

## *Environmental and Social Management including Involuntary Resettlement*

- **Corporate action plan to improve safeguards practices.** On March 4, 2015, the World Bank released an [action plan](#) that aims to ensure strong implementation of environmental and social management as well as involuntary resettlement components in Bank-financed projects.
- **Steady progress.** Since the plan's inception, the **Bank has monitored progress** on the plan's eight action areas (risk assessment; monitoring of mitigation measures; accountability measures; assignment of technical expertise; skills development; funding; institutional leadership; and management of resettlement). When the action plan was due for completion on July 2016, overall progress towards the objectives was **85%**. The major remaining aspect to be completed at the time was the completion and roll-out of the Bank's new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The new ESF was approved by the Bank's Board on August 4, 2016 and the roll-out, including development and delivery of training materials for staff and Borrowers, has been underway ever since. Implementation of the new ESF is currently planned for July 2018. For more information, please see the [Factsheet](#).
- **Regular reporting.** The Bank has reported on this regularly through the Presidential Delivery Unit's [website](#). This is the last report on the status of the action plan. In the future, reporting on the current safeguards is likely to be combined with progress on preparing for and implementing the ESF.
- **Improving project performance.** The Bank takes poor project performance very seriously, and is allocating significant staff and management support towards bringing problem projects into compliance. The Bank has been addressing the challenges in a systemic manner – we've hired more social safeguard experts, developed and implemented a data-based tracking and monitoring system for high-risk projects, assigned senior social safeguards specialists to all high-risk projects, increased training, implemented a new grievance address system, and established a Global Task Force on Gender-Based Violence, made up of experts from inside and outside the Bank.
- **Paving the way for the new ESF.** The Bank is clear that capacity and management needs to be further strengthened to support implementation of the new ESF. The ESF represents a significant broadening of scope for environmental and social risk management, and we plan to strengthen capacity in several areas, such as:
  - Recruitment of additional technical specialists
  - Further improvements in risk management systems and procedures
  - Capacity building, both internally and for clients
  - Strengthening incentives for managing environmental and social risk
  - Strengthened strategic partnerships with development partners
- **The role of civil society organizations.** We look to our partners in civil society to continue to challenge us and hold us accountable, and very much appreciate the important role CSOs play. We have received valuable help from experts in different areas, and we hope civil society will continue to work with us on projects, to both bring problems to our attention, and to help us find sustainable solutions.