

Summary of the CSO–World Bank Briefing on the Environmental and Social Aspects of the Rogun Hydropower Project October 7, 2025

Background

On October 7, 2025, the World Bank held the third online briefing with representatives of international and regional civil society organizations (CSOs) to discuss environmental and social aspects of the Rogun Hydropower Project (HPP).

These meetings form part of the World Bank's ongoing outreach to international civil society, complementing government-led consultations at the local, national, and regional levels. They provide an opportunity to discuss project progress, solicit feedback, and delve into CSO perspectives during the project's implementation.

Summary of the Discussion

The meeting covered progress on effectiveness conditions, updates on environmental and social instruments, resettlement and livelihood restoration, grievance mechanisms, gender considerations, and dam safety issues.

Issues raised by CSO participants

- CSOs inquired about the status of the September 12, 2025 letter, which concerned national stakeholder consultations conducted by the Rogun HPP Project Management Group (PMG).
- CSOs expressed concerns about incomplete reflection of some previous CSO comments in the environmental and social instruments, including the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), requesting a consolidated response matrix.
- Questions regarding consultation notice periods and perceived gaps in transparency and documentation.
- Concerns were raised about resettlement figures and costs, including inconsistency between project documents and questions on who covers the cost of newly formed households.
- CSOs observed that livelihood restoration efforts remain underfunded and insufficiently detailed, with calls for stronger benefit-sharing mechanisms.
- Concerns about the independence and accessibility of the grievance redress mechanism (GRM), especially given that the Directorate of the Flood Zone is a government agency.

- Questions about the inclusion of gender considerations and joint property ownership provisions within the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP).
- Requests for clarification on seismic safety data and access to results of recent modeling.

Summary of World Bank responses

- The World Bank confirmed that 15 of 18 conditions of effectiveness had been met and that the remaining three, including publication of the ESIA and ESMP, were expected shortly. Since the meeting, the ESIA and ESMP have been cleared by the Bank and disclosed by the borrower and on the Bank's website.
- The Bank reminded participants that the Borrower is responsible for preparing, consulting, disclosing, and implementing ESF instruments; the World Bank conducts regular supervision missions to ensure compliance with Bank policies. The Bank has also responded to CSO letters addressed to the Bank, and posted the responses on its external website dedicated to the project. All CSO correspondence received to date has been reviewed and discussed with PMG and/or IFIs where relevant. However, the Bank does not speak on the Borrower's behalf.
- The SEP includes matrices with responses to issues that have been raised with PMG. The World Bank noted the request for consolidating the comments received since 2023. As the project has undergone more than 100 consultations, the Bank is assessing how best to address this request. CSOs were encouraged to write directly to the PMG.
- The World Bank reiterated that the environmental and social instruments, under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) are to be reviewed to reflect additional information and /or comments can be provided on an ongoing basis.
- An updated resettlement plan (RAP2) was disclosed on August 15th. Regarding RAP 2, the Bank clarified that RAP 2 applies to approximately 16,919 people (around 1,710 households). Married children forming new households receive separate land, while compensation for housing reconstruction is paid to the primary householder. Rising construction costs due to inflation were noted, and the government is considering additional ("top-up") payments for affected families.
- The World Bank clarified that DFZ handles first-tier complaints, while unresolved cases move to a community-based committee independent from DFZ. Few cases have reached that stage, and only one went to court. The World Bank continues working with the Government of Tajikistan on broadening and improving civic engagement, especially in upcoming livelihood and benefit-sharing consultations.
- On gender, the World Bank confirmed that around one-third of households are registered to women, mainly due to male migration, and that gender provisions

will continue to be integrated into the RAP and monitoring. Under Tajikistan law, joint ownership requires legal amendment, and the World Bank continues working with the Government on addressing this.

- The World Bank noted that livelihood restoration remains one of the most challenging aspects of the project, as openly discussed in the RAP 2. Current measures include training stipends, government support in cash and in-kind agricultural aid, and interest-free loans. Additional costing and design work are ongoing under the Socioeconomic Resilience Project. An updated livelihood restoration plan (LRP2) was disclosed on August 29th, 2025.
- On dam safety, the Bank confirmed that seismic risk assessments were completed and reviewed by the Dam Safety Panel. A public summary of the Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) will be released.

Summary of Action Points

- The World Bank to determine an approach for consolidating remaining stakeholder comments received since end 2023 for inclusion in the SEP.
- PMG to continue updating the ESIA and ESMP based on recent consultations, with public disclosure before effectiveness.
- The World Bank to advise the Borrower on providing adequate notice periods and full documentation for future consultations, and on clarifying with stakeholders that comments can be sent at any time, even if deadlines to submit comments are broadcast as part of in-person consultation cycles.
- World Bank to ask PMG to disclose a summary of the seismic risk assessment for public access.

Annex. List of Meeting Participants

CSO Participants	Organization
Eugene Simonov	Rivers without Boundaries Public Fund
Alexander Kolotov	Rivers without Boundaries Public Fund
Chinara Aitbaeva	Nash Vek Public Foundation
Manana Kochladze	CEE Bankwatch Network
Tala Batangan	Coalition for Human Rights in Development

Bank participants	Title
Charles Cormier	Regional Director, ECA Infrastructure
Alexandra Bezeredi	Lead Social Development Specialist
Maged Hamed	Lead Environmental Specialist
Chris Trimble	Rogun HPP TTL/Senior Energy Specialist
Stephan Garnier	Lead Energy Specialist
Esra Arikan	Lead Environmental and Social Standards Specialist
Nicole Frost	Manager, External Affairs, ECA
Amy Stilwell (moderator)	Senior External Affairs Officer
Christopher Walsh	Senior External Affairs Officer, ECA
Zarina Nurmukhambetova	External Affairs Officer
Dilafruz Zoirova	External Affairs Officer, Dushanbe/ECA