

Environmental and Social Management Framework Electrification Project



Goals of the National Electrification Project

Help increase access to electricity in Myanmar

Expected outcomes of the National Electrification Project:

- New household connections in urban and rural areas
- Priority for health clinics and schools, particularly in poor and vulnerable areas
- Coordinated, sector-wide institutional framework for electrification
- Strengthened institutional capacity of implementing agencies

What are the components of the National Electrification Project?

Component 1: Grid rollout- For extension of distribution lines operated by ESE and YESB and connections of villages and households.

Component 2: Off-grid pre-electrification- For mini-grids and household systems in remote villages unlikely to connect to the grid in the next 8-10 years. Includes:

- solar photovoltaic (PV) systems
- mini-hydropower
- Wind, diesel and hybrid systems (e.g. diesel/solar).

Component 3: Capacity building and technical assistance- For support to Government agencies (union, state/ region, district) to plan, implement, monitor and evaluate the NEP. Includes:

- technical design
- economic and financial analysis
- environmental and social impact management
- procurement and financial management.

Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response- Allows reallocation of project resources to respond to emergency needs, for example in the wake of natural disasters.

What is the Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESMF)?

- It is a legal commitment to comply with World Bank safeguards policies
- It applies to all sub-projects implemented under the National Electrification Project
- It defines procedures for Government to prepare and apply site-specific safeguard assessments and plans during project implementation to ensure compliance of sub- projects

Why an ESMF?

NEP is expected to provide social and economic benefits. However, some minor environmental and social impacts may occur. Impacts are minor and can be easily minimized or mitigated through measures in the ESMF

NEP will invest in a large number of local electrification sub-projects (grid and off-grid) which will only be identified during project preparation

Site-specific environmental and social impacts will therefore not be known until sub-projects are identified

An ESMF is therefore the preferred instrument to address World Bank safeguard policies during implementation of NEP

What are the Guiding Principles of the ESMF?

Comply with World Bank safeguard policies to identify and assess potential environmental and social impacts and risks, and avoid, minimize, or mitigate such environmental and social impacts and risks

Integrate environmental and social objectives into the preparation and implementation of environmentally and socially sustainable sub-projects

Promote capacity building and institutional strengthening to address environmental and social impacts

Promote transparency through stakeholder participation and public information disclosure

What does ESMF involve?

Procedures and guidance to:

- Screen and Scope all sub-projects: Eliminate sub-projects that are ineligible for financing. Identify potential risks.
- Undertake safeguard assessments and prepare safeguard plans as needed (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessment; Environmental and Social Management Plan; Land Acquisition Plan; Indigenous Peoples Plan (with Social Assessment and Free, Prior and Informed Consultations); Physical Cultural Resources Plan)
- Consult with beneficiaries, affected people and other stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of safeguard assessments and plans
- Implement Safeguard Plans

