizon team together with the legal expert.

Agenda 3: Land issues and compensation process

Mr. Duncan the lead technical person of the Horizon consultant company has asked about the major land issues in Somalia especially with regards to the development projects and the procedures towards dispute settlement and compensations.

This was thoroughly discussed and several PIUs team have explained the major land related issues in Somalia and the procedures towards compensation and land related disputes settlement including the legal expert, the project coordinator and the environmental and social experts and these are their contributions.

The legal expert has stressed that the existing land legal frameworks is majorly governed by the Land Laws of 1972 and 1980. Land ownership in general rests in the hands of the government for the benefit of the public interest, and private ownership (beneficiation, to be accurate) is granted by the public authorities, on a permanent basis by or temporarily as the case is with regards to most ownership rights. The main issue in terms of land property rights is contested ownership rights. Prior to the military rule private land ownership was safeguarded if it wouldn't contradict the public interest.

The municipal authorities are the lead institution with regards to the land issues. The municipality holds the record/register of land rights and is basically responsible for valuation of land properties. They also do evaluations of the acquired land and as well facilitate the resettlement procedure if needed and as well evaluate the number of compensations to be provided.

Land administration and management is virtually non-existent in Somalia. The country currently does not have a national land acquisition law; land tenure is likely to remain more collective than individual in nature, particularly in rural areas. When compared to requirement of ESS 5, the federal Government of Somalia laws has inadequacies around consultation requirements, eligibility for compensation, valuation method, grievance redress mechanism, disclosure of information and the timing of compensation payments. Hence, the Bank's ESS5 will take precedence over FGS laws. In terms of land acquisition for public interest purposes, the state has an absolute right to seize lands for public interest, but such a right is conditioned to reasonable compensation, which can be another property proportionate to the acquired land or a monetary compensation. The municipality can evaluate the acquired land as a starting point for determining the proper compensation.

A follow-up question regarding the project land acquisition plans was also asked by Ms. Amina who enquired since the project is going to use the donation principle and they rely on the previous city plan under the former government. Since the collapse of the previous central government, there are people who occupied this public land for many years. So how is the project going to approach these residents?

And in response to this question, the coordinator has stated that the project will majorly rely on the land donation agreement process and in compliance with the Bank's safeguard standards. The project resettlement plan will generally provide an overview of the land acquisition and if there is a need for resettlement and compensations.

Agenda 3: Managing the E&S issues of the subprojects

Another question raised by the Horizon consulting firm was about how the Ministry of Energy manages the environmental and social issues of the sub-projects and the PIU response was that;

-The PIU is committed to manage the environmental and social issues of the sub-projects following the World Bank's environmental and social safeguards standards. Together with the existing national and FMS regulations and policies. The PIU will ensure to develop and implement all the safeguard related frameworks and action plans.

-The project also recruited dedicated specialist responsible for the project environmental and social safeguards and monitor the compliance of the safeguard instruments and standards.

-At the sub-project level, an independent consultant will prepare the environmental and social safeguard instruments including the Resettlement Action Plan, ESMP, SESIA among others.

-Regular monitoring will be made to track the progress and ensure compliance with environmental and social management framework.

-Finally, the Ministry of Energy through the PIU, the Grant Manger, the Contractors and sub-contractors will be responsible for strict implementation of the project environment and social safeguard related issues.

Agenda 4: Institutional and Implementation Arrangements of the Project

Mr. Duncan from Horizon team has also asked about the project governance and management and the different roles played by the PIU, the Ministry and the Project Steering Committee.

In response to this question, the Project Coordinator has elaborated the overall project implementation arrangements and stated the fact that the project will be implemented by the MoEWR, FGS in Mogadishu and Somaliland Ministry of Energy in close coordination with the FMS, ESPs and the other line Ministries such as planning and Finance. The Director Generals at the Ministries of Energy shall have the overall oversight of the respective PIU.

The day-to-day project activities will be implemented by the PIU established at the MoEWR (FGS); in close coordination with the Federal Member States, the beneficiary ministries and ESPs.

The PIU team comprises of; the Coordinator, The financial experts, procurement specialist, social specialist and environment specialist, M&E specialist, legal expert and project technical expert. The PIU is sits at the Ministries of Energy both Somalia and Somaliland ad acts as a connecting body for the World Bank and the government institutions. Moreover, PIUs capacity in terms of financial management, procurement, environment and social risk management and monitoring is relatively good and regular training opportunities will be provided.

The project is expected to establish a Project Steering Committee (PSC); both at FGS and Somaliland Ministry of Financing levels respectively. The PSC will provide overall oversight of the project implementation; policy guidance; as well as take decisions on critical high-level implementation issues, such as approval of selection criteria and obligations of the beneficiary ESPs.

For further explanations, the project coordinator has referred the Horizon team to review the Project Appraisal Document-PAD.

Agenda 4: Identifying the key stakeholders necessary for consultations at all levels

Regarding the key stakeholders necessary for the project consultations at levels, the Environmental Specialist has informed the Horizon team that the project has drafted the Stakeholder Engagement Plan-SEP which contains all the necessary details of the project stakeholders, stakeholder analysis and prioritization and their engagement methodologies. The specialist also assured to share the SEP once the review process is completed.

Action Points/Response Given

PIU to share with the Horizon Consultant the City Development Plans,
Expedite the project feasibility study to generate the vital information necessary for the ES safeguard assessments and studies especially the Greenfield and Brownfield projects.
PIU to send the Stakeholder Engagement Plan report.
Both the environment and social specialists will closely work with the Horizon consultant firm to provide any technical support.
The inception report should clarify on the aspect of the capacity development and how Horizon Development is planning to conduct the trainings at the Ministry level, at the private sector and the across all the key actors.

Conclusions:

After the agendas of the meeting were extensively discussed and debated. The project coordinator commended the participants for their lively engagements and commanded the Horizon team to expedite the process and as well address the previous gaps mentioned by the Bank team and the PIU. Mainly the need to clarify the scope and the methodology during the inception phase. The project coordinator thanked all the participants and closed the meeting.

List of Meeting Participants

No.	Names	Institution	Title/Function
1	Abdisalam Abdullahi	MoEWR - PIU	Project Coordinator
2	Abdihamid Abdirahman	MoEWR – PIU	Social Specialist
3	Mohamed Fatih	MoEWR – PIU	Legal Specialist
4	Ismail Bashir	MoEWR – PIU	M&E Specialist
5	Abdiaziz Arte	MoEWR- PIU	Financial Specialist
6	Abdullahi Ahmed (Najib)	MoEWR- PIU	Environmental Specialist
7	Mohamud Abdulkadir	MoEWR – PIU	Technical Expert
8	Liban Ibrahim	MoEWR – PIU	Procurement Specialist
9	Amina Salat	Horizon Developments	Managing Director
10	Ali Botany	Horizon Developments	ES experts
11	Duncan Onyaro	ESF	Lead Consultants
12	Peter Kivuva	ESF	Consultants

MEETING MINUTES

SOMALI ELECTRICITY ACCESS PROJECT (SEAP)

Type of Meeting:	Stakeholder Engagement – Government Bodies and Agencies at the FMS and Federal Level
Date of Meeting:	22 May 2021
Time:	10.00Am – 11.10Am
Venue:	Virtual Meeting – Zoom
Note Taker:	Liban Ali Ibrahim – Procurement Specialist, <i>PIU, SEAP</i>
Attendees:	Attached as Annex II

MEETING AGENDA:

No.	Subject
1.	Energy sector discussion with government bodies and agencies at States and Federal Level
2.	Environmental and social consultations with environmental institutions at state and federal levels
3.	Any Other Business AOB

MEETING MINUTES:

Agenda No.	AGENDA
1.	Environmental and social consultations with environmental institutions at state and federal levels
Discussion Points:	
<p>As part of the wider stakeholder engagement for the proposed Somali Energy Sector Recovery Project (SESRP), the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources engaged discussion with important government bodies and agencies with the federal member states level. The discussions were centered on the questions (Annex I) that were earlier shared with the attendees of the meeting.</p> <p>After a brief introduction from the participants, the meeting commenced with the project Coordinator appreciating and thanking everyone for having taken time to attend the meeting. The project coordinator, Mr. Abdisalam reiterated the significance of the meeting and how their input and feedback is critical for the preparation of the project. The coordinator also encouraged the strengthening of the close collaboration between the Ministry at the federal level and federal member states.</p>	

Thereafter, the Environmental Specialist of the project took over the lead and posed the questions (Annex 1) for interactive discussions.

Mr. Ismail Mohamed: the deputy project manager for the Puntland Energy Agency addressed the question of generation. He updated the meeting that power generation in Puntland is from hybrid system (wind turbines, BESS, solar panels and diesel-powered generators). 93% of the power is supplied by the diesel-powered generators while 7% comes from the solar renewable sources. He further added that, Puntland's annual power consumption is approximate to be 60GWh. In addition, the installation capacity is approximated at 50-55 MW.

The use of Biomass mainly the charcoal and wood-fuel in the region is very highly as more than 80% and the remaining percentage use LPG for cooking. This is mainly responsible for wonton tree cutting and the loss of vegetation cover and biodiversity at large. He also updated the meeting of plans that are underway to implement PPP in Puntland.

Mr. Abdisalam Abdullahi: inquired Puntland and other FMS to put forward the challenges they are facing regarding the energy sector and support that may require to streamline the sector.

Mr. Ismail Mohamed: highlighted Puntland's concern. The ministry requested support for institutional building to expand the ministry and the implementing agency's infrastructure capacity and shortage in human resource capacity. Mr. Ismail mentioned that Energy policy is ready however there are no other regulations available as at now.

Mr. Mohamud Abdullahi: of Puntland's Ministry of energy suggested the FMS to submit their needs in written form so that they can be discussed extensively in the next stakeholder meeting. Mr. Mohamed also applauded the Ministry of Energy and Water Resources for their commitment and constant engagement with the ministries at the FMS levels. He urged the Ministry to continue fostering the close relationships between the ministries involved.

Aidid Abdulkadir: from Galmudug highlighted that 99% of electricity is generated from diesel powered generators while the remaining 1% comes from the renewable energy sources such as the solar. The solar technology is in early stage in Galmudug regions, Galkacyo for instance produces 8MW. He also stated that the major towns use the energy from the private companies.

In addition to that, Mr. Aidid also identified the energy related regulation as the energy policy is in draft stage and developing solar regulations is progress. Regarding the use of charcoal and wood-fuel, he indicated that more 85% of the population depend on the use of the biomass energy for cooking and the accessibility of the LPG is limited.

Galmudug State raised concern with regards to the institutional building as match needed since the Ministry of energy's infrastructure has a limited space to work. Lack of capacity building and human resources (experts) and lack of policies and regulation that are approved from cabinet or parliamentary.

Mr. Ali Botany: from Horizon Developments inquired Aidid of Galmudug State and representatives from other states to share available documents regarding the energy sector.

Adan A. Isaak: In southwest State approximately 99% of its electricity is generated from the diesel-powered generators while the remaining 1% of generation is from renewable energy sources such as solar panels. Biomass use is more than 90% and the use of LPG is significantly limited. Mr. Adan underlined major towns of SWS including; Baidoa, Marka, Wajid, Hudhur, and Dinsoor purely rely on diesel powered generators and mix generation system is yet to be adopted apart from individuals use of stand-alone solar systems.

He informed that Southwest needs Institutional and human capacity building since the ministry of energy's infrastructure has a limited capacity to operate efficiently. He also touched on the lack of policies and regulations at the states level. Mr. Adan recommended the use of Centre trainings in state levels as an efficient way to enhance the human capacity rather than the use of individual training models.

Mr. Adan A. Isaak, suggested the need to create awareness on the use of solar generated electricity for home appliance and suggested shifting to this mode of generation as an efficient way to reduce deforestation level in South West and the country.

Mr. Yasin: Diesel powered generators produce more than 98% of the energy in Hirshabelle while the renewable energy sources only contribute in less than 2% and this limited to private companies and individual use. In Hirshabele, people who have access to electricity is also less than 60% and the use of Biomass is 90% for cooking and the rest use LPG gas. Mr. yassin raised the issue of possibility to expand electricity access in the region. He highlighted of how River Shabelle can be put into maximum use to generate hydroelectricity power which will not only suffice Hirshabelle but can service power to the nearby states and the country at large.

Mr. Mohamed Abdullahi: In this state, power generation from fossil fuels is 99%, and there is not any other form of production of electricity in Jubaland. Access to electricity in this region is also less than 50% while Biomass use is 90% and access to LPG is limited. Mr. Mohamed highlighted of the potential of hydroelectric generation in Juba land because of the River Juba.

Action Points/Response Given

FWS needs huge capacity support in terms of establishing and equipping the key environment, social and energy institutions in terms of financial and budgetary support especially in emerging states.

Federal Member States to share available documents and other studies to the project.

FMS to submit their needs in a written form prior to the upcoming stakeholder consultations meeting for extensive discussions.

The project to support FMS to develop relevant regulations and policies at state levels

Agenda No.	AGENDA
2.	Environmental and social consultations with environmental institutions at state and federal levels

Discussion Point:

Environmental and social issues were discussed with government bodies and environmental institutions at different levels. The discussions are summarized as below:

Mr. Mohamed: from the environmental directorate at the OPM highlighted the policies, and regulations in place to address related environmental and social issues. Mr. Mohamed mentioned of the cabinet endorsement of the climate change policy, 2020, and the National Environmental Act which is at the parliament for approval. The National Environmental Management Policy, 2020 and Ozone Layer Protection Regulation are also in place. The draft Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Regulations will be available soon for the effective implementations of the project. Mr. Mohamed has also mentioned of the existence of Charcoal Policy, 2021 that is intended to protect the environment from deforestation. He concluded his input by stressing the project to align its activities with the environmental and social policies in place.

Mr. Najib: the environmental specialist requested the Mr. Mohamed from the environmental directorate to share the available documents with the project.

Mr. Ahmed Bulshale: from the Puntland Ministry of Environment confirmed to the meeting that the Ministry has Environmental Impact Assessment Act developed in 2016 that guides the developments projects in Puntland region. In addition, Puntland has established the Environmental Management policy, 2016 and the Environmental Management Act 2017. In addition, the Puntland Ministry has also developed the state level environmental strategic plan to guide the state level environment and climate actions.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Bulshale has expressed the huge gaps that exists in the overall environmental governance in Puntland. Mainly due to the absence of enforcement institutions such as; absence rangers or environmental police. Together with the poor community awareness, poverty and unemployment of youth who are directly dependent on environment. This has caused destruction of environmental resources which threatens future generation he concluded.

Mr. Mohmed Musse: from Non-state Actors contributed and enlightened the meeting of the existence of Tidal energy. He stated of Somalia’s long coastal line and how that can be strategically used to generate energy for its local consumption. Mr. muse urged the use of renewable energy to mitigate the catastrophic drought experienced in the country which is immensely contributed using biomass energy. He suggested future energy projects to take into consideration this type of energy that will be very useful.

Mr. Abuu from the South-West State of Somalia stated that many South-West State’s people, as well as SWSS’s economy, rely on natural resources. The availability of water, pasture, and forests

are essential for rural livelihoods, agriculture, and livestock. Natural resource in South-West State SWSS is changing and degrading for various reasons such as consistence of droughts, floods, vegetation destruction and climate change.

SWSS strategic plan of 2019-Present. The Ministry of Environment and Wildlife SWSS established this strategic plan to implement their Forest Policy and Environmental Conservation Policy. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation developed the State Farmland Tenure and pastoral development of 2017. The Ministry of Energy, Water and Mineral Resources developed a State Water Policy and Draft Water Laws of 2019.

And finally, he stated the overall weakness in terms of environmental governance and specifically the environmental safeguard related capacities and capabilities.

Mr. Abdulkadir Kadiye representing the Jubbaland Ministry of Environment and Tourism has explained how their Ministry plays a significant role in advancing the state, social and economic agenda on environmental recovery and empowering environmental policy through sustainable management of the environment.

He further stated that the following policies that are developed by their Ministry and these are; Jubbaland Environmental Policy (2019), Environmental Impact Assessment policy (2018)

Solid waste management policy and strategies (2017), Strategies plan and priorities documents (2019). He concluded his remarks by saying that; the existing laws and policies are outdated and sometimes overlap resulting in confusion and costly institutional and management set up.

Issues and Concerns raised by the stakeholders

Absence of Environmental and Social safeguard regulations at the Federal and FMS levels creates a huge national safeguard gaps. Now, the entire ESS is led by the World Bank or other donors whose safeguard policies are referred for implementation of the development project's ESS. Strong government involvement is needed.

No capacity to handle ESIA.

Electricity Service Providers are not oriented towards the safeguards, and they don't have safeguard policies or strategies in their companies.

Greater percentage of the household in all the FMS depends on charcoal and biomass as their main source of cooking.

Due to the reported institutional capacity limitations at all levels, the SESRP project should contribute towards enhancing the capacity needs of the federal and FMS institutions.

There is need for frequent and more stakeholder technical consultations regarding the project design and ES safeguard related issues especially during the pre-implementation stage.

Agenda No.	AGENDA
4.	Any Other Business (AOB)
Conclusions:	
There being no any other business the project coordinator closed the meeting	
Action Points:	
N/A	

MEETING ACTION POINTS:

Min	Action Item	Responsible Party	Status
1	Need for institutional and human resource capacity building at state levels.	MoEWR/ASCENT	
2.	Federal Member States to share available documents and other studies to the project.	FMS	
3.	FMS to submit their needs in a written form prior to the upcoming stakeholder consultations meeting for extensive discussions.	FMS	
4.	The project to support FMS to develop relevant regulations and policies at state levels	ASCENT	
5.	Directorate of Environment at OPM to share existing environmental and social documents, policies and regulations with the project for guidance and implementation	OPM	

NEXT MEETING – Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

Date	Location
Tentatively, 7 th June, 2021	TBD

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the generation mix and capacities?
2. Is there hydroelectric power generation in Somalia? If yes where and capacity?
3. How do you manage environmental and social issues in energy sector?
4. Projects implemented by development partners.
5. Do the proponents undertake ESIA study for the energy projects?
6. What are some of the E&S issues common in the sector?
7. Is biomass used in energy generation?

List of Participants

No.	Names	Institution	Title
1.	Ismail Mohamed	Puntland State PEDDA	Deputy Manager
2.	Muna Abdillahi	Puntland State PEDDA	Energy Director
3.	Mohamud Abdullahi	Puntland State PEDDA	Planning Officer
4.	Omer Mohamed Jama	Puntland State Ministry of Energy	Planning Director
5.	Mohamed Abdullahi	Jubaland State Ministry of Energy	Director of Energy Department
6.	Abdulkadir Kadiye	Jubaland State Ministry of Environment	Environmental Technical Adviser
7.	Aden A. Isaak	South West State Ministry of Energy	Director General
8.	Abdulkadir Abuu	South West State Ministry of Environment	Environmental Governance Adviser
9.	Aidid Abdulkadir	Galmudud State	Director of Energy Department
10.	Abdinuur Khaliif	Galmudug State Ministry of Energy	Admin and Finance
11.	Ummul-khair M.	Galmudug State Ministry of Energy	Environmental Governance Adviser
12.	Yasin Ahmed	Hirshabelle State Ministry of Environment	Environmental Adviser
13.	Ahmed Bulshale	Puntland State	Environmental Officer
14.	Amina Salat	Horizon Developments	Managing Director

No.	Names	Institution	Title
15.	Ali Botany	Horizon Developments	ES experts
16.	Duncan Onyaro	ESF	Lead Consultants
17.	Peter Kivuva	ESF	Consultants
18.	Mohamed Musse	Non- State Actors	Information Director
19.	Mohamed Shakir	Directorate of Environment - OPM	Legal Compliance Director
20.	Abdisalam Abdullahi	MoEWR	Project Coordinator
21.	Abdullahi Ahmed (Najib)	MoEWR	Environmental Specialist
22.	Abdihamid Abdirahman	MoEWR	Social Specialist
23.	Ismail Bashir	MoEWR	M&E Specialist
24.	Abdiaziz Arte	MoEWR	Financial Specialist
25.	Mohamed Fatih	MoEWR	Legal Specialist
26.	Mohamud Abdulkadir	MoEWR	Technical Expert
27.	Liban Ibrahim	MoEWR	Procurement Specialist

MEETING MINUTES

SOMALI ELECTRICITY ACCESS PROJECT (SEAP)

Type of Meeting:	Stakeholder Engagement – PIU, Horizon and ESPs.
Date of Meeting:	22 May 2021
Time:	10.00Am – 11.10Am
Venue:	Virtual Meeting – Zoom
Note Taker:	Abdihamid Abdirrahman Hassan, <i>PIU, SEAP</i>
Attendees:	Attached as Annex III

MEETING AGENDA:

No.	Subject
1.	Evaluating the existing environmental and social safeguards of the ESPs.
2.	GRM frameworks of the ESPs
3	Any Other Business AOB

MEETING MINUTES:

Agenda No.	AGENDA
1.	Evaluating the existing environmental and social safeguards of the ESPs.
Discussion Points:	
<p>Mr Abdisalam, the project coordinator, opened the meeting and welcomed all the participants: PIU team, Horizon and representatives from the EPSs. After a brief introduction, the project coordinator proceeded to the first agenda of the meeting which was evaluating the existing environmental and social safeguard policies/frameworks in place for ESPs and whether have they E&S specialists.</p> <p>NECSOM CEO Abdirizak: Mr Abdirizak noted that his company does not have environmental and social safeguard specialist nor E&S safeguard policies but they do carry out E& S risk assessments before they undertake new projects- mostly carried out by project engineers. Mr. Abdirizak added that they understand the importance the environmental and social safeguard but they lack the capacity to address them. As for the disposal of the batteries, Mr. Abdirizak was very happy to report that his company battery disposal plan – batteries are stored in a safe place before they’re sold to an Ethiopian company which recycles them in Ethiopia.</p> <p>ANEE (Bossaso) Abdiaziz: Anee representative, Mr Abdiaziz stated that his company does not have an environmental and social specialist but has safeguard policies/procedures, albeit at rudimentary stage, to address the E&S risks and they are in the processes to hire an E&S safeguard specialist and formulate proper ES safeguard policies asking for the ministry’s help for both. Operating in Puntland means they have to follow state’s ES safeguard regulations- making hiring E&S specialists compulsory.</p> <p>NEPCO (main ESP in Nugaal and Mudug) Mohamud: Mr Mohamud stated that his company has both ES safeguard specialist and a well-established environmental and social safeguard policies. They also follow the state’s social and environmental safeguard regulations (Puntland State has a relatively developed ES safeguard regulations). He also averred that his company’s objective is go 100% renewable energy and take further steps to address all negative social and environmental impacts from their process.</p>	

BEC, Adam: Mr adam noted that his company lacks capacity to address environmental and social issues but have been working to formulate environmental and social safeguard policies and hiring E&S specialists. Mr Adam further asked for help in both policy formulations and training for their social and environmental specialists when they hire them.

Blue Sky CEO Abdulkadir Hassan: Mr Hassan stated that his company has environmental and social safeguard policies in place and is working on hiring environmental and social safeguard specialists.

WESCO, Mahad Awad: Awad said that his company does not have ES safeguard policies but practice bits and parts of it: addressing occupational hazards complains and putting the safety of their employees and customers first in their projects. Mr Awad added that they compensations processes is not well structured (no proper GRM policies) but still proved to be effective when addressing complaints.

Environmental safeguard specialist, Najeb: Mr Najib inquired if ESPs undertake EIAs and other risk assessment studies before undertaking a new project.

Blue Sky CEO Abdulkadir Hassan: Mr Hassan noted that while they don't have comprehensive risk assessments mechanisms in place, they carry out environmental and social impact assessments and is addressed by project Engineers rather than actual ES specialists. On the other hand, Blue Sky protects its employees from occupational hazards by giving them protections gears and compensations in the case of injury at the place of work. Blues sky also protects customers but employing advanced equipment with a 24/7 hotline for complaints -mostly related to inconveniences from the service.

WESCO engineer, Mahad Awad: Mr Awad also gave similar answer. Plus, confessed his company has doesn't carry EIAs before projects. .

BEC, Adam Isak: Mr Adam said while his company does not undertake EIAs before projects for now they are going to soon as they are working on formulating their safeguard policies and hiring E&S safeguard specialists.

NECSOM, Abdirizak: NESCO carries out EIAs before projects but it's undertaken by engineers rather than specialists.

NEPCO, Mohamud: Mr Mohamud detailed how his company carries out EIAs before new projects – carried out by specialists in the field – and as a result, they reduced adverse environmental, and social impacts of their projects.

ANEE (Bossaso) Abdiaziz: MrAbdiaziz As a company with established ES safeguard polices and specialists, ANEE carries out EIAs and other ES safeguard studies before projects.

Action Points:

Another stakeholder meeting to be held within a short period of time.

Ministry to help ESPs formulate ES safeguard policies and educate them about the existing country ESS frameworks and regulations

Agenda No.	AGENDA
2.	GRM frameworks of the ESPs
Discussion Points:	
<p>Social safeguard specialist, Abdihamid: Mr Abdihamid sought to understand how ESPs address grievances and whether they have GRM frameworks.</p> <p>NEPCO, Mohamud Yasin: Mr Mohamud stated that NEPCO has advanced ES safeguard policies, ES specialist and a comprehensive GRM framework, albeit with gaps. And because NEPCO operates in Puntland, a state with relatively advanced E&S safeguard frameworks and regulations, they apply those regulations to all their projects. Farah further added the importance of filling the gaps in their ES frameworks and sought the PIU and Ministry’s help on that.</p> <p>WESCO engineer, Mahad Awad: Mr Award, on the other hand, conceded that his company has no GMR framework in place and as result asked the Ministry to help them formulate their ES and especially GRM frameworks. Further noting that any aggravated party can directly call the company, but they don’t receive social or environments complaints alluding that the public is not sensitized about these issues.</p> <p>Abdirizak Muse, CEO of NECSOM: Abdirizak stated that, although, his company doesn’t have the E&S safeguard frameworks in place, yet it implements parts of ES safeguards and even address grievances. He also asked for governments help to formulate these policies.</p> <p>Blue Sky, Abdikadir Hassan: Mr Hassan admitted that while ES safeguards frameworks and GRM are almost nonexistent but pointed out they still practice ES risk mitigation procedures and address complaints related to labor and land.</p> <p>NECSOM AND EENEE representatives, Adam and Mohamud, also gave similar answers. Parts of GRM are practiced inadvertently but there’s no comprehensive framework in place. Adding that both are to have these policies in place soon and hire E&S safeguard specialists.</p> <p>In summary, not all ESPs were equal when it comes to environmental and social safeguard policies. Some had advanced ES safeguard policies while others had incomplete ones. Where deficiency was across the board was GRM framework except NEPCO. It is important to point out that almost all had compensation mechanisms is the case of occupational health hazard for their employees. All ESPs sought government’s help in the formulation of these policies and frameworks. Almost all ESPs practice bits and parts of GRM especially when it comes to compensating for injuries for their employees and investigating OHS related complaints. As for land related issues, local governments allots them the land and hence avoid land disputes with individuals –which increases the cost as they take longer route or use underground lines. Lack of capacity and awareness about GRM was raised by all ESPs and sought the ministry’s help.</p>	

Action Points:
1-Help ESP formulate GRM frame works
2-Ministry to help raise awareness regarding the GRM
3- Hold capacity building training for ES safeguard specialists of the ESPs

Agenda No.	AGENDA
3	Any Other Business (AOB)
Conclusions:	
<p>There's no other business after the two agendas of the meeting extensively addressed and debated. The project coordinator commended the participants for their lively engagements and encouraged the ESPs to take ESS very seriously promising the Ministry and PIU team will do everything they can to address these issues.</p> <p>On the other hand, the ESPs representatives stressed the importance of moving to renewable energy and bringing down electricity costs so that can contribute emergence of startup and small scale business and as a result economic growth</p> <p>The project coordinator thanked all the participants and closed the meeting.</p>	
Action Points:	
N/A	

MEETING ACTION POINTS:

Min	Action Item	Responsible Party	Status
1	Capacity building training for ESPs' social and environmental safeguard specialists.	Project coordinator-Abdisalam- and – El & S safeguard specialists of the PIU-Abdihamid and Najeb.	
2.	To help ESPs develop ES safeguard policies and frameworks	E & S safeguard specialists of the PIU-Abdihamid and Najeb.	
3.	To evaluate the gaps in GRM frameworks of ESPs and help other ESPs develop their own.	Social safeguard specialists of the PIU - Abdihamid	

Min	Action Item	Responsible Party	Status
4.	To help ESPs recruit ES safeguard specialists.	Environmental and Social safeguard specialists of the PIU	
5.	To carry out awareness campaign to encourage clean energy.	Environmental and Social safeguard specialists of the PIU	
6.	To share ES policies of the ESPs with the ministry.	ESPs	
7.	To prepare environmental and social safeguard training plans	Environmental and Social safeguard specialists of the PIU.	

NEXT MEETING

Date	Location
Early next month	YTB

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you manage environmental and social issues?
2. Do the proponents undertake ESIA study for new projects?
3. Do you have ES safeguard policies? Do you have GRM?
4. What are the challenges ESPs face regarding E&S issues?

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	Names	ESPs	Position
1	Abdisalam Abdullahi	MoEWR	Project Coordinator
2	Abdullahi Ahmed (Najib)	MoEWR	Environmental Specialist
3	Abdihamid Abdirahman	MoEWR	Social Specialist
4	Ismail Bashir	MoEWR	M&E Specialist
5	Abdiaziz Arte	MoEWR	Financial Specialist
6	Mohamed Fatih	MoEWR	Legal Specialist
7	Mohamud Abdulkadir	MoEWR	Technical Expert
8	Liban Ibrahim	MoEWR	Procurement Specialist

No.	Names	ESPs	Position
9	Abdirizak Muse	NECSOM	General Manager
10	Mohamud A. Awad	WESCO	Chief Operating Officer
11	Abdikadir Hassan	Blue Sky	Chief Executive Officer
12	Eng. Abdiaziz Farah	ENEE	Chief Technical Officer
13	Mohamud Yassin	NEPCO	Chief Technical Officer
14	Adam Isak	BEC	Chief Technical Officer
15	Amina Salat	Horizon Developments	Managing Director
16	Ali Botany	Horizon Developments	ES experts
17	Duncan Onyaro	ESF	Lead Consultants
18	Peter Kivuva	ESF	Consultants

MEETING MINUTES

SOMALI ELECTRICITY ACCESS PROJECT (SEAP)

Type of Meeting:	Stakeholder Engagement – SSPs
Date of Meeting:	22 May 2021
Time:	1:30pm – 2:45pm
Venue:	Virtual Meeting – Zoom
Note Taker:	Liban Ali Ibrahim – Procurement Specialist, <i>PIU, SEAP</i>
Attendees:	Attached as Annex 1

MEETING AGENDA:

No.	Subject
1.	Consultations with SSPs on Environmental and Social Safeguard, and waste management plans
2.	Any Other Business AOB

MEETING MINUTES:

Agenda No.	AGENDA
1.	Consultations with SSPs on Environmental and Social Safeguard, and waste management plans
Discussion Points:	
<p>Discussion Point:</p> <p>Mr. Abdisalam: The project coordinator opened the meeting and appreciated all the attendees: PIU at the MoEWR, SSPs and Horizon developments members for joining the virtual meeting. After brief introductions, Mr. Abdisalam updated the SSPs on the status of the Grant Facility informing the participants the first advance payment is being proceed and will receive the payment in next week.</p> <p>Mr. Muhyiddin: The local coordinator for the Grant Facility provided a quick summary on the findings of the grant manager regarding environmental and social parameters of Solar Service Providers. Mr. Muhyidin mentioned that some of the weaknesses of the companies in the energy sector is lack of strong environmental and social policies that guide their operations. He highlighted that SSPs have some policies that help in the management of batteries but nothing beyond these policies reflect much of the realities on the ground. The rest of the policies SSPs have are general in nature such as gender, community policies etc. The SSPs generally need to be supported to develop important policies such as, Environmental policy, Gender Policy and BESS and Waste management policies that will be useful on the ground.</p> <p>Mr. Dancan Onyaro- <i>Harizon consultant firm</i>: - Inquired to know from the SSPs the common technology that is available in the market. The type of batteries used, their impacts, and policies in place for their storage and disposal</p> <p>Mr. Bashir Mohamed – <i>Dalsan Power</i>: - Stated that his company uses OFF-GRID technology. He also added the Battery types his company uses is Gel and LED ACID battery. He further added his company sells solar off grid products such as solar decentralize lights, solar pumping, solar water, solar chargers’ components etc. Mr. Bashir said that they ship their used batteries to neighboring countries for recycling.</p> <p>Mr. Musse Kahiye - <i>SunMax Company</i>: To supplement the points of Mr. Bashir, Musse stated his company is using Lithium type of battery which has 10years of life time but they also supply LED Acid Battery. He highlighted his company is aware and are concerned with the environment wellbeing and as a result compile all the used batteries in one place before disposing it.</p> <p>Mr. Said Mohamud - <i>SECCCO</i>: He noted that despite the use of new technology in the market in attempt to advance the local market and keep pace with the technology world, the private solar providers are still faced with waste management problems and he attributed his concern to lack of government policies in place for battery disposal and recycling. As a SECCCO company, Mr. Said</p>	

stated that they collect all the used batteries and ship to Kenya/Ethiopia for disposal purposes. He emphasized the importance to develop a waste management mechanism or facility in the country.

Mr. Bashir Mohamed – *Dalsan Power*: To further comment on the waste management, Mr. Bashir has highlighted the existence of a company known as African Solution Company that has waste management factory that Dalsan as a company has already contacted for future disposal and recycling of their used batteries and other wastes.

Mr. Najib Ali: To clarify more on the existence of recycling facility in Mogadishu, Mr. Najib stated that he happened to visit the African Solution Company that does recycling of plastics but doubts whether the company does battery recycling and is unaware of this development.

Mr. Bashir Mohamed: To support his earlier comment regarding the African Solutions Company, Mr. Bashir argued that the director of the company Mr. Hirsi Abdi informed him of the ongoing processes to provide waste management services for private companies that lack waste management mechanisms and are seeking external support to provide bring services closer to the locals.

Mr. Hussein kiro - SolarGen: commented on use of LED Acid and other technologies. He asserted that SolarGen has developed its own policies on west management program regarding batteries and solar appliances. He highlighted the importance of applying the Environmental policies at the national level.

Mr. Dancan Onyaro: Sought to understand whether there were some conditions attached to SSPs benefiting from the grant facility.

Mr. Abdisalam: responded to the clarification requested by Dancan and clearly highlighted some of specific conditions and compliance requirements attached to grant process. He further invited Muhyiddin to clarify more on the capacity building package mainly addressing the Environmental and Social issues that were to be provided to the SSPs.

Mr. Muhyiddin: clarified the capacity building package and said the package was aimed to provide the SSPs with general understanding of environmental and social concepts. He further noted that, the consultant doing the environmental and social studies for the project is expected to assist the SSPs to establish an indigenous Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that is specific for the industry.

Mr. Mohamed Abdirihim - Hayle Baires: Urged the SSPs and the Ministry of Energy to develop waste management policies and find lasting solutions to the waste related problems. He touched on the fact that most companies in the energy sector are slightly over 5 years and will face challenges in 25 years' time when they will need to recycle their solar panels and Batteries. To avert future obstacles, Mr. Mohamed suggests the private companies and the Ministry to engage dialogue to erect a recycling plant as this will help companies reduce costs in transporting wasting to neighboring countries.

Mr. Dancan Onyaro: requested to know the participation of women in the energy sector, and gender policies available.

Mr Abdisalame: responded to Dancan's comments by highlighting that, there are female led energy companies in the country and Yasmin - who is the chief operations officer (COO) is part of the meeting. He updated the meeting of the recently concluded a gender diagnostic assessment as part of the project's efforts to address the gender gaps in the energy sector. He further mentioned that the project has a gender focal point that support the project on gender related issues.

Action Points/Response Given

1. SSPs need for waste management plans.
2. The consulting firm, Horizon Developments to help SSPs develop specific ESMF for the energy sector.
3. Gender Diagnostic Assessment and Action plans is available and will be shared with the consultant firm.
4. Promote local companies like African Solutions Company that has the potentiality to recycle the battery wastes into useful products.

Agenda No.	AGENDA
4.	Any Other Business (AOB)
Conclusions:	
<p>The project coordinator thanked the participants for the interactive and lively discussions. He urged for the continuous support and collaboration of the SSPs and promised that the ministry is determined to enhance the energy sector.</p> <p>The project coordinator appreciated the attendees and closed the meeting.</p>	

MEETING ACTION POINTS:

Min	Action Item	Responsible Party	Status
1	SSPs need for waste management plans	Crosscutting	
2.	Consultant hired for the environmental and social studies to help SSPs develop specific ESMF for the energy sector	Horizon Developments	
3.	The project to share the Gender Diagnostic Assessment and Action plans with consultant	PIU - MoEWR	

Attendees:

No	Name	Title	Represent
1.	Eng siciid Mohamud	Business Development Manager	SECCCO
2.	Eng. Bashir Mohamud	Managing Director	Dalsan Power
3.	Yusuf Abdi	Operations Officer	Safa Energy
4.	Mohamed abdirihim	Operations Manager	Hayle Barise
5.	Mohamed Adil	Chief Operating Officer	Somnuur
6.	Muse Kahiye	Managing Director	SunMax
7.	Nur Abdiqadir	Operations Manager	Tamarso
8.	Ishak Salad Dahir	CEO	TESCO
9.	Abdihakim Shiekhdon	CEO	Delt Engineering
10.	Hussein Kirow	Project Engineer	SolarGen Technologies
11.	Yaasmin sheikhdoon	Chief Operations Officer	Samawat Energy
12.	Sammy Ratemo	Environment and Social Specialist, TA	World Bank
13.	Muhyiddin Sayid	Local Coordinator	Grant Facility, IBS
14.	Amina Salat	Managing Director	Horizon Developments
15.	Ali Botany	ES experts	Horizon Developments
16.	Duncan Onyaro	Lead Consultants	ESF
17.	Peter Kivuva	Consultants	ESF
18.	Abdisalam Abdullahi	Project Coordinator	MoEWR
19.	Abdullahi Ahmed (Najib)	Environmental Specialist	MoEWR
20.	Abdihamid Abdirahman	Social Specialist	MoEWR
21.	Ismail Bashir	M&E Specialist	MoEWR
22.	Abdiaziz Arte	Financial Specialist	MoEWR
23.	Mohamed Fatih	Legal Specialist	MoEWR
24.	Mohamud Abdulkadir	Technical Expert	MoEWR
25.	Liban Ibrahim	Procurement Specialist	MoEWR

NEXT MEETING

Date	Location
Tentatively, 7 th June. 2021	TBD

Annex 2. SESRP GRM

GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM PROCESS

Somalia Electricity Sector Recovery Project (SESRP)

INTRODUCTION

This Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is prepared by the Somalia Electricity Sector Recovery Project (SESRP) for purposes of addressing and subsequent resolving grievances stemming from the implementation of the SESRP, funded by the World Bank.

Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will ensure that project affected persons (PAPs) are fully informed of the GRM and their role, procedure for filing/logging and redress of grievances at the earliest time possible. This will allow any potential grievance to be addressed as soon as possible.

Grievance is any complaint that is related to the project whereas non-grievance (in reference to grievance register) is any complaint that is not related to the project.

GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM TIERS

Tiers	Membres
Tier 1 Contract/ activity level	1. contractor 2. Project legal specialist
Tier 2 SEAP Project level	Project implementation unit.
Tier 3	1. Project coordinator 2. Director General of MoEWR

NOTE

- *The above would constitute the project GRM. If the project level GRM levels fail to resolve a case, the complainant is free to seek redress from other mechanisms such as the Somali legal/judicial systems or the World Bank's GRM which includes the Grievance Redress Service (GRS).*
- *Responsibilities of the members in the different tiers is as per the verbatim in section 2.*

DESCRIPTION OF THE GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

- Eligibility to register a complaint or grievance;
 - Any person directly affected by the operation of the SEAP project;
 - Residents interested in and/or affected by the project living in the affected areas; and
 - Person's mandated to speak for directly affected persons.
- The project level GRM has been designed to be accessible, effective, easy, and understandable and without costs to the complainant except if they choose to pursue the legal route.
- Any grievance can be brought to the contract/activity (the lowest project implementation unit) grievance mechanism committee in writing, calling, WhatsApp, SMS, verbally in a face-to-face situation, email, or by filling in the grievance form. Complainants can choose to identify themselves or to remain anonymous or use third parties.
- The SEAP project shall provide a grievance register log that will have all necessary elements to disaggregate the grievance by gender of the complainant as well as by type of grievance. Each grievance will be recorded in the register with the following information at minimum: description of grievance; date of receipt, description of actions taken (investigation, corrective measures), and date of resolution and closure/provision of feedback to the complainant.
- All grievances shall follow the path of the following mandatory steps: receive, log, assess and assign, provide feedback to complainant/aggrieved, investigate, respond, follow-up and close-out.
- A contract/activity grievance redress committee (GRC) shall be set chaired by the legal specialist who will ensure complainants are able to register their grievances easily. The committee will assess the grievance and try to resolve it. In the event the matter is beyond the committee to deal with, the same will be referred to the project Implementation Unit.
- The grievance logbook will ensure that each complaint has an individual reference number and is appropriately tracked, and recorded actions are completed. The information to be recorded will include:
 - Name, age, gender of complainant/third party
 - Date the complaint was reported;
 - Date the grievance logged;
 - Action taken;
 - Date information on proposed corrective action sent to complainant (if appropriate);
 - The date the complaint was resolved and closed; and
 - Date response was sent to complainant.

Grievance Redress Mechanism Timing

No	Action	Timeframe
1	Acknowledgement of receipt of complain	3 days
2	Sorting out complains, investigate and assign for action	10 days
3	Resolution implementation	15 days
4	Frequency of updating the complainant about progress of the complaint resolution	Weekly

MONITORING COMPLAINTS

The activity/ contract Grievance Redress Mechanism committee shall be responsible for receiving and assessing the complaints as received and resolving where applicable. The activity/ contract GRMC will receive the forms and forward to the project legal specialist to follow up on the grievances. The legal specialist will determine whether the complaints need an administrative redress or can be solved at the contract/ activity level depending on the nature of the compliant. These processes will ensure transparency, fairness, consensus building across cases, eliminate unsubstantiated claims and satisfy legitimate claimants at low cost. It is notable that the response time will depend on the issue to be addressed but all measures will be put in place to ensure efficiency.

If the issue is not resolved at the activity/contract level, it will be escalated to the Project Implementation Unit.

If the grievance is not solved, the MoEWR can mediate between Project and the complainant to find a solution after which if the issue is not resolved, the complainant can seek legal redress but as a last option. MOEWR will endeavor to solve all grievances without resulting to the courts.

Note

MOEWR at all means discourages complainants to revert to the courts or to the World Bank directly before exhausting the low-level mechanisms provided. This is because the process may cost more and take longer time.

STAKEHOLDERS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

STEP	RESPONSIBILITY	REMARKS
1.	Complainant	Aggrieved Project Affected Person (PAP) raises complaint to Scheme GR Committee (SGRC).
2.	Contract GRM Committee	Formed at the contract/activity level and includes members (project legal specialist, project technical ex and the contractor) and tasked with Assessment, Categorization of grievances, Reviewing and investigating of grievances and providing of solutions. If it is not

STEP	RESPONSIBILITY	REMARKS
		resolved immediately, it is forwarded directly to tier 2 or through the legal specialist.
3.	Contractor	The Contractor resolves issues under his control. Any un-resolved issues are elevated to Project Committee.
4.	Project PIU	Consisting of the Project Implementation Unit arbitrates grievances between the Contractor and the PAPs, those that he is unable to resolve, the project coordinator escalates to the Ministry Director General
5.	MoEWR	Arbitrate grievances of aggrieved parties and refer issues to relevant Government institutions at the appropriate level whenever necessary.
6.	Regional court	All the grievances not resolved by the agreed GRM or which the aggrieved persons are dissatisfied with in terms of resolution, will be reverted to the complainant who will channel them to the Somalia court system, starting at Regional Court level.

Annex 3. Complaint Register

COMPLAINT/GRIEVANCE REGISTER	
Unique Reference No. Pre-Printed	Date:
Name of Complainant or Representative of group of complainants	
Contact Details of complainant or representative of group of complainants (if available), Anonymous complaints are also allowed.	Residence:
	Telephone:
Location where complaint is received:	Location the grievance is related to:
State	State
Region	Region
District	District
Grievance is related to (nature of complaint):	
	Other
Description of Complaint:	
Grievance	Non-grievance (grievances not related to the project)
Name of Complainant:	Signature/Thumb print of Complainant

Name of witness (If available)	Signature/Thumb print of witness (If available)
Name of recipient	Signature of recipient
Mode of receipt	Phone:
	Letter:
	Verbal:

Annex 4. Investigation Outcome/Resolution

INVESTIGATION OUTCOME/RESOLUTION	
Reference no of registered complaint:	Date:
Name of complainant or representative of group of complainants:	
Contact details of complainant or representative of group of complainants (if available):	Residence:
	Telephone:
Location where complaint is received:	Location where complaint is related to:
County:	County:
Sub-County:	Sub-County:
Division:	Division:
Location:	Location:
Sub-location:	Sub-location:
Village:	Village:
Project	
	Other
Complaint is related to:	
Response to complainant (investigation outcome and resolution proposed)	
Acknowledgement of resolution by complainant:	

I hereby acknowledge that the resolution provided by.....is acceptable to me and/or to the group that I represent.

Name/Thumb print of complainant or representative of group of complainants	Signature/Thumb print of complainant or representative of group of complainants
Name/thumb print of witness (if available)	Signature/thumb print of witness (if available)
Name of personnel	Signature of personnel

THE GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM PROCESS

