

Environmental Monitoring Report

Bi-Annual Report
July-December 2017

L2752-ARM: Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program – Tranche 1

Prepared by the Yerevan Municipality for the Asian Development Bank.

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ARM: Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program, Tranche 1

Project Number: 42417-023

Loan Number: L2752-ARM

Prepared: January 2018

Prepared by the Yerevan Municipality

Yerevan Project Implementation Unit

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AP	affected people
DESC	detailed engineering and construction supervision consultant
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EMP	environmental management plan
EMR	environmental monitoring report
ES	environmental specialist
GRM	grievance redress mechanism
H&S	health and safety
IEE	initial environmental examination
MNP	Ministry of Nature Protection
NPE	nature protection expertise
PIU	project implementation unit
REA	rapid environmental assessment
RA	Republic of Armenia
RE	resident engineer
SEMP	site-specific environmental management plan
SPS (2009)	Safeguards Policy Statement (2009)
SUDIP	Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program
YM	Yerevan Municipality

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I. Introduction

1. This bi-annual environmental monitoring report covers the time period of July-December 2017. The report was prepared by PIU ES.

A. Project Description

2. The Government of Armenia received a loan on 19 May 2011 from the ADB to finance the SUDIP, Tranche 1. The main objective of the Project is to build a new highway to expressway standards that links the existing Shirak Street and Arshakunyats Avenue to the Artashat highway.

3. The Project comprises the following main components:

- (i) the construction of a new 6-lane divided road;
- (ii) the construction of a round-about at Shirak street; and
- (iii) the construction of road links.

4. Within Tranche 1 there are two crossroad-underpasses to be constructed on Arshakunyats-Garegin Nzhdeh crossroad (Hayrenik underpass) and Arshakunyats-Bagraturunyats crossroad (Banvori underpass). Work on these sub-projects is still in the feasibility stage and will be subject to ADBs Environmental Assessment process prior to project approval being given.

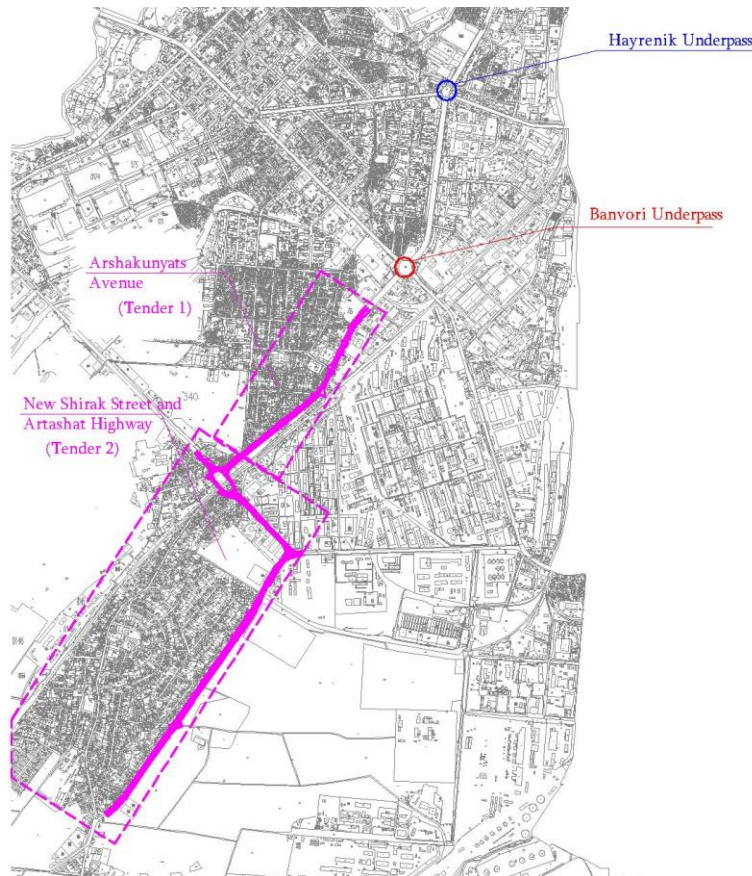


Figure 1: Map showing the Tranche 1 location

B. Project Progress

5. Construction of the Tranche 1 (tender 1 and tender 2) is already implemented. During the reporting period there were no environmental, health and safety additional physical measures have been taken for Tender 1 and Tender 2 as no any construction works have been implemented. Defect liability period of Tender 1 is finalized on 15 December 2017. The Contractor has implemented all its contractual obligations. For Tender 2 there are pending remedial engineering works which should be completed by 30 May 2018. As the defect notification period has been finished on 30 November 2017 the Contractor has provided bank guarantee to cover the period starting from 30 of November 2017 till of 30 May 2018.

C. Institutional Arrangements of the Project

6. The major tasks of the PIU ES are to carry out the overall environmental management ensuring full compliance of the Project implementation with Armenian legislation and ADB SPS (2009). The ES serves as a liaison between the safeguard team of DESC, YM, the executing agency, MNP of the RA and Ministry of Culture of the RA, project affected people, ADB and develops and maintains direct relationships with government authorities, with the help of DESC ES organizes and conducts public consultations, etc. PIU ES Ruzanna Voskanyan manages all construction site activities related to the environmental issues and PIU land acquisition and resettlement specialist Sirak Gyulbudaghyan manages all resettlement and social aspects issues.

II. Environmental Management

A. Environmental Safeguards Program

7. The implementation of the environmental safeguards program started in January 2013 and was in progress during the reporting period.

a. ADB mission

8. An ADB mission to check compliance of Tranche 1 activities to the ADB SPS (2009) safeguard requirements took place on 13 July, 18 August and 16 November 2017. The mission was implemented by ADB international and national ESs, PIU ES, Engineer's ES and Contractor's representatives also joined the mission. The missions were mainly for the review of outstanding complaints and also to examine potential compliance issues relating to the operation of the road and noise and legacy issues following completion of the construction such as road safety.

9. During the reporting period a number of studies were commissioned for noise and vibration to examine whether construction practices were likely to have damaged remaining properties (vibration) and also to identify whether the constructed road will be in compliance during operation (noise). The studies for vibration concluded that impacts from vibration were negligible. However, for noise preliminary results indicate there may be some compliance issues, and these are being further investigated in 2018.

b. Grievance Redress Mechanism and Public Consultation

10. For feedback, concerns and complaints from the APs, a GRM, inspired by the problem solving function of ADB's guidelines and policies should be maintained for the duration of the Project. The GRM is intended to assist aggrieved persons in lodging their complaints and to describe the mechanism designed to redress their grievances in a timely and effective manner. The parties potentially involved are: the complainants, Contractor, DESC, PIU, EA, NGOs, and the courts. The details of the GRM operation could be found in EIA for Tender 2 road links¹.

11. During the reporting period complaints for tender 2 (table 1) regarding cracks and other issues potentially caused during the construction process were addressed by the Contractor's, Supervision Engineer's social specialists coordinated by Sirak Gyulbudaghyan– PIU land acquisition and resettlement specialist.

Table 1 – Status of complaints during the reporting period

	AP	Address	Complaint	PIU's feedback/actions
1	Marica Hajjyan, Artyom Sargsyan	Noragavit street 1, impass 1, house 4/1	cracks issue, request to acquire the whole property	Rejected (the AP has applied to the Court. The court case is not resolved yet.)
2	Norayr Mkrtchyan	Arshakunyats 286/21	cracks and humidity issue, request to acquire the whole property	The AP was compensated (AP applied to ADB's accountability mechanism and complaint has been resolved through OSPF)
3	Samvel Gyulnazaryan	Noragavit 1 street, house 25	Request to renovate the wall	Rejected (The revised Engineers Report submitted to ADB on 25 December 2017 as no evidence construction work bring to deterioration of wall existing condition).
4	Sirekan Khachatryan	Artashat highway 6	cracks issue, request for compensation	The APs fence was reconstructed in October 2017 and the case was closed.

¹ EIA/EMP for Tender 2 H.2. Grievance Redress Mechanism, page 43 of 57.

5	A group complain (8 APs)	Arshakunyats 296	Cracks issue, request for compensation for reinforcement of balconies	pending (Corrective action plan is under revision)
6	Samvel Gevorgyan	Noragavit 1 street, impass 2, house 1/2	Interior wall become external wall safety exposed foundations	PIU originally rejected APs request (AP has applied to the Court. The court case is not resolved yet. Also AP has applied to the accountability mechanism and the case under consideration.)

12. Of the six complaints listed in Table 1, 5 remain open in 2018 and all efforts will be made to close these complaints within the reporting period.

c. Meetings and Communication

13. N/A for the reporting period

d. Awareness Raising and Environmental Training

14. N/A for the reporting period

e. Health & Safety Accident/Incident Report

15. Road Police department has installed in Artashant highway (Tender 2) speed camera which will keep under control movements of the vehicles. All necessary permanent traffic signs were installed under Tender 2 construction and currently these signs are under Road Police control. One pedestrian overpass was constructed under Tender 2 in Artashant highway. All the mentioned measures are serving as a ground for nearby community and vehicles/drivers H&S.

III. Environmental Monitoring

A. Environmental Monitoring Program

16. Tender 1 and 2 are under inspection of defect notification period during reporting period. By the end of reporting period PIU, DESC and Contractor ESs conducted last monitoring audit site visit to Tender 1 and Tender 2. The Contractor has implemented all its environmental contractual obligations for Tender 1 and Tender 2. The survival status of the planted trees is in compliance with the requirement of EIA/IEE for Tender 1 and Tender 2.

B. Non-compliance Notices

17. N/A for the reporting period

C. Corrective Action Plans

18. N/A for the reporting period

IV. Findings and Recommendations

19. Noise preliminary results indicate there may be some compliance issues, and these are being further investigated in 2018. The appropriate mitigation measures will be developed.

V. Future program

N	Action	Time frame	Responsible
1	Submit REA checklists for Banvori and Hayrenik underpass	During the next reporting period 2018	PIU, DESC
2	Resolving the complaints	During the next reporting period 2018	PIU
3	Reporting on environmental safeguards	bi-annual	PIU
4	For operational noise, establish mitigation requirements and agree with ADB on plan for implementation as needed	During the next reporting period	PIU