Semi Annual Environmental Monitoring Report

For the Period from January 2026 to June 2026

Project Number: **49078-005**

Armenia: Seismic Safety Enhancement Project

(Financed by the Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific)

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For Asian Development Bank

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Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AEMR	Annual Environmental Monitoring Review
ATDF	Armenian Territorial Development Fund
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
GoRA	Government of the Republic of Armenia
MoTAD	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development
RA	Republic of Armenia
SSIP	Seismic Safety Improvement Program

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble

This report represents the progress and environmental safeguard activities for the Seismic Safety Enhancement Project (SSEP) (Grant No.: 9248-ARM / Project No.: 49078-005), financed by the Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific (JFPR) through the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

2.1 Program Description

1. The Seismic Safety Enhancement Project, financed by the Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific (JFPR), aims to improve seismic disaster preparedness and response capacity in Armenia. The country is highly vulnerable to seismic risk and needs to improve construction capacity and public awareness of seismic disasters. The outcome of the project is cost effective, climate-friendly, sustainable urban development, and enhanced disaster resilient school environment in Armenia. The project outputs are:

2. Output 1. Capacity for seismic disaster resilient infrastructure and risk management strengthened. Under this output: (i) Voskehat Secondary school located in Armavir region will be reconstructed meeting the safety standards for MSK IX scale earthquakes, with wheelchair access and sex-disaggregated toilets; (ii) a building maintenance guide will be developed for the completed school and training for at least 56 school administrative staff conducted on its application (40% female).

3. Output 2. Awareness on seismic safety, climate change, and environment resilience increased. Under this output: (i) an awareness program on seismic risks and responses will be developed and implemented for a targeted population of at least 200,000 students aged 10–19 (40% female); (ii) a study visit will be conducted for 10 government and implementing agency staff, academy, and engineers to Japan to gain insights on seismic disaster management, engineering, and sustainable urban development (40% female); (iii) air pollution sensors will be installed in 10 selected schools, including the Voskehat school, and climate risks awareness and education will be enhanced for 3,000 students (40% female).

4. The Project was approved on 11 December 2024, signed on 17 December 2024 and became effective on 17 September 2025. The project physical completion is on 31 December 2028 and financial completion is on 30 June 2029. Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure is the executing agency and the Armenian Territorial Development Fund is the implementing agency of the project.

2.2 Program Contracts and Management

The Armenian Territorial Development Fund (ATDF) will serve as the Implementing Agency responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities, while the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) will act as the Executing Agency overseeing implementation. The Seismic Safety Improvement Program (SSIP) Steering Committee will coordinate implementation and facilitate project-related decisions, and the ATDF Governing Council will provide strategic leadership.

The Detailed Engineering Design Consultant (LOOK LLC) and the International Consultant–Engineer (OYO Corporation) were mobilized following contract signing. The detailed engineering design activities commenced, while the International Consultant–Engineer started supporting the Project implementation and technical review process.

Preparatory activities for the procurement of construction supervision and civil works remained ongoing.

The preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the construction works envisaged under the detailed design forms part of the Design Consultant's contractual scope of services.

2.3 Project Activities during Current Reporting Period

During the current reporting period, the Project continued to progress in accordance with the approved implementation schedule, with activities focused on project preparation, consultant mobilization, environmental compliance, and stakeholder coordination.

Environmental and social safeguard activities advanced during the reporting period. The EIA documentation and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) continued to be developed in compliance with the national legislation and ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (2009). It was determined that the proposed construction footprint exceeds 1,500 square meters, which triggers the requirement for State Environmental Impact Assessment and Examination (EIAE) in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia on Environmental Impact Assessment and Examination. In line with the provisions of the Law, construction activities exceeding the established threshold were subject to mandatory EIA and state environmental expert review by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia. The construction works design was classified as a Category B activity under the EIAE Law.

The first public consultation was conducted in Voskehat settlement as part of the State Environmental Impact Assessment process, while continuous coordination was maintained with relevant stakeholders to integrate environmental and social considerations into the project design. The first public consultation has been conducted in the Voskehat settlement as part of the State EIA procedure on April 1, 2026. In accordance with legal requirements, the community has been duly notified at the initiation of the EIA process for the planned works. The announcement of the public consultation has been published in a daily newspaper and on the community's official website on the March 5, 2026.

Overall, no civil works commenced during the reporting period, and project implementation remained focused on design, procurement preparation, institutional coordination, and compliance with environmental and social safeguard requirements.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARD ACTIVITIES

3.1 General Description of Environmental Safeguard Activities

During the reporting and project preparation phases, the environmental safeguard activities focused on establishing regulatory compliance, public consultation, and EIA preparation in accordance with the ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS, 2009) and the RA Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise.

Key environmental safeguard activities undertaken include:

1. Preparation and Status of Environmental Safeguard Documentation:
2. An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), including an Environmental Management Plan (EMP), was developed to evaluate potential physical, biological, and socio-economic impacts. The project is classified as Category B for environment.
3. The IEE will be updated by the end of Q4 2026 upon completion of the detailed engineering design. The update will incorporate the finalized design parameters, confirm the environmental impacts and risks associated with the proposed works, and revise the applicable mitigation measures and Environmental Management Plan, as necessary. The updated IEE and EMP will be reviewed and cleared by ADB prior to the commencement of construction works.
4. Since the proposed construction footprint exceeds 1,500 square meters, the project triggers the national requirement for a State Environmental Impact Assessment and Examination (EIAE) under Armenian law (classified as a Category B activity).
5. The national EIA report and Site-Specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) are being finalized for state expert review by the Ministry of Environment of Armenia.
6. First Public Consultation (IEE Framework): Organized on May 18, 2023, in Voskehat settlement to present the environmental concepts, potential construction-phase impacts (such as dust, noise, vibration, waste management, and traffic), and proposed mitigation measures to community members and stakeholders.
7. Second Public Consultation (State EIA Framework): Conducted on April 1, 2026, in Voskehat settlement following public notification published on March 5, 2026, as part of the mandatory state EIA procedure.
8. Environmental safeguard requirements, mitigation specifications, and clauses have been integrated into the technical specifications and tender/contract documents for design.

9. Environmental, Health, and Safety (HSE) Specialists are mandated for both the Supervision Engineer and the Civil Works Contractor once construction commences.

10. A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) has been established to receive, log, and resolve any environmental or social concerns raised by affected persons throughout the project lifecycle.

11. Regular semi-annual Environmental Monitoring Reports (SEMR/AEMR) are planned for submission to ADB and disclosure on both ATDF and ADB websites.

3.2 Overview of Monitoring Non-conformances during Current Period

Monitoring activities during the reporting period focused on reviewing project documentation, ensuring compliance with ADB safeguard requirements and national legislation, advancing environmental and social assessment processes, and coordinating with relevant stakeholders. The Project implementation remained in compliance with applicable requirements, and no corrective actions were required during the reporting period.

3.3 Waste Management

Waste management activities during the reporting period were limited to planning and compliance measures. Waste management requirements were incorporated into the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and will be implemented during the construction phase in accordance with the national legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).

3.4 Health and Safety

Health and safety efforts during the reporting period focused on integrating occupational health and safety requirements into the Project planning and implementation process. Relevant health and safety provisions were incorporated into the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and will be implemented during the construction phase in accordance with the applicable national legislation and the ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (2009).

3.5 Training

Preparatory activities for future capacity-building and awareness programs were undertaken through consultations with relevant stakeholders. Planning activities focused on the development of training materials programs related to seismic safety, disaster preparedness, environmental awareness. Training activities are planned to commence during the subsequent stages of Project implementation.

3.6 Summary of GRM

The GRM will remain operational throughout Project implementation, and all

grievances received during future project phases will be recorded, investigated, and addressed in accordance with the established GRM procedures.