

SEMI-ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

11 Semi-annual Report

(Reporting Period: January-June 2023)

Project Number: 43405-027

**GEORGIA: URBAN SERVICES IMPROVEMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM
(TRANCHE 5)**

(FINANCED BY THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK)

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For: The Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia and the Asian Development Bank

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
DC	Design Consultant
DEPP	Department of Environmental protection and Permit
PMD	Projects Management Department
EA	Executing Agency
EARF	Environmental Assessment and Review Framework
EHS	Environmental Health & Safety
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIP	Environmental Impact Permit
EMP/ SSEMP	Environmental Management Plan/ Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan
ES/ EMS	Environmental Specialist/ Environmental Monitoring Specialist
GoG	Government of Georgia
GRC	Grievance Redress Committee
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IPMO	Investment Program Management Office
USIIP	Urban Services Improvement Investment Program
IA	Implementing Agency
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
MFF	Multi-tranche Financing Facility
MoEPA	Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture
MoRDI	Ministry of Regional Development & Infrastructure
NEA	National Environmental Agency
SC	Supervision Consultant
TN	Total Nitrogen
TP	Total Phosphorus
USIIP	Urban Sector Improvement Investment Program
UWSCG	United Water Supply Company of Georgia
WS	Water Supply
WSS	Water Supply & Sanitation
WWTP	Waste Water Treatment Plant

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Preamble

1. This report represents the Semi - Annual Environmental Monitoring Review (SAEMR) for the Urban Services Improvement Investment Program, Tranche 5 for the period of January-June 2023.
2. This report is the 12th Environmental Monitoring Review (EMR) of Tranche 5 under USIIP.

1.2 Headline Information

3. In the reporting period, civil work within the framework of the USIIP/T5 was not carried out, since all construction activities under REG-03a and ZUG-02 sub-projects have been completed in September 2021. Construction activities under REG-03b (MES-03) sub-project: Design for Construction of WWTP in Mestia will be launched and reported during the next reporting period July-December 2023.
4. As mentioned above, the final design of the wastewater treatment plant in Mestia under REG-03b will be commenced during the reporting period. For design and construction of the Mestia WWTP contract No UWSCG-ICB-MES-03-2019 was signed on 5 November 2019 with “JV of Toshiba Water Solutions Pvt. Ltd and IN-SI” LLC (India/Georgia)”. Contract completion date was April 2021. But no teams have been mobilized to Mestia, no site establishments for the contractor have been erected. There was delay in preparing final design of the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Mestia and approval by UWSCG as well.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND CURRENT ACTIVITIES

2.1 Project Description

5. The Urban Services Improvement Investment Program was developed as the Government's response to the lack of adequate and/or safe water supply, sewerage and sanitation in urban areas of Georgia. This is intended to optimize social and economic development in selected urban areas through improved urban water and sanitation services, and is financed by the ADB through its Multi-tranche Financing Facility. The Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure is the Executing Agency and the United Water Supply Company of Georgia, LLC is the Implementing Agency of the Investment Program. UWSCG is a 100% state-owned company.
6. The Investment Program improve infrastructure through the development, design and implementation of a series of subprojects, each providing improvements in a particular sector (water supply and/or sewerage) in one town. Subprojects rehabilitate existing infrastructure and/or create new and expanded infrastructure to meet the present and future demand. Water supply improvements include source augmentation and head works, pumping systems, treatment facilities, transmission and distribution network; and, sewerage improvement works will include sewer network, pumping stations, main collectors and waste water treatment plants.
7. **Tranche 5 of the Investment Program includes:**
 - Construction of Sewage System in Zugdidi (ZUG-02);
 - Construction of Wastewater Treatment Plants in Zugdidi (A) – REG-03a
 - Construction of Waste Water treatment Plant in Mestia (B) - REG-03b

The following projects are financed under Tranche 5:

8. **Construction of Sewage System in Zugdidi (ZUG-02).** The Zugdidi wastewater project envisages the rehabilitation and extension of the sewer network with gravity sewers and pressure lines and the construction of wastewater pumping stations. The project measured for the sewer network comprise the laying of 160 km new gravity pipes (DN 100 to DN 800) and 9.7 km new pressure pipes (OD 110 and OD 630). There were 24 new wastewater pumping stations. The new network conveyed the wastewater to a new wastewater treatment plant, which was constructed under Reg-03 – Zugdidi (A) WWTP project.
9. The contract No P43405-ICB-Zug-02 was signed on February 1, 2017 with Ludwig Pfeiffer Hoch-und Tiefbau GmbH & Co.KG, initial completion date was 31st Jan 2020. The Contract has been extended till 2nd August 2021 through contract addendum no. 07 and was substantially completed by that date.
10. Post Construction Audit was conducted by SC in June 2023 under ZUG-02 sub-project by SC and audit report will be submitted to UWSCG in July 2023 and will be reported during the next reporting period July-December 2023.
11. **Construction of Wastewater Treatment Plant in Zugdidi (REG-03a).** The project comprises of the construction of new Wastewater Treatment Plant with the capacity of 22,000 m³/day.
12. The contract No UWSCG-USIIP-ICB-REG-03a was signed on February 1, 2017 with "JV "Pfeiffer - EMIT" comprised by "Ludwig Pfeifer Hoch – and Tiefbau GmbH7Co. KG

(Germany)” and “EMIT |Group – Ercole Marelli Impianti Tecnologici S.r.l. (Italy)”, completion date was: September 2021. Construction activities on REG-03a sub-project are completed. At this stage commissioning works are on-going.

13. Post Construction Environmental Audit was conducted by SC in June 2023 under ZUG-03a sub-project by SC and audit report will be submitted in July 2023 to UWSCG and will be reported during the next reporting period July-December 2023.
14. **Construction of Wastewater Treatment Plant in Mestia (REG-03b).** The project comprises of the construction of new Wastewater Treatment Plant with the capacity of 3,200 m³/day.
15. The contract No UWSCG-ICB-MES-03-2019 was signed on 5 November 2019 with “JV of Toshiba Water Solutions Pvt. Ltd and IN-SI” LLC (India/Georgia)”. Contract completion date was April 2021. The contract became formally effective by 12th Dec 2019 after the Contractor agreed to postpone one of the preconditions for effectiveness, the “irrevocable confirmed letter of credit” to be submitted later (e.g. after design phase). The resulting initial contractual completion date was 04th June 2021. But no teams have been mobilized to Mestia, no site establishments for the contractor have been erected. There was delay in preparing final design of the Waste Water Treatment Plant in Mestia as well. Finally Contract activities were stopped.

Current Condition of Zugdidi WWTP

16. With regard to the operation of Zugdidi WWTP, it should be noted that the certified Laboratory of the Zugdidi WWTP, construction within the REG-03a sub-project measures the parameters specified in the agreed EIA and Maximum Allowable Discharge Limits (MADL), a document that is also agreed within the framework of the EIA, with the frequency required by these documents. Effluent concentrations of Biochemical Oxygen Demand BOD, Chemical Demand for Oxygen COD, Total Suspended Solids (TSS) as well as Total Phosphorus (TP) and Total Nitrogen (TN) throughout the reporting period is within the effluent standards. The above analysis were performed on the daily and weekly basis as presented in MADL and EIA. According to MADL, daily analysis is carried out on the following components:

- TSS
- PH

17. Once a week, complete chemical analyzes were performed on the following ingredients:

- BOD
- COD
- TN
- TP

Present status on Reg 03a (Zugdidi Waste Water Treatment Plant) - Sludge Dewatering Equipment:

- 18.** Currently from the sludge line only the mechanical pre-thickening is operating. For the safe operation of the digester still the boiler and the gas line is missing, therefore without these it was not permitted to operate the digester with pre-thickened sludge.
- 19.** The contractor - "Pfeiffer - EMIT" left the site end of 2021 due to the fact that on December 2021 the Contractor - "Ludwig Pfeifer" informed UWSCG that the company declared insolvency and did not complete most parts of the sludge treatment stages. The contractor only completed the pre-thickening stage, all other stages for sludge treatment remain uncompleted and are not commissioned.
- 20.** With the present status, it is impossible to extract sludge from the system, only liquid can be extracted. As there is no contractor available any more emergency measures will be implemented by UWSCG through the Consulting service under the contract under the contract with the supervision consultant - Posch&Partners Consulting Engineers.
- 21.** The following is proposed to bring relief to that situation:
- In August 2023, UWSCG will implement a bypass of the sludge digester to allow sludge to be pumped from the pre-thickening unit to the sludge centrifuges.
 - Through the Consulting contract experts from the supplier of the sludge centrifuges shall be hired in July 2023 to start up and complete the centrifuges and polymer dosing.
- 22.** With the centrifuges, sludge could be extracted at an acceptable DS of 20 to 23%.

Status on screens on the mechanical treatment stage:

- 23.** Since August 2022 one out of two fine screens is not operative anymore. It is mechanically damaged and there is no contractor to repair or exchange them.
- 24.** However, the screens have been investigated and it is clear which parts would be needed that so that UWSCG can repair them. It is proposed to directly order these part from the supplier until the end of September 2023, pay them from the contract, and claims the costs against the Performance security.

2.2 Project Contracts and Management

25. The main institutions that are involved in implementation of the EMP are UWSCG executing agency (EA), Supervision Consultant (SC) the Contractor and to a lesser extent the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection (MoENRP).
26. The Investment Program Management Office (IPMO) under UWSCG which is the Donors Funded Project Management Department, is responsible for the day-to-day management of the project, including the implementation of the EMP. IPMO has an Environmental Specialist who is responsible for managing the environmental aspects of the USIIP. The head of the department is Ms.Irina Chikhladze.
27. The IPMO Environmental Specialist (Ms.Kate Chomakhidze) responsibilities in respect of implementation of the EMP are as follows:
- (i) Approve the Site-Specific Environmental Management Plan (SSEMP) before Contractor takes possession of construction site;
 - (ii) Monitor implementation of EMP and ensure the environmental safeguards compliance;
 - (iii) Review the updated IEE and/or SEMP and send it for clearance to ADB;
 - (iv) Ensure that contractors have access to the EMP and IEE report;
 - (v) Finalize SAEMRs (and Final EMRs upon project completion), send it to ADB and address potential ADB's comments until SAEMR disclosure; Provide ENG and GEO final versions of SAEMRs to be uploaded on UWSCG website;
 - (vi) Review and approve the Corrective Action Plan and provide to ADB for review and comments if any;
 - (vii) Participate in public consultations during project implementation;
 - (viii) In case of need assist IPMO Social/Resettlement Consultant in resolving process of environmental safeguards related complaints;
 - (ix) Assist in organizing trainings for the Contractors in coordination with ADB/RETA consultant;
 - (x) Participate in external trainings in environmental management and environmental auditing
28. The SC's team includes a full time Environmental Specialist to assist the IPMO supervise and monitor implementation of the EMP during construction.
29. The Contractors under USIIP/T5 also appoint a full time Environmental specialists to be a senior member of the construction management team based on site for the duration of the contract. The ESs a university degree in Environmental Science and related discipline and have about 10 years work experience in environmental management of infrastructure project
30. Department of Permits, Environmental Protection and Social Affairs is working alongside IPMO to address the environmental and social issues of USIIP. The head of the department is Ms. Maka Goderdzishvili. The Department of Environmental Protection have two divisions, the Division of Permits and the Division of Environmental Protection and Social Affairs. Ms. Salome Mosidze is the Head of the Division of Environmental Protection and Social Affairs. More detailed description of implementation arrangements; responsibilities and staffing are provided in the Table 1 below.

Table 1: Institutional Arrangement, Responsabilités and Staffing

#	Millstones/Actions	Contractor (Environmental Specialist)	Construction Supervision Consultant (Environmental Specialist)	IPMO (Environmental Specialist)	Department of Permits, Environmental Protection and Social Affairs (Environmental Specialist)
1	Environmental planning and management Contractors Environmental Management Plan (site-specific EMP)	Prepare Specific EMP (SEMP) with supplemented Topic Specific EMPs at pre-construction stage based on IEE/EMP Implement SEMPs approved by IPMO.	Review and endorse the SEMPs; Monitor implementation of SEMPs on daily basis; Monitor monthly environmental monitoring reports or results prepared by the Contractor and report to IPMO.	Review and approve the SEMPs; Monitor implementation of EMP and ensure the environmental safeguards compliance.	Work together with IPMO on addressing the environmental non-compliance issues, if any.
2	Changes in design	Provide details of design changes to CSC required to update IEE/EIA, or SEMPs; Implement updated SEMPs.	Approve the design change to be submitted to IPMO; Make environmental assessment of the change and update the IEE and/or SEMPs.	Review the updated IEE and/or SEMPs and send it for clearance to ADB	Liaise with CSC in preparing updated IEE and/or SEMPs; Upload the approved IEE/SEMP provided by IPMO to UWSCG website for Public Disclosure.
3	Unanticipated impacts	Inform CSC about unanticipated impact and follow the instructions received from IPMO.	Make environmental assessment of the unanticipated impact and update the IEE and/or SEMPs	Review the updated IEE and/or SEMPs and send it for clearance to ADB	Liaise with CSC in preparing updated IEE and/or SEMPs

#	Millstones/Actions	Contractor (Environmental Specialist)	Construction Supervision Consultant (Environmental Specialist)	IPMO (Environmental Specialist)	Department of Permits, Environmental Protection and Social Affairs (Environmental Specialist)
4	Reporting	Prepare monthly environmental monitoring reports and send it to CSC and IPMO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare inputs to environmental part of quarterly construction progress reports; 2. Prepare inputs to semi-annual environmental monitoring report (SAEMR) to be submitted to IPMO for further review, comments and improvement. 3. Conduct Post-Construction Final Environmental Audit and prepare final environmental audit report. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalize SAEMRs (and Final EMRs upon project completion), send it to ADB and address potential ADB's comments until SAEMR disclosure; 2. Provide ENG and GEO final versions of SAEMRs to be uploaded on UWSCG website. 	Upload the approved reports (ENG and GEO) provided by IPMO to UWSCG website for Public Disclosure
5	Permits and clearances	NA	NA	NA	Obtaining environmental permits and clearances
6	Non-compliances	Prepare a corrective action plan (CAP)	Assist contractor in preparing the CAP.	Review and approve the CAP and provide to ADB for review and comments if any.	
7	Public consultations	Participate in public consultations during project implementation	Organize public consultations: inform people about activities and prepare the record of consultations.	Participate in public consultations during project implementation	UWSCG & IPMO host PCs, CSC will present the topics related to environmental issues

#	Millstones/Actions	Contractor (Environmental Specialist)	Construction Supervision Consultant (Environmental Specialist)	IPMO (Environmental Specialist)	Department of Permits, Environmental Protection and Social Affairs (Environmental Specialist)
8	Grievance Redress Mechanism	Project site Focal person to record environmental grievances in the logbook and follow up with UWSCG established practice for grievance redress	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that grievances, if any, are being properly documented and addressed timely and effectively. 2. Assist IPMO to develop consolidated GRM database and consolidation of GRM cases both for ENV and Social safeguards 	In case of need assist IPMO Social/Resettlement Consultant in resolving process of environmental safeguards related complaints; Assist IPMO Social/Resettlement Consultant in GRM database consolidation and data analysis.	UWSCG maintains GRM applicable to all projects. UWSCG will ensure IPMO information on grievances is consolidated into the UWSCG grievances (both - environmental and social) without duplication.
9	Trainings	Attend on-site trainings organized by IPMO and ADB/RETA Consultant	Assist the IPMO in organization of trainings for the Contractors on environmental safeguards requirements.	Organize trainings for the Contractors in coordination with ADB/RETA consultant. Participate in external trainings in environmental management and environmental auditing	Participate in external trainings in environmental management and environmental auditing

31. Main organizations involved in the USIIP/T5 and related to environmental safeguard are presented in the table 2 below:

Table 2: List of Main Organizations under USIIP/T5

Type of project participant	Name of Agency/Company	Environmental Staff	Name and contact details
Lender	Asian Development Bank	Country Environmental Focal	Ninette R. Pajarillaga E-mail: npajarillaga@adb.org
		Associate Safeguards Officer Georgia Resident Mission Asian Development Bank	Nino Nadashvili Tel: +995 595 070442 nnadashvili@adb.org
		ADB RETA, Environmental Consultant	George Kobaladze Tel: +995 599 689834 E-mail gkobaladze.consultant@adb.org , me
Borrower	UWSCG	UWSCG, Department of Environmental Protection and Permits, Head	Ms. Maka Goderdzishvili Tel: +995 599 229925 E-mail: m.goderdzishvili@water.gov.ge
		UWSCG/IPMO Donor Funded Project Management Department, Acting Head	Ms. Irine Chikhldaze Tel: +995 598 179898 E-mail: ana.onashvili@water.gov.ge
Borrower	UWSCG/USIIP/T5	Environmental Specialist	Ms. Ketevan Chomakhidze Tel: +995 577 380309 E-mail: Chomakhidzek@yahoo.com

Type of project participant	Name of Agency/Company	Environmental Staff	Name and contact details
Supervision Consultant	Posch&Partners Consulting Engineers	Environmental Specialist:	Ms. Eliso Barnova Tel: +995 551 300112 E-mail: tikozhizhiashvili@yahoo.com
Contractor ZUG-02	Ludwig Pfeiffer Hoch-und Tiefbau GmbH & Co.KG	Environmental H&S Specialist	Mr. Nikoloz Neparidze Tel: +995 599 346821 E-mail: nikoloz.neparidze@ludwigpfeiffer.com
Contractor REG-03a	JV "Pfeiffer - EMIT" comprised by "Ludwig Pfeiffer Hoch – and Tiefbau GmbH7Co. KG (Germany)" and "EMIT Group – Ercole Marelli Impianti Tecnologici S.r.l. (Italy)	Environmental H&S Specialist H&S Specialist	Mr. Nikoloz Neparidze Tel: +995 599 346821 E-mail: nikoloz.neparidze@ludwigpfeiffer.com Mr. Irakli Abuladze Tel: +995 568 012858 E-mail: irakli.abuladze.1974@gmail.com

2.3 Project Activities During Current Reporting Period

32. In the reporting period, construction works under USIIP/T5 were not carried out, since all construction works under REG-03a and ZUG-02 have already been completed, and construction works on REG-03b: Construction of WWTP in Mestia has not been started (for detailed information please see para 4 above).

2.4 Description of Any Changes to Project Design

33. As mentioned already, the final design of the wastewater treatment plant in Mestia under REG-03b was not completed during the reporting period and will be finalized during the next reporting period, and accordingly these changes will be reflected in the next SAEMR, July-December 2023. Upon completion (December 2023) of the final design of the Metia WWTP, the IEE will be updated accordingly;

2.5 Description of Any Changes to Agreed Construction methods

N/A

III. ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARD ACTIVITIES

3.1 General Description of Environmental Safeguard Activities

34. No construction activities have been implemented during the reporting period under USIIP/T5.

3.2 Site Audit

35. Post-construction environmental audits were carried out under REG-03a and ZUG-02 sub-projects in June 2023. The main findings and recommendations of this report will be reflected in the next SAEMR, July-December 2023.

3.3 Issues Tracking (Based on Non-Conformance Notices)

N/A

3.4 Trends

N/A

3.4 Unanticipated Environmental Impacts or Risks

N/A

IV. RESULTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

4.1 Overview of Monitoring Conducted during Current Period

36. During the reporting period no Environmental quality measurements of Noise level and ambient air Quality were carried out by contractor under USIIP/T5.
37. Noise and air pollution standards defined by IFC/WHO 1999, are presented in the Table 3 and 4 below.

Table 3: Noise Level Guidelines

Noise	dBA		dBA	
	National Regulations		WHO	
Receptor	Daytime 07:00 - 22:00	Nighttime 22:00 - 07:00	Daytime 07:00- 22:00	Nighttime 22:00- 07:00
Residential; institutional; educational	55	45	55	45
Industrial; commercial	70	70	70	70

- 5 Air pollution standards by IFC/WHO 1999, are presented in the Table 4 below.

Table 4: Air pollution Guidelines

Contaminants	IFC/WHO Guideline Value (Limit mg/m ³)
1	2
Inorganic dust	(*IFC does not have a standard for "inorganic dust". Instead IFC applies standards for PM2.5 and PM10). PM10 – 0,02/1 Year 0,05/24 Hour PM2,5-0,01/1 Year 0,025/24 Hour
Carbonic monoxide	n/a
Nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂)	0,2/ 1 Hour 0,04/1 Year
Aldehyde	n/a

38. No Environmental quality measurements were carried out during the reporting period due to completion of construction activities and therefore nothing is reported in this report.

4.2 Trends

N/A

4.3 Summary of Monitoring outcomes

N/A

4.4 Material resources Utilization

4.4.1 Current Period

N/A

4.4.2 Cumulative Resources Utilization

N/A

4.5 Waste Management

4.5.1 Current Period

N/A

4.5.2 Cumulative Waste Generation

N/A

4.6 Health and Safety

4.6.1 Community Health and Safety

N/A

4.6.2 Worker Safety and Health

N/A

4.7 Training

N/A

V. FUNCTIONING OF THE SEMP

5.1 SEMP Review

39. SSEMPs for Zugdidi WWTP under Reg-03/a sub-project were prepared by Contractor, endorsed by SC and approved by UWSCG on 13 March 2018. SSEMPs were reviewed/commented by the RETA Regional Environmental Consultant of ADB.
40. SEMP for ZUG-02 sub-project was updated in January 2020 due to the changes to the project design defined under the Variation Order #5: construction of two new sewage pumping stations, construction steel bridge structure across the river Chkhoushia for 200 mm diameter steel casing pipe and construction of 500 mm pipe including steel casing for the western collector river crossing and reinstatement asphalt works, demolition and removal of existing manholes, connection of new pipelines to existing sewer manholes and replacing non-functional manhole covers on old lines. SEMP was prepared by Contractor, endorsed by SC, approved by UWSCG and reviewed/commented by the RETA Regional Environmental Consultant of ADB under RETA 8663 - Ms. Ketii Dgebuadze.

VI. GOOD PRACTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVEMENT

6.1 Good Practice

N/A

6.2 Opportunities for Improvement

N/A

VII. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Summary

41. During the reported period no construction activities were implemented under USIIP/T5 sub-projects, since all construction activities under these sub-projects have been already completed.
42. Construction work under the REG-03b (MES-03) sub-project has not started as yet, as the design project of the WWTP in Mestia was not completed during the reporting period. Finally Contract activities were stopped.
43. Post Construction Audit was carried out under REG-03a sub-projects in June 2023 and audit report will be submitted to UWSCG and ADB during the next reporting period.
44. Upon completion (December 2023) of the final design of the Metia WWTP, the IEE will be updated accordingly;
45. The main findings and recommendations of this report will be reflected in the next SAEMR, July-December 2023.
46. Post construction Audit was carried out under ZUG-02 sub-project in June 2023 and audit report will be submitted to UWSCG and ADB during the next reporting period.
47. The main findings and recommendations of this report will be reflected in the next SAEMR, July-December 2023.