

## Public Consultations Summary

The World Bank procedures require that an ESMF be prepared and publicly disclosed prior to project appraisal. This allows the public and other stakeholders to comment on the possible environmental and social impacts of the project, and the appraisal team to strengthen the document as necessary, particularly measures and plans to prevent or mitigate any adverse environmental and social impacts.

During the process of preparing the ESMF, the *PSIA to inform the ESMF* involved stakeholder consultations. More than 20 organizations based in Yangon were consulted; many of which were CSOs with a specific focus on ethnic minorities, land and/or gender. In addition, key resource persons identified as those that could provide insights relevant to ethnic minorities were interviewed. An early consultative meeting was held on January 30, 2015 in Yangon with civil society organizations, including some ethnic minority organizations. Background documentation on the proposed project was prepared in Myanmar and English and provided in advance of this meeting. In addition, meetings and discussions were held with community leaders and CSOs in Chin and Shan States during the PSIA field visits.

Public consultations on the draft ESMF and Preliminary PSIA were held in Mandalay on May 14 in Taunggyi, Shan State, on May 16 in Mandalay and on May 18 in Yangon. The two documents were disclosed in Myanmar and English languages on May 5, 2015 on MFLRD's website and on May 7 on MOEP's website. The documentation are also available at the joint MOEP and World Bank wiki site: [https://energypedia.info/wiki/Achieving\\_Universal\\_Access\\_to\\_Electricity\\_in\\_Myanmar](https://energypedia.info/wiki/Achieving_Universal_Access_to_Electricity_in_Myanmar)

A total of 129 stakeholders participated in the three public consultations from government agencies, civil society (21) and non-governmental (15) organizations. In addition PMO and World Bank staff and consultants attended the consultations.

The consultations were led by Mr. U Aung Myint, National Electrification Project Project Manager, MOEP in Mandalay and Taunggyi. The consultation in Yangon was opened by Mr. U Yan Linn, CEO of YESC and led by Dr. Soe Soe Ohn, Director at DRD. On behalf of MOEP and DRD they encouraged participants to provide feedback and input to the ESMF, also after the public consultations. They welcomed CSOs and NGOs to support the implementation of the Project and help inform and educate the public of the Project and the ESMF.

The key issues and comments raised at the public consultations are described in below table. These have been addressed in the ESMF, including providing more description of the community engagement and consultation process to be undertaken during preparation and implementation of subprojects.

ISSUES/COMMENTS	RESPONSE
<b>Project Specific</b>	
<p>How can the project speed up the roll-out of electrification? Should solicit support from private sector and other donors.</p>	<p>Reaching universal coverage by 2030 is an ambitious goal. The Project has set realistic goals in a context of increasing demand for electricity. Moreover, environmental and social impacts should be considered which implies that short-cuts that can have environmental and social impacts should not be used.</p> <p>The Project will involve private sector financing for off-grid subprojects.</p>

The off-grid component should receive the same amount of funding as the grid component.	Grid extension is a long term solution which is more efficient and therefore prioritized. Only remote areas will be covered by the off-grid component; e.g. in Chin, Kachin, Shan and Kayin States.
Cooperation with other ministries on rural electrification is needed for successful off-grid development. There should also be a clear role of the public.	The DRD PMO will cooperate with other government entities at Township level. National Electrification Executive Committee (NEEC) will oversee cooperation with other government entities and other stakeholders at Union level.
Transparency is key in the selection and implementation of subprojects, including for safeguard issues and particular for land acquisition and land use impacts and their compensation measures.	The project includes a consultation and community engagement strategy. The ESMF includes procedures for public disclosure and consultation regarding subprojects, including for the preparation of subproject safeguard instruments, such as ESMPs, RAPs and IPPs.
Inclusive project implementation is important, including for ethnic minorities.	The project is nation-wide and includes off-grid electrification subprojects for remote areas that will not be reached by the grid roll-out for 10 or more years. ESMF includes an IPPF which includes measures to enhance benefits to ethnic minorities.
<b>Safeguards / ESMF</b>	
Asides from the ESIA, a Health Impact Assessment should be conducted for subprojects.	Health impact is mainly linked to power generation, while the Project supports power distribution and small-scale off-grid subprojects. An assessment of potential health impacts, however, is included in the provisions for ESIA for subprojects
PMOs should solicit the support from CSOs/NGOs for implementation. CSOs/NGOs can support preparation of safeguard instruments.	The PMOs welcome support from CSOs/NGOs. The potential involvement of CSOs will be further stressed in the ESMF.
Need to identify and avoid impacts on physical cultural resources such as tombs.	Provisions to identify physical cultural resources, and avoiding adverse impacts on these, are included in the ESMF.
GoM has limited experience with public consultation and safeguards. How can the PMOs meet international standards?	The Project includes financing for technical assistance and training for general project implementation, and specifically for safeguards. Consultants, and possible CSOs will be hired to support implementation of the ESMF. The World Bank will prepare a country-wide technical capacity program for safeguards in Myanmar with other donors.
Land issues for hydro, coal and turbine should be carefully considered.	The Project will not finance coal and turbine power generation. The Project may finance mini-hydro schemes up to 1MW. Land issues for subprojects financed by the Project will be assessed for all subprojects and the RPF of the ESMF describes procedures and requirements for addressing land acquisition and related impacts.